

Communication from Public

Name: Cerianne Robertson

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:04 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: City Council Members, 23-0026 would veto a decision from the South LA Planning Commission to reject a conditional use permit on publicly owned land. I urge you to vote NO. The City Zoning Administrator said no to the hotel. The South LA Planning Commission said no to the hotel. Most importantly, for ten years, residents and community organizations in the area have been saying no. We need more truly affordable housing — not hotels that offer scraps as "community benefits."

Communication from Public

Name: Victoria Xashara-Prescott

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:04 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: City council has not heard us. We've spoken and spoken and spoken against the hotel at the Bethune site. Please vote NO on the hotel development. We want community serving spaces!

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Melendez

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:05 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Jessica Melendez, I'm with TRUST South LA and I am a member of UNIDAD coalition. I'm speaking on Item 6. I urge you to vote no on Council File 23-0026 put forth by Council District 8, which would veto a decision from the South LA Planning Commission to reject a conditional use permit on publicly owned land. This land was formerly the site of the Bethune Library. A decade ago, the city promised that whatever would get developed on this site would "provide ongoing community benefits." A hotel being built on that land would not fulfill those requirements. This land could have been used to develop affordable housing. It could have also been handed to a community land trust like TRUST South LA, to develop a grocery store and create affordable housing for residents of South LA. In the midst of a citywide housing crisis, we should not be using valuable public land for corporate development projects like luxury hotels, which gentrify and displace communities to accommodate tourists. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Sonia Salgado

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:06 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: I as a community member do not want to see a hotel in my neighborhood, a hotel does not belong and it has nothing to do in my neighborhood, I am very concerned what my city council is approving in my community. I would like to see affordable housing, green space or a library, it has to be something that the community needs and wants.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy Zelaya

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:06 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to vote no on item #6 , which would veto a decision from the South LA Planning Commission to reject a conditional use permit on publicly owned land. This land was formerly the site of the Bethune Library. A decade ago, the city promised that whatever would get developed on this site would “provide ongoing community benefits.” A hotel being built on that land would not fulfill those requirements. The City Zoning Administrator said no to the hotel. The South LA Planning Commission said no to the hotel. Most importantly, for ten years, the people have been saying no including the Neighborhood Council that represents this community. When the In the midst of a citywide housing crisis, we should not be using valuable public land for corporate development projects like luxury hotels, which gentrify and displace communities to accommodate tourists. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Miranda

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:07 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Wendy Miranda and I am with Esperanza Community Housing, a member of the UNIDAD Coalition. I am urging the council to stop the development of a hotel on 3685 Vermont Ave in South LA (CD 8). The community has been asking for years for this site to be for affordable housing. While it has been said that there's too much affordable housing in the area, community members would say otherwise. Many families cannot afford rent or can barely afford rent and would much rather see affordable housing than a hotel development on this site. Listen to community when they say that they don't want hotels. In the midst of a citywide housing crisis, we should not be using valuable public land for corporate development projects like luxury hotels, which gentrify and displace communities to accommodate tourists.

Communication from Public

Name: Katie McKeon

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:07 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: I am a staff attorney with Public Counsel, and we are proud members of the UNIDAD coalition. We ask the Council to vote no on Item #6 on the 2/3/2023 City Council agenda. I want to focus my comment on previous statements made regarding the vacant Bethune site, and claims that proposed affordable housing developments have failed on this site, resulting in the pivot to a hotel development. The former Bethune library was closed and demolished in 2009. In 2011, the Redevelopment Agency issued an RFP and selected developers to bring affordable housing to the site. In 2012, the State dissolved redevelopment agencies across the state, and the proposed development couldn't move forward. The City was unable to do anything with the land until they had a state approved Long Range Property Management Plan in place, which occurred in 2014. The City then took three years to issue another RFP for the Bethune site, finally issuing an RFP for affordable housing in December 2017. A developer who proposed a mixed used development, including affordable housing, was selected in April 2018. Then, without explanation, a new RFP was issued in January 2019, calling for hospitality proposals. Despite repeated requests for information by residents, our coalition, and other stakeholders, including neighborhood councils, the City hasn't provided an explanation for why the 2018 proposed development fell through so quickly. So, to recap, the City has spent 8 months in the past DECADE, negotiating with a developer to bring affordable housing to the site. 8 months. So that begs the question – is this the level of effort that we should expect from this City Council in increasing our affordable housing stock, especially on land that it owns or controls? If so, we are in a much deeper crisis than we even thought. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:07 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: I please ask you to vote no on Item #6. This neighborhood desperately needs affordable housing if it still wants to be a neighborhood, a community, and not a space of transition for privileged students or tourists to simply come and go as they please. We believe we can really make this site a space that benefits all in our community and not just a small few who will reap profits from a hotel. We just want to build up this place we call our home and not have to be forced out with what will come from a commercial hotel.

Communication from Public

Name: Cynthia Strathmann

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:08 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: Public land should be used for the public good. For years community members have lent their time and energy to the creation of a community- centered plan for the site of the former Bethune Library. To have those dreams snatched away by elected officials more focused on pandering to corporations and playing transactional politics than on serving the people who elected them demonstrates clearly how little ever changes in LA City Council.

Communication from Public

Name: Cynthia Strathmann

Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:10 PM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to vote no on item #6 , which would veto a decision from the South LA Planning Commission to reject a conditional use permit on publicly owned land. This land was formerly the site of the Bethune Library. A decade ago, the city promised that whatever would get developed on this site would “provide ongoing community benefits.” A hotel being built on that land would not fulfill those requirements. The City Zoning Administrator said no to the hotel. The South LA Planning Commission said no to the hotel. Most importantly, for ten years, the people have been saying no including the Neighborhood Council that represents this community. When the In the midst of a citywide housing crisis, we should not be using valuable public land for corporate development projects like luxury hotels, which gentrify and displace communities to accommodate tourists. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Wayne Woods
Date Submitted: 02/02/2023 07:12 PM
Council File No: 23-0026
Comments for Public Posting: Please vote NO on item #6 and reject the conditional use permit. Contrary to the opposition, a hotel does not benefit a community in need of housing and green spaces. The planning commission, the zoning commission and the community all say "NO!"

Communication from Public

Name: Cerianne Robertson

Date Submitted: 01/31/2023 10:26 AM

Council File No: 23-0026

Comments for Public Posting: City Council Members, 23-0026 would veto a decision from the South LA Planning Commission to reject a conditional use permit on publicly owned land. I urge you to vote NO. The City Zoning Administrator said no to the hotel. The South LA Planning Commission said no to the hotel. Most importantly, for ten years, residents and community organizations in the area have been saying no. We need more truly affordable housing — not hotels that offer scraps as "community benefits."