

Communication from Public

Name: Christiane Cuse
Date Submitted: 02/23/2022 02:59 PM
Council File No: 22-0158
Comments for Public Posting: I am in favor of increasing the number of beds available by allowing houses of worship and nonprofit agencies to help provide interim housing and emergency shelter for people who are homeless

Communication from Public

Name: Janice Frew

Date Submitted: 02/23/2022 03:00 PM

Council File No: 22-0158

Comments for Public Posting: It seems that allowing churches, synagogues, mosques and nonprofits to quickly expand the number of available beds in the city is a cost effective step in the overall process of addressing homelessness in our city. Who wouldn't want to make it easier to create more interim housing and shelter beds and to extend or make permanent existing interim housing or shelter? Cutting red tapes in this emergency should be the simplest of actions upon which all sides can agree.

Communication from Public

Name: J. Morgan
Date Submitted: 02/24/2022 07:06 AM
Council File No: 22-0158
Comments for Public Posting: Not allowing neighborhood review and input on something impacting their homes is undemocratic.

Communication from Public

Name: Brentwood Community Council
Date Submitted: 02/23/2022 03:58 PM
Council File No: 22-0158
Comments for Public Posting: Attached are comments to Council File Number 22-0158 from the Brentwood Community Council.



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www.brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org

February 23, 2022

Hon. Kevin de León, Chair, City Council Homelessness & Poverty Committee (HPC)
Hon. Nithya Raman, Vice-Chair, HPC
Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Hon. Joe Buscaino and Hon. Monica Rodriguez, members, HPC
Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, CD 11

Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal

Re: Council File 22-0158 (scheduled for hearing by the HPC on 2/24/22)

Dear Councilmembers:

The Brentwood Community Council (“BCC”) is the broadest based Brentwood community organization, representing approximately 35,000 stakeholders of the 90049 community within CD-11. The BCC includes 13 homeowners’ associations, multi-family residential dwellers, business organizations, schools, religious groups, volunteer service groups, as well as public safety and environmental organizations.

The BCC learned of Council File 22-0158 to be heard on February 24, 2022, after our regularly scheduled February meeting. Our Land Use Committee and Homelessness Task Force each held special meetings to help inform the BCC’s Executive Committee, and we submit this letter pursuant to our Bylaws that allow action to be taken by the Executive Committee between meetings under exigent circumstances such as these, benefitting from the informed considerations provided by our referenced committees.

We agree whole heartedly that there is a homeless crisis, and we have supported various measures to provide interim housing, including, notably, supporting the efforts to bring interim shelters to the VA property in Brentwood. However, we have reviewed Council File 22-0158 (the “Motion”) as carefully as possible in this compressed time frame, and we are unable to support the Motion at this time. We have a series of concerns that need to be addressed by the Homelessness and Poverty Committee (the “Committee”) in connection with the Motion, as follows:

- The Committee should defer further action on this Motion for 30 days, to allow fellow Community Councils, Neighborhood Councils, and the public, appropriate time to review the Motion and provide comment for this Committee to consider.

Public comment at this stage of the Motion will serve to inform not only this Committee, but the Planning Department and the City Attorney in their efforts, if adequate time to review and respond is afforded.

- We request the Committee amend the Motion so that the requested guidance from both Planning and the City Attorney is clearer, more precise and specific, which will allow for a more useful, tailored and responsive approach from those groups. At presently drafted, the Motion is vague and overbroad, and could be read to be asking for all forms of zoning protections to be over-ridden and cast aside, including State-mandated reviews and studies. We request the first motion include language clarifying/limiting the “LAMC to allow temporary shelters for the homeless” to those instances where “the shelter is operated by a religious institution or non-profit charitable organization on property the organization owns or leases.” We ask that a priority be placed on utilizing City property for temporary shelters.
- We request this Committee modify the Motion such that Planning and the City Attorney are instructed to ensure that all recommendations comply with all State-mandated requirements, including CEQA where applicable. We note that only a few days ago, there was introduced in the State Assembly AB 1197, which appears to be considering a relaxation of CEQA requirements in additional zones from that authorized in 2019 by the State and then adopted by the City in LAMC 12.80 and 12.81. It appears that, unless and until AB 1197 is enacted, the City is premature in directing the City Attorney to expand the zones covered by LAMC 12.80 and 12.81, and we hope the relevant parties investigate this further.
- We request this Committee modify the Motion to place a specific time frame on any “emergency related” relaxation of zoning rules, including requirements for the removal of any temporary shelters following the period of emergency.
- We ask this Committee ensure that the opportunity for meaningful public comment is preserved once the requested reports and recommendations from Planning and City Attorney are produced in response to the Motion.
- We ask that all modifications that allow for any zoning-based expansion of the potential location for religious organization (or non-profit) operated homeless shelters, be combined with the automatic implementation of LAMC 41.18 protections.
- We ask that this Committee request and obtain a report of how many shelter beds were created since the implementation of the 2019 ordinances, separately for City owned property, and those located on property owned by non-profits or religious institutions, to understand the actual benefit these measures have produced in addressing the homelessness crisis.

We hope that this Committee reflects on these and other comments being submitted by our fellow Councils, our member HOAs, and members of the public, and takes the necessary time and effort to refine the Motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Brentwood Community Council Executive Committee
Carolyn C. Jordan, Chair

Communication from Public

Name: Sherry Vatter

Date Submitted: 02/23/2022 05:55 PM

Council File No: 22-0158

Comments for Public Posting: I strong support the motion to allow churches, synagogues, mosques and other nonprofits to increase beds available for homeless persons in Los Angeles. We urgently need to provide every homeless person with awarm, safe place to sleep and live. Please vote yes on this life saving and humane motion.