

Communication from Public

Name: Anastasia

Date Submitted: 02/24/2021 11:05 AM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: Despite official acknowledgments that systemic racism is driving homelessness, Black people continue to be over represented on the streets of Skid Row — and most importantly, people are still dying from lack of housing. A year after the pandemic brought our city to a standstill, very little has been done to end homelessness, protect our community and save the lives of the most vulnerable Angelenos. Acknowledging the disproportionate number of Black women in Skid Row and the dangers unhoused women face, the Mayor pledged to house 100 women via Project 100, which launched in October 2019. Nearly a year-and-a-half later, on Feb. 10, 2021 he realized this number was too small and declared an expansion of project Roomkey — 300 more rooms, 150 of which would go to unhoused women in Skid Row. In this time, the number of unhoused women in Skid Row has skyrocketed from 1,072 to around 1,500. Clearly, 150 rooms to address a growing problem created by structural racism is not enough. Mayor Garcetti continues to say Black Lives Matter without taking real action to back up his words. All the while Black people perish on the streets of Los Angeles at four times the rate of everyone else. This condition is a direct result of structural and institutional racism and the failure to correct the causal chain of discrimination that segregates, displaces, criminalizes and locks Black people out of access to housing. It is time to do what's right. Prioritize the needs of Black women. Prioritize their safety and their health. House women now.

Communication from Public

Name: Courtney Rice

Date Submitted: 02/26/2021 09:51 AM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Courtney Rice. I am a resident and business owner in El Sereno, and the numbers of unhoused neighbors are rising here as they are in all areas of Los Angeles. This is no doubt the result of systemic inequity and under-utilization of resources that are already available to address this extremely important human rights issue. Hotels are underutilized right now, providing the city the opportunity to expand affordable/social housing stock. Now that federal funding is available, City Council must act urgently to take advantage of this moment and house thousands of people. Please listen to the requests of the LA City electeds and provide upfront funding to house people in LA hotels to be reimbursed by FEMA later. I am writing to urge you to get Black women in Skid Row into hotel rooms and housing NOW. The federal government has guaranteed a 100% reimbursement for these purposes and we want to center Black women in the fight to #SeizetheHotels. City Council continues to say Black Lives Matter for months and it rings hollow without real action to save Black lives. You are letting Black people perish on the streets of LA at 4 times the rate of everyone else. I hope you will prioritize the lives of Black women by doing the following: 1. Exhaust every hotel room adjacent to Skid Row to house women. This is the only way to get the number of units and amenities that the community deserves. 2. When the FEMA money expires, Black women must be prioritized in the transition to permanent housing. We've seen how folks are kicked out of Roomkey or offered options on the other side of the county, you need to plan ahead. Get people in hotels now, but make plans for the transition to permanent housing options. Real options. Not tents, not shelters, not sheds. Prioritize the needs of Black women. Prioritize their safety and their health. 3. Make sure money is directed to community residents and groups who are actually doing the work to support our most vulnerable folks. Stop pouring money into anti-Black practices like the Coordinated Entry System. We know that's not working. Organizations like LA CAN have been identifying, transporting, and supporting women during the past few weeks amidst Garcetti's "I love Black women" declaration. 4. Fund Black-led community organizations doing the work to support Skid Row. It is centuries past the time to do what's right. Thank you for accepting my comment.

Communication from Public

Name: Monique Noel

Date Submitted: 02/24/2021 11:00 AM

Council File No: 21-0113

Comments for Public Posting: The city needs to act to get Black women in Skid ROW into hotels rooms and housing NOW. There's a disproportionate number of Black women in Skid Row. Women, non-binary and transgender communities in particular are at an increased risk of harm. State violence, sexual assault, having their children taken and survival transactions are facts of life for women who lack housing. Shorter life expectancy and rising mortality rates are the only definite outcomes for women currently living on the streets of Skid Row. Women's safety is only enhanced by being housed. Place women in dignified housing/hotels immediately, tents and shelters are not a solution. Supportive services must be made readily available for women to access during their stay; and, most importantly, permanent housing must be secured, women must NOT be placed back on the street. The government has committed to reimbursing 100% of the cost of Project Roomkey through FEMA. The mayor needs to stop dragging his feet, NO MORE EXCUSES we know he is authorized (through Administrative Code Section 8.29) to commandeer private property as is needed for the protection of the people. HE IS NOT PROTECTING PEOPLE when there are STILL 70,000 empty hotel rooms in Los Angeles. The mayor can seize hotel and motel rooms to house the unhoused during the pandemic. Why has this not done this? People shouldn't be forced to sleep on the sidewalk unnecessarily. Seize the hotel rooms and make them available to unhoused Black women in Skid Row now.