

March 18, 2016

Honorable Terry Tornek, Mayor of Pasadena
Members of the Pasadena City Council
City of Pasadena
100 N Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: Approval of Measures to Address Homelessness

Dear Mayor Tornek and Members of the City Council:

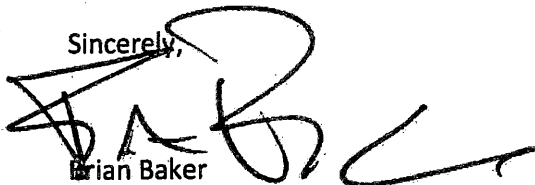
The Playhouse District Association (PDA) urges the City Council to adopt the proposed measures, which we feel will help make a difference in the livability of our district, Pasadena as a whole, and provide more permanent housing solutions for the homeless. We support the comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to address homelessness with the measures proposed by the City's Department of Housing and Prosecutor's Office.

Importantly, we recognize the human component of the issue and have worked diligently with our Ambassador Guides, the Housing Department and the Pasadena Police Department through its officers and HOPE Teams to find appropriate resources for homeless individuals in the Playhouse District. While we will continue to work towards positive solutions for the homeless individuals who are receptive to the resources available, the fact remains that many homeless are service-resistant and pose an ongoing challenge to maintaining and improving a key area of the Central District.

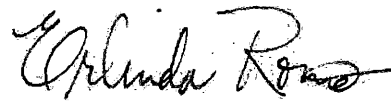
Along with other areas of the Central District, the Playhouse District has experienced an increase in the visibility of homelessness and associated activities over the last year. Incidents involving violent crime, public intoxication, illegal drug use, human defecation, overnight camping, squatting in vacant buildings, aggressive and persistent panhandling and others have increased in recent months and continue to be visible in the District. The PDA Board and staff have devoted resources, time and consideration to this issue as it has implications for the safety and economic vitality of district businesses, properties, residents and workers.

With the passage of these measures as a start, we can maintain the momentum in the Playhouse District and ensure a healthy, vibrant economy for Pasadena. Council's action to approve the proposed measures to address homelessness will create a multi-pronged approach which will provide homeless housing and supportive services, plus protect Pasadena's quality of life.

Sincerely,



Brian Baker
Chair



Erlinda Romo
Executive Director

04/11/2016

Item 17

Jomsky, Mark

From: Cote d'Azur Spa <cotedazurspa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 12:38 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Homeless in Pasadena

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

As a business owner in Pasadena for the past 13 years, I have to agree with Mr. Paul Little of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce that any camping restrictions should not just be for some specific districts but commercial districts city wide.

Our business was in Old Pasadena for 8 years, and we've been near Huntington Hospital for the past 5 and have had to deal with some of the problems that can occur the entire time, but the last year has been much more disconcerting. We have always know in all our locations that the homeless may be using our outdoor water access, possibly charging their phones and or sleeping on our property, but these activities have never taken place during business hours or when we were present working. This past year we have had people digging through our bamboo hedges looking for stashed items, barging into work locations, leaving unsightly messes and shopping carts on our garden, and porch, littering, defecating, urinating around property and stealing things from the porch and around the property. We have even found broken crack pipes.

That being said, I have concern for these people who are in great distress. Increasing access to housing, vouchers and mental health assistance will be helpful, and one thing that is needed is a place for couples to stay together. Some don't feel that the shelters are safe, so they prefer to sleep outside, on the blacktop with no blankets.

It might also be helpful if there was a way to contact some official, perhaps the police who will respond when there are calls about needing help or having concerns about homeless behavior. When police have been called about homeless incidents, they have not responded. That doesn't make business owners feel very safe or important. There was a couple who would sleep in the parking lot of my daughter's school rather than be separated.

I have also been told that the panhandlers seem to have someone in the homeless community that they are forced to pay a percentage to. I have concern that some of these people are trapped in a possibly dangerous hierarchy.

Thank you for your time and effort in this issue. I hope there can be a humanitarian and thoughtful way to help all the members in our community, business owners and the homeless community.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Jaques
Owner
Cote d'Azur

--
Cote D'Azur
41 W. Bellevue Dr.
Pasadena, CA 91105
626.396.3030

04/11/2016
Item 17

Jomsky, Mark

From: Store 006 - Pasadena <slt006@surlatable.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 9:54 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Cannot Attend Meeting - Letter on Current Homeless Population

Hello Pasadena City Council,

I understand that our homeless population here in Pasadena is a delicate issue and that we would not want to vilify or penalize peoples simply for the act of homelessness, however, the current transient and homeless population has become increasingly problematic for my business. Customers are badgered by no less than 3 panhandlers who I see daily, before they even get to my door. That's on top of any charity workers with clipboards that have similarly harassed them.

Furthermore, the emergency exit and dumpster areas of my building have become a sort of attraction for transients. We were incredibly frustrated last week when two of them were rummaging through our dumpster and then jumping out to scare customers who tried to pick up large purchases at our back door. Later that night, we found someone sleeping in the dumpster who jumped out to scare two of my sales associates who were taking out the trash. Last night a transient came in and attempted to purchase a knife, he questioned how our security was and made my entire staff very uncomfortable. It's getting to the point where I cannot guarantee the safety of my own staff when they're performing normal job duties, like taking out the trash or breaking down boxes.

To make all of this worse, we've tried to call the Pasadena Guides REPEATEDLY and been left with a full voicemail box. We would love to avoid getting the police involved in problems that could easily be solved with the Guides, but we can't get the Guides to show up! Thank you for hearing us out.

Paige Suth
Sur La Table
Assistant Store Manager
Operations
Pasadena, CA
(626)744-9987

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04/11/2016
Item 17

Jomsky, Mark

From: Tina Haas <thaas@rh.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 9:50 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: City Council Meeting - Concerns

Hi -

I am a leader at Restoration Hardware at 127 W. Colorado Boulevard. As we are unable to attend the City council meeting on Monday, I wanted to bring to your attention our concern with the alley behind our store. Our trash dumpsters are being rifled through which is not only leaving a mess in the alley, but we have seen our products, albeit somewhat destroyed, being used on the boulevard by those in the homeless community. Additionally, people are defecating in this area as well.

The City Guides are very quick to respond if we have an issue inside our store and they have a presence on the boulevard. Perhaps they could add additional security throughout the day and evening to include a walk through of the alley.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available at the number below if you have any questions or require additional information.

Kindly,

Tina Haas

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Tina Haas
Assistant Gallery Leader
RH Pasadena | The Gallery in Pasadena
T: 626.795.7234 | F: 626.795.7438

04/11/2016
Item 17

Jomsky, Mark

From: Michael Seel <MichaelS@BostonCourt.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 11:21 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: From Michael Seel/Boston Court

April 11, 2016

Honorable Mayor Terry Tornek & City Councilmembers
City of Pasadena
100 N Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: Measures to Address Issues Associated with Homelessness and Panhandling

Dear Mayor Tornek & Councilmembers:

Please vote in favor of the measures to address issues associated with homelessness and panhandling. I have witnessed more homeless activity in the area, and aggressive behavior from homeless and other people as have our patrons and customers. There is a need to address the Pasadena homeless problem now and your support of these measures is greatly needed.

The proposed measures are comprehensive and can help house the homeless in addition to safeguard the prime commercial areas of the city. Your action tonight can take positive steps to stem this problem before it grows.

Sincerely,
Michael Seel
Executive Director
Boston Court Performing Arts Center
Home of The Theatre @ Boston Court and Music @ Boston Court
BostonCourt.org

04/11/2016
Item 17

Novelo, Lilia

Subject:

FW: WWW COMMENT

Field	Value
Your Name	Elizabeth Richer Campo, CAWA
Phone	6267927151
Email	ecampo@pasadenahumane.org
Comments	<p>Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council, The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA has had an ongoing and worsening issue with homeless people camping in Edmondson Alley. We have witnessed gambling, fights, drinking, drug use and what appears to be prostitution. A group has decided to camp in the staff/volunteer door to our Cat Center and we can no longer safely use the alley to conduct normal business. Union Station has been very helpful but this is beyond their ability alone. PHS has had to call the police multiple times just in the past few days and the same group is still blocking our alley doors. On Friday the 8th around 8 am, 15 minutes after the police had asked the group to move along, I drove down the alley and the same men were still there passing around a bottle. The police do need the tools to have people who are camping against private property move along. At PHS we are very sympathetic to the complex plight of the homeless population but we do need to be able to conduct our business in a way that keeps our volunteers and staff safe. Respectfully, Elizabeth Richer Campo, CAWA Senior Vice President Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA</p>

04/11/2016
Item 17



Singpoli
SINGPOLI CAPITAL CORPORATION

April 11, 2016

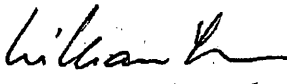
Mayor Terry Tornek and Councilmembers
City of Pasadena
Pasadena City Hall
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Mayor Tornek & Councilmembers:

Singpoli Capital Corporation is requesting the City Council vote in favor of the measures to address issues associated with homelessness and panhandling. There has been more homeless activities in the area and aggressive behavior from homeless and other people, and there is a need to address the Pasadena homeless problem.

The proposed measures are comprehensive and can help house the homeless in addition to safeguard the prime commercial areas of the city. Your action tonight can take positive steps to stem this problem before it grows.

Sincerely,



William Chu
Chief Financial Officer