

Communication from Public

Name: John and Marilyn Wells Family Foundation/Stories from the Frontline

Date Submitted: 02/10/2025 02:30 PM

Council File No: 15-1138-S42

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Hernandez, We are writing as a strong supporter of Venice Dell Community, a 120-unit affordable and supportive housing development that was approved by the City Council for development on DOT Lot 731, which is related to the motion being heard in item #3 (Council file 15-1138-S42) on the Transportation Committee agenda on February 12. As you know, John and Marilyn Wells Family Foundation and its initiative Stories From the Frontline are doing extensive work on housing justice in your District and across the City. We are counting on you to advance affordable housing development throughout the City. The Park/Nazarian motion being heard this week directs City staff to explore the feasibility of affordable housing on DOT Lot 701, which would be welcomed as the City should develop affordable housing on every available lot. However, it also directs staff to explore the steps needed to create a mobility hub on Lot 731. It also references an action by the Board of Transportation Commissioners that replicates these recommendations. Lot 731 is not available for a transportation hub, it is already an Affordable Housing Opportunities Site that has been approved in various ways by City Council on at least four past occasions, and the City is in a legally binding contract to develop Venice Dell Community. The motion omits this important information, and it is unacceptable that City Councilmembers would entertain it under any circumstances, but particularly in the midst of an exacerbated housing crisis due to the fires and when CD 11 and the westside has contributed so little affordable housing to address the City's great need. The City Council should uphold its past commitments and acknowledge that an advisory commission does not have the authority to override City Council votes, and we urge you to vote no on this motion. The direction to explore a transit hub on Lot 731 is a distraction, a waste of City staffing resources and would likely result in the City of Los Angeles being required to pay out millions of dollars to NOT build already approved affordable housing, with no funding or plan to create a transit hub. Sincerely, Marilyn Wells & Allison Schallert Stories From the Frontline Allison Schallert | Co-Founder STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE An Initiative of the John and Marilyn Wells Family Foundation 137 North Larchmont Blvd., #266, Los Angeles, CA

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Communication from Public

Name: Brennan Lindner

Date Submitted: 02/12/2025 08:46 AM

Council File No: 15-1138-S42

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable City Transportation and Public Works Committee members, I strongly support the motion to 1) determine the steps needed to create a cohesive parking lot and mobility hub, inclusive of car share, bike share, micro-mobility, shuttle service, transit store, etc., on LADOT Parking Lot 731, and 2) determine the feasibility of developing affordable housing on LADOT Parking Lot 701, as presented in the December 10, 2024 Department of Transportation (DOT) report and unanimously approved by the Board of Transportation Commissioners (BOTC) on December 10, 2024. I'm in full support of the detailed, impressive recommendations made by the City's DOT officials to the BOTC and with the BOTC Commissioners' deliberation, findings, and approval decision made to preserve Venice Beach public parking Lot 731 for expansion of public parking/transit hub and to consider Lot 701 for affordable housing units. The BOTC Commissioners were clear that the original project was a faulty, costly plan and not workable. The BOTC's principled decision is widely supported in the Community and assures all Angelenos and visitors will have continued and enhanced access to Venice Beach and the Historic Venice Canals. A plan that considers all Angelenos while still providing much needed housing on Lot 701 (directly adjacent to Lot 731) is a plan we can all stand behind and support. The City's Administrative Code makes it clear that the BOTC has the sole authority over the acquisition, sale, management and maintenance of all city-owned parking places. Whether or not to change the use of Lot 731 from parking to something else, including affordable housing, and the acquisition of a new parking facility are both matters solely within the initial jurisdiction of the BOTC and their decision is only changeable if the City Council disagrees and wants to reconsider the BOTC decision, requiring a 2/3 vote. That did not happen by the deadline and the BOTC decision is final. Previous City Council approval was based on misinformation from past Councilman Mike Bonin, who deemed Lot 731 to be "underutilized" for purposes of allowing its dis-position in the Affordable Housing Opportunity Sites program, yet in a 2019 motion to DOT he admitted: "This lot is heavily used by the public to access recreational opportunities at Venice Beach..." The latter has always been true and must be acknowledged. Repeated steps to Council for the

prior project were required to fix incorrect information. Moreover, the Council did not approve the significant changes in the plans including substantially fewer units and the desecration of the 114-year-old federal and state designated historic bridge, designed by the original creator of Venice to bring all visitors to Venice. Venice Beach, the number one tourist destination in Los Angeles is the people's beach and should always be accessible to all. I encourage the Transportation and Public works committees to move forward with this motion quickly and look forward to seeing the work of our City departments as they move towards providing much needed visitor-serving parking/transit hub on Lot 731 and affordable housing on the more practical site of Lot 701. Sincerely, Brennan Lindner

Communication from Public

Name: Deborah Keaton
Date Submitted: 02/11/2025 06:39 PM
Council File No: 15-1138-S42

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable City Transportation and Public Works Committee members, I strongly support the motion to 1) determine the steps needed to create a cohesive parking lot and mobility hub, inclusive of car share, bike share, micro-mobility, shuttle service, transit store, etc., on LADOT Parking Lot 731, and 2) determine the feasibility of developing affordable housing on LADOT Parking Lot 701, as presented in the December 10, 2024 Department of Transportation (DOT) report and unanimously approved by the Board of Transportation Commissioners (BOTC) on December 10, 2024. I'm in full support of the detailed, impressive recommendations made by the City's DOT officials to the BOTC and with the BOTC Commissioners' deliberation, findings, and approval decision made to preserve Venice Beach public parking Lot 731 for expansion of public parking/transit hub and to consider Lot 701 for affordable housing units. The BOTC Commissioners were clear that the original project was a faulty, costly plan and not workable. The BOTC's principled decision is widely supported in the Community and assures all Angelenos and visitors will have continued and enhanced access to Venice Beach and the Historic Venice Canals. A plan that considers all Angelenos while still providing much needed housing on Lot 701 (directly adjacent to Lot 731) is a plan we can all stand behind and support. The City's Administrative Code makes it clear that the BOTC has the sole authority over the acquisition, sale, management and maintenance of all city-owned parking places. Whether or not to change the use of Lot 731 from parking to something else, including affordable housing, and the acquisition of a new parking facility are both matters solely within the initial jurisdiction of the BOTC and their decision is only changeable if the City Council disagrees and wants to reconsider the BOTC decision, requiring a 2/3 vote. That did not happen by the deadline and the BOTC decision is final. Previous City Council approval was based on misinformation from past Councilman Mike Bonin, who deemed Lot 731 to be "underutilized" for purposes of allowing its dis-position in the Affordable Housing Opportunity Sites program, yet in a 2019 motion to DOT he admitted: "This lot is heavily used by the public to access recreational opportunities at Venice Beach..." The latter has always been true and must be acknowledged. Repeated steps to Council for the

prior project were required to fix incorrect information. Moreover, the Council did not approve the significant changes in the plans including substantially fewer units and the desecration of the 114-year-old federal and state designated historic bridge, designed by the original creator of Venice to bring all visitors to Venice. Venice Beach, the number one tourist destination in Los Angeles is the people's beach and should always be accessible to all. I encourage the Transportation and Public works committees to move forward with this motion quickly and look forward to seeing the work of our City departments as they move towards providing much needed visitor-serving parking/transit hub on Lot 731 and affordable housing on the more practical site of Lot 701. Sincerely, Deborah Keaton Long-time Venice resident

Communication from Public

Name: Devon Daley

Date Submitted: 02/11/2025 05:41 PM

Council File No: 15-1138-S42

Comments for Public Posting: Re. Special Joint Meeting of City Transportation and Public Works Committees Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 8:30 am Agenda Item 3, Council File 15-1138-S42 Honorable City Transportation and Public Works Committee members, I strongly support the motion to determine: 1) the steps needed to create a cohesive parking lot/mobility hub that includes car share, bike share, micro-mobility, shuttle service, transit store, etc., on LADOT Parking Lot 731, and 2) the feasibility of developing affordable housing on LADOT Parking Lot 701, as presented in the December 10, 2024 Department of Transportation (DOT) report and unanimously approved by the Board of Transportation Commissioners (BOTC) on December 10, 2024. I support the comprehensive and data driven recommendations proffered by LADOT officials to the BOTC. I further support the BOTC Commissioners' deliberation, findings, and approval of a plan to utilize Venice Beach public parking Lot 731 for expansion of public parking/transit hub and to consider Lot 701 for affordable housing units. The BOTC Commissioners provided ample factual data showing that the original project was both profligate and unworkable. The BOTC's data driven decision is widely supported by Community. Moreover, it ensures that local residents, visiting Angelenos, and tourists will all share in access to Venice Beach and the Historic Venice Canals. In addition, the City's Administrative Code clearly states that the BOTC has the sole authority over the acquisition, sale, management and maintenance of all city-owned parking places. A decision involving the change in the of Lot 731 from parking to affordable housing, as well as the decision to create of a whole new parking facility are decisions that solely reside within the initial jurisdiction of the BOTC. More importantly, their decision is only subject to change if the City Council disagrees and wants to reconsider it. In that case, a ? vote of the Council is required. That did not happen here. Thus, the BOTC decision is final. It should be noted that prior City Council approval of the original project was based on misinformation provided by former Councilman Mike Bonin. He deemed Lot 731 to be "under-utilized" for the purposes of allowing its inclusion in the Affordable Housing Opportunity Sites program. Yet, in 2019 during a motion made before the DOT, Mr. Bonin himself admitted that: "This lot is

heavily used by the public to access recreational opportunities at Venice Beach...” This admission belies any contention that Lot 731 is "under-utilized." Time and again, the original project repeatedly came before the City Council in an effort to fix erroneous information about the proposed plans that had been repeatedly offered to the Council. Ultimately, the Council refused to approve significant changes to the original plans proffered by the developer, including but not limited to a reduction in the number of housing units and the destruction of an historic landmark (i.e., the Venice Bridge). Venice Beach is the number one tourist destination in Los Angeles. It therefore benefits the entire City when it is accessible to all. The project as originally designed eviscerated that goal. I encourage the Transportation and Public works committees to move forward with this motion and proceed expeditiously with proposed plan of creating a much-needed parking/transit hub on Lot 731 to service residents, local visitors, and tourists alike and to move forward with affordable housing site on Lot 701 which had been found to be a better choice from an economic, environmental, social and cultural standpoint. Sincerely, D. L. Daley

Communication from Public

Name: Kurt Richter

Date Submitted: 02/13/2025 11:47 AM

Council File No: 15-1138-S42

Comments for Public Posting: Re. Special Joint Meeting of City Transportation and Public Works Committees Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 8:30 am Agenda Item 3, Council File 15-1138-S42 Honorable City Transportation and Public Works Committee members, I strongly support the motion to 1) determine the steps needed to create a cohesive parking lot and mobility hub, inclusive of car share, bike share, micro-mobility, shuttle service, transit store, etc., on LADOT Parking Lot 731, and 2) determine the feasibility of developing affordable housing on LADOT Parking Lot 701, as presented in the December 10, 2024 Department of Transportation (DOT) report and unanimously approved by the Board of Transportation Commissioners (BOTC) on December 10, 2024. I'm in full support of the detailed, impressive recommendations made by the City's DOT officials to the BOTC and with the BOTC Commissioners' deliberation, findings, and approval decision made to preserve Venice Beach public parking Lot 731 for expansion of public parking/transit hub and to consider Lot 701 for affordable housing units. The BOTC Commissioners were clear that the original project was a faulty, costly plan and not workable. The BOTC's principled decision is widely supported in the Community and assures all Angelenos and visitors will have continued and enhanced access to Venice Beach and the Historic Venice Canals. A plan that considers all Angelenos while still providing much needed housing on Lot 701 (directly adjacent to Lot 731) is a plan we can all stand behind and support. The City's Administrative Code makes it clear that the BOTC has the sole authority over the acquisition, sale, management and maintenance of all city-owned parking places. Whether or not to change the use of Lot 731 from parking to something else, including affordable housing, and the acquisition of a new parking facility are both matters solely within the initial jurisdiction of the BOTC and their decision is only changeable if the City Council disagrees and wants to reconsider the BOTC decision, requiring a 2/3 vote. That did not happen by the deadline and the BOTC decision is final. Previous City Council approval was based on misinformation from past Councilman Mike Bonin, who deemed Lot 731 to be "underutilized" for purposes of allowing its dis-position in the Affordable Housing Opportunity Sites program, yet in a 2019 motion to DOT he admitted: "This

lot is heavily used by the public to access recreational opportunities at Venice Beach...” The latter has always been true and must be acknowledged. Repeated steps to Council for the prior project were required to fix incorrect information. Moreover, the Council did not approve the significant changes in the plans including substantially fewer units and the desecration of the 114-year-old federal and state designated historic bridge, designed by the original creator of Venice to bring all visitors to Venice. Venice Beach, the number one tourist destination in Los Angeles is the people’s beach and should always be accessible to all. I encourage the Transportation and Public works committees to move forward with this motion quickly and look forward to seeing the work of our City departments as they move towards providing much needed visitor-serving parking/transit hub on Lot 731 and affordable housing on the more practical site of Lot 701. Sincerely, Kurt Richter Venice Stakeholder (porperty owner and resident)