

Communication from Public

Name: CD11 Coalition For Human Rights

Date Submitted: 03/10/2026 03:42 PM

Council File No: 15-1138-S42

Comments for Public Posting: Please attach letter to council file from the Council District 11 Coalition for Human Rights to express strong opposition to converting Parking Lot No. 731 (in Venice) to a transit hub, a matter relevant to the City Attorney Report, Agenda Item 11 on the March 11, 2026 Transportation Committee meeting agenda.

March 9, 2026

To: Los Angeles City Council
Re: Council File 15-1138-S42



Dear Councilmembers:

We write as the Council District 11 Coalition for Human Rights to express our strong opposition to converting Parking Lot No. 731 (in Venice) to a transit hub, a matter relevant to Agenda Item 11 on the March 11, 2026 Transportation Committee meeting agenda.

The CD11 Coalition is a coalition of organizations and individuals in LA Council District 11 that support the human and civil rights of unhoused people, advocate for safe, decent and affordable housing, and promote tenants' rights--and this matter bears directly on the provision of affordable housing.

As you may be aware, for over ten years nonprofit organizations, city officials, and community members have worked together to plan the construction of the Venice Dell Community, a 120-unit affordable housing project, with half the units permanent supportive housing and the other half low-income housing for families and artists, *to be located on Parking Lot No. 731*. This project went through extensive community input that resulted in design modifications, was approved twice by the City Council and received approval from the Coastal Commission. Lawsuits by a small number of neighbors who were unhappy at the prospect of affordable housing being built near them, were defeated last year.

The City is under contract with the two nonprofit developers, Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Housing, to move forward with the project. Building affordable housing (while preserving the same number of parking spaces for the public adjacent to Venice Beach) would be a win-win for the City and the community, of whom the majority favors affordable housing.

However, Councilmember Traci Park campaigned in 2022 on the promise to stop this project on behalf of the same small--but wealthy--group of neighbors that opposed the project through lawsuits. Last year, Councilmember Park attempted to do just that, by getting the City's Transportation Board to vote to dedicate Lot 731 to a Transit Hub for the 2028 Olympics. As a fig leaf, it was proposed that the adjacent Lot 701 could be used for the housing instead. However, Lot 701 is considerably smaller, irregularly shaped, and houses the well-used Venice Farmers

Market. Moreover, as the 10-year timeline to undertake the project on Lot 731 illustrates, it takes many years and many hurdles for a project to reach the building phase. Given the factors that make Lot 701 far less appropriate than Lot 731 for this purpose, it is safe to say that the project would be unlikely to clear all necessary approvals on the proposed alternative site, making that proposal a cynical ploy.

In fact, the Board of Transportation vote is an attempt to cancel the Venice Dell Community by stealth. If the City Council majority goes along with this, they would be opposing a sizable affordable housing project that is shovel-ready and supported by the majority of the Venice community, the City would have to settle the still active contract with Venice Community Housing and Hollywood Housing and repay those nonprofits the tens of millions of dollars they have already invested in the project in fulfillment of their agreement with the City, and the City would risk being found in violation of the LA Housing Element by the California Department of Housing and Community Development--which would result in the loss of large amounts of housing funds from the State. Indeed, the State has already warned that if the City fails to build this project, which is listed as part of LA's Housing Element, the State will take corrective action.

What we ask of you, and of the City Council as a whole, is: Do not continue this thinly veiled attempt to prevent the construction of badly needed affordable housing on the westside. Build the badly needed housing, for God's sake.

Sincerely,
The CD11 Coalition for Human Rights