

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/11/2021 11:12 AM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: Pass this motion and ensure that it is met with the urgency this crisis requires. Waive it through the COVID committee and send it to the full City Council for a vote next Tuesday, please. Council should focus on maximizing the number of hotel rooms and using this resource to address the COVID crisis. Prioritize hotels as safe options for housing, not tiny homes, not congregate shelters. Hotels can turn into permanent social housing.

Communication from Public

Name: Alana Riemermann
Date Submitted: 02/11/2021 09:37 AM
Council File No: 21-0113
Comments for Public Posting: See attached letter.

February 11, 2021

Los Angeles City Council
Homelessness & Poverty Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Recommendations Regarding Recommendations to Project Roomkey to Better Meet the Needs of Older Adults (Council File 21-0113)

Dear Homelessness & Poverty Committee Members,

The Policy Action Team (PAT) coalition, which is coordinated the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, strongly supports Councilmembers Bonin and Raman's motion regarding the expansion of the Project Roomkey (Item 5 of the Homelessness & Poverty Committee agenda for February 11, 2021). The PAT's mission is to advocate for the needs older adults who are currently, formerly, or at-risk of becoming homeless through intentional cross-sector collaboration and targeted information sharing with state, city, and local decision makers and organizations. The PAT fully supports an expansion of Project Roomkey within the City of Los Angeles, by both continuing existing sites and establishing new sites, including those that have fewer than 100 beds. The PAT also encourages the Council to consider our coalition's recommendations on how to make the program more suited to the unique needs of older adults.

Project Roomkey (PRK) presents an unprecedented opportunity to house older adults experiencing homelessness who are disproportionately vulnerable to contracting the coronavirus and are at the greatest risk for severe symptoms and negative outcomes, including death. The Council should ensure that unhoused older adults, including older adults who need help with their Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) or have other disability-related needs, are being served in PRK in proportion to their prevalence within the larger homeless population and also in consideration of their increased vulnerability to the coronavirus. This should include an analysis of older adults on the PRK waitlist.

The Council should consider establishing one or more PRK sites specifically dedicated to older adults, where innovations to bridge housing and personal care services could be tested. This is already happening in existing PRK sites and should be expanded. PRK sites should be better connected to resources that provide for personal care services, such as the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), In Home Supportive Services (IHSS), the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW), and the Home & Community Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver. Certain modifications will be needed in order to better integrate these programs into interim housing settings, which we'd be happy to discuss with you in more detail. Additionally, PRK providers should be trained to work with and refer to these personal care services.

Finally, equal consideration must be given to older adults exiting PRK sites into Project Homekey or other permanent housing. PRK operators should evaluate the services needs of older adults exiting PRK so that all exit into housing with the appropriate level of services. PRK should also have formalized referral pathways into sites with a higher level of care, such as Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) or Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs).

Thank you again for your leadership on this difficult issue. If you would like to have further discussion with the Policy Action Team, please reach out to Yelba Carrillo, Sr. Manager, Homeless Systems Change (Seniors), at the United Way of Greater Los Angeles at ycarrillo@unitedwayla.org.

Sincerely,

The Policy Action Team

Communication from Public

Name: Tieira

Date Submitted: 02/11/2021 07:58 AM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: Commander the hotels as soon as possible please. These large buildings have been vacant for over a year now as our residents have filled the streets. Please be sure that project roomkey actually gives residents their keys, they are not in prison. Until we have enough housing for everyone, residents should be allowed use of hotels.

Communication from Public

Name: Allison Schallert

Date Submitted: 02/11/2021 09:47 AM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: · Pass this motion and ensure that it is met with the urgency this crisis requires. Waive it through the COVID committee and send it to the full City Council for a vote next Tuesday. · Council should focus on maximizing the number of BEDS CREATED WITH SERVICES and using this resource to address the COVID crisis. · Prioritize BOTH hotels and Pallet Shelters! Hotels can turn into permanent social housing and Pallet Shelters can be moved and reused in an emergency!

Communication from Public

Name: helen eigenberg

Date Submitted: 02/11/2021 09:55 AM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: Pass this motion and ensure that it is met with the urgency this crisis requires. Waive it through the COVID committee and send it to the full City Council for a vote next Tuesday. · Council should focus on maximizing the number of BEDS CREATED WITH SERVICES and using this resource to address the COVID crisis. · Prioritize BOTH hotels and Pallet Shelters! Hotels can turn into permanent social housing and Pallet Shelters can be moved and reused in an emergency!

Communication from Public

Name: Doug S

Date Submitted: 02/11/2021 07:48 PM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I support this motion to extend and expand Project Roomkey. The homeless crisis has been exacerbated by COVID-19 and we need to make sure we take care of all citizens of Los Angeles during this crisis. To leave homeless people out with no shelter or resources to stay safe is not only bad for those who are homeless, but those who live in our community. Let's try to end the pandemic and show some compassion for those that may need more help than others.