

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Elyse Schwartz and I am a homeless outreach worker here in Hollywood. I have been working at The Center for the last 3 years and I know how badly interim housing beds are needed in the area and in general. My team and I work with several clients, your neighbors, who have lived in this neighborhood for 10+ years. This is their community -- Their friends are here, their families are here, their services are here, their church is here, their doctor is here. To ask them to go to another part of the city for shelter adds another layer of hardship to their already difficult lives. Hollywood has made great progress when it comes to opening interim housing over the last three years, but there is still a major shortage of beds. Why wouldn't we add more beds if we have the space available? Additionally, the stress of COVID has definitely taken a toll on a lot of our neighbors on the street, as they have nowhere to isolate from other people and nowhere to keep clean. The coming cold weather poses an obvious threat to their health, making them even more vulnerable to COVID. To be quite blunt, opposing this project is saying: No we can't use an empty space to keep human beings safe, healthy, and warm during a pandemic.