

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 6:46 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item Housing

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item Housing

Name: Teresa **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:**
A Tiffany Monrovia, CA 91016

Comments:

We need to do whatever we can to provide affordable housing.

Teresa Tiffany

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 3:23 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name: Sonja K Berndt **Email:** **Address:**
Pasadena, CA 91107

Comments:

I am a long-time resident of Pasadena. I am writing to encourage you to approve declaring the Ramona site surplus land because it makes good economic sense to build affordable housing on this site. The City's RFP states that the project should "serve as a catalyst for continued economic growth and provide economic benefits" (p. 5). As you know, affordable housing is an economic stimulus since it is required to have 20 percent local hires, 20 percent local contractors and 20 percent local materials. This will bring millions of dollars to the Pasadena economy at a time when such an influx of funds is urgently needed. Financial considerations are not the only reason to use this site for affordable housing, however. The need for affordable and supportive housing, especially for families, is critical. Homeless people who currently sleep on and around this vacant property desperately need housing. As a person of faith, I believe we have a moral imperative as well as financial incentive to use this site for affordable and supportive housing. The prophet Zechariah tells us that the LORD Almighty calls us to "administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another." Thank you.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 4:18 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name: Ferne Hayes **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:**
Pasadena, CA 91106

Comments:

I am writing to urge you to approve declaring the Ramona site surplus land so that you can consider the excellent proposals that have been submitted by outstanding affordable housing developers. Abode, Bridge and National Core/Union Station all have proven track records in our city and they have expended considerable time and effort to come up with worthy proposals for affordable family housing that fit with the design and beauty of our Civic Center. I would also recommend including the component of supportive housing on this site. In addition a public courtyard and a café and shops that will attract visitors will help to vitalize and activate the center of our city near City Hall. Please continue this project forward without further delay. Taking 10 years to approve a YWCA project has already threatened the outcome. Affordable housing deficits loom over the city. Please take every opportunity to ameliorate this problem and strive to get ahead of the wave of housing insecurity.

Thank you,

Ferne Hayes

Pasadena resident for 49 years

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

10/05/2020
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Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 11:48 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
ARETA CROWELL			PASADENA, California 91106

Comments:

I am a member of Pasadena Presbyterian Church, which has a long record of working for social justice in this city. We attest the critical need for more affordable housing and strongly support the affordable housing developments proposed for the Ramona site at the Civic Center. Every week we see the need for housing as we serve 50-70 persons who are, or have, experienced, homelessness. One of our cooks for those meals has herself experienced homelessness .

While the target RHNA goals are high, there is no denying the need for affordable housing is huge and growing. To declare this site as Surplus and open it for affordable housing will enable the city to assure the addition of 90-100 units . The waiting list for Section 8 housing is over 23,000. The last Housing Element indicated that 36%of Pasadenans are of low or very low income; 76% of 16,730 lower income renters pay more than 30% 0f their income on rent. These are shameful numbers!

Taking action to proceed with the developments which have already put in time. energy and resources to planning for the designated site is urgently needed now.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 1:23 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item #16. PUBLIC HEARING RE: DECLARATIONS OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item #16. PUBLIC HEARING RE: DECLARATIONS OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Name:	Email:	Phone: 626-	Address:
Marsha			Pasadena, CA
Rood			91101

Comments:

I. The City's Municipal Code defines surplus property as "real property of the city not needed for the purpose for which it was acquired or for any other public purpose." The City Council cannot make these findings.

A. The green spaces or "Civic Gardens" located at Garfield & Holly are needed for the purpose for which they were acquired. They are part of the publicly approved 1923 Civic Center City Beautiful City Plan which includes "grounds and approaches" to City Hall and currently serve that purpose. 2/3 of these green spaces will be lost if surplus for development.

B. Also, these public green spaces are currently used "for any other public purpose". The adopted General Plan Land Use Element, the Central District Specific Plan, the Green Space, and Open Space Elements all call for more open/green space in the Central District.

II. The City can add the Civic Center green space to the City's list of dedicated parklands as was done by the City Council on March 11, 2019 for the new Playhouse Village park.

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III. Furthermore, the City Council has the power to rezone the Civic Center green space from commercial use to open space/park use.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:01 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name: Gloria **Email:** **Phone:** 626- **Address:**
Newton Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

I want to thank the City Council for your smart decision in prioritizing affordable housing on the Ramona site. Now it is time to take the next step and approve declaring the Romona site surplus land so it can actually be used for affordable housing. The need for affordable housing continues to increase due to the pandemic and economic downturn, and we as citizens and city leaders must act quickly to move forward on all projects that will help to address this crisis. As a 32-year resident of Pasadena, a homeowner, and a person of faith, I want to be able to proudly say that my city cares about the lives of all its residents, regardless of their socio-economic status. Please act today to make additional affordable housing in the Civic Center a reality.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:09 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Bert			
Newton			Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in support of the Planning Department staff recommendation that the Ramona property be declared surplus land, exempt from CEQUA, so it can be used for affordable housing. As you know, the Surplus Land Act requires local agencies—such as cities and transit agencies—to prioritize affordable housing on such land. As the Planning Department Staff noted, using this site for affordable housing is consistent with the General Plan. The City Council already issued an RFP prioritizing affordable housing on this site, for which there is an urgent need. Developers have presented excellent proposals for affordable and supportive housing. I urge you to take the steps necessary so that these proposals can be considered and approved, and construction of much needed affordable housing can begin.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:17 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name: Ed Washatka,

Chair of Pasadenans

Organizing for Progress

Housing Justice

Committee

Email:

Phone:

Address:

, Pasadena, Ca.

91104, Pasadena,

California 91104

Comments:

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP) asks the City Council to support the staff recommendation that the properties located at 78 N. Marengo, 255 E. Union, 95 N. Garfield & 280 Ramona be declared surplus land.

The parcel at 280 Ramona has been in public trust for nearly a century. There is no higher civic use for public property in these times than ensuring that people of all incomes can continue to be part of our community. Ensuring a diverse and inclusive community makes this an urgent priority for all of Pasadena

Centennial square in front of City Hall stands empty most days of the year. Adding additional residents to the Civic Center along with modest ground floor retail and dining uses will help activate the open space and pump lifeblood into the City's civic heart.

This is an opportunity to provide for much-needed affordable housing, add to the vitality of the urban core, and architecturally enhance the Civic Center with a well-designed new building,

Respectfully,

Ed Washatka, Chair of POP's Housing Justice Committee along with members Kimberly Douglas, Lorynne Young, and Rick Cole

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:23 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name: Jill Suzanne Shook	Email:	Phone: -----	Address: Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104, Pasadena, CA 91104
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Comments:

Please designate the Civic Center properties as “surplus land” so that much needed affordable housing can be allowed. Please consider: are we in a housing crisis or a homeless crisis? We do not believe it is necessarily a homeless crisis, but actually a housing crisis. Cities are to have housing for all income levels. And we also believe this a deeply spiritual and moral crisis of values. Yes, we want a vibrant beautiful city, but the good news is that we can have both beauty and do the right thing with outstanding affordable housing developers to choose from. Several delicious pieces of chocolate cake to chew on, as anthony said. And more good news is with the 20-20-20 rule, this will not only build sorely needed housing but produce local jobs, local contacts, and local business. I love living in a city that believes in the value of affordable housing. Please make sure this happens in the Civic Center.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:29 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name: Anthony **Email:** **Phone:** 626- **Address:**
Manousos , Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

As the co-founder of Making Housing and Community Happen, I was encouraged to see that over 50 people have written in support of affordable housing at the Civic Center and allowing churches to build affordable housing on their excess land. This is not surprising since churches feel it's a core part of their mission to address the affordable housing and homelessness crisis. First Baptist Church along with many others have indicated that they support affordable/supportive housing at the Civic Center. From the poll we conducted, 17 churches are interested in having affordable housing on their land, with the potential of 1,177 units if a Congregational Land Overlay Zone is passed. 95% of churches would support a Congregational Land Overlay Zone to help other churches build housing on their land. Additionally, 19 churches (nearly half of all respondents) would allow SAFE parking on their church's parking lots. And 11 churches were open to having a FEMA trailer on their property. Please take to heart what the religious community is telling you: do what's right and make housing our low-income and homeless neighbors a top priority. Churches are also willing to do their part to be part of the solution.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:35 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name:	Email:	Phone: 323-	Address: 55 WINDY
Philip			APT 5, Pasadena, CA 91105-
Burns			3123

Comments:

In support of declaring the site surplus land.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:01 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name: Gloria **Email:** **Phone:** 626- **Address:**
Newton Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

I want to thank the City Council for your smart decision in prioritizing affordable housing on the Ramona site. Now it is time to take the next step and approve declaring the Romona site surplus land so it can actually be used for affordable housing. The need for affordable housing continues to increase due to the pandemic and economic downturn, and we as citizens and city leaders must act quickly to move forward on all projects that will help to address this crisis. As a 32-year resident of Pasadena, a homeowner, and a person of faith, I want to be able to proudly say that my city cares about the lives of all its residents, regardless of their socio-economic status. Please act today to make additional affordable housing in the Civic Center a reality.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Item 16

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 2:49 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item Agenda item #16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item Agenda item #16

Name: Rev.	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Rich McCullen			Pasadena, Ca 91107

Comments:

As the lead minister of Missiongathering Pasadena, Formerly known as Pasadena Christian Church. (Disciples of Christ) We see and amazing opportunity for churches with in the Pasadena city to utilize their properties for affordable housing for so many young families that cannot afford to live in our city anymore! Our city is literally shutting down elementary schools because families cannot afford to live here!

Missiongathering Pasadena, has over 2 acres of property that is basically unused. Which can facilitate a beautiful modern Condo/Apartment Complex for the low to middle income families for our beautiful city.

It is time for our City Council to move forward on this pressing need, especially when the answer is right in front of us!

Rev. Richard McCullen

Missiongathering Christian Church/Pasadena Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

798 N. Altadena Pasadena California

858-335-1355 - Cell

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Martinez, Ruben

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Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 3:17 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Public Comment for Meeting on October 5, 2020 about Agenda Item 16

Name:	Email:	Phone: 626-	Address:
Kimberly Douglas		610-8888	Pasadena, CA 91106

Comments:

My sense of logic is: The City has a goal, a great need, for affordable housing. If it had the funding it would possibly make it happen. But the city doesn't have such funding. So, it can't fulfill this important city objective. That makes 280 Ramona St surplus so that another entity can.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes