

Martinez, Ruben

From: Jill Shook <jshook@pasadenacounty.org>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 12:05 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: re: letter from Jill Shook for the CC Mtg Jan 11 on agenda items # 6, 7 and 16.

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6. AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR WEATHER-ACTIVATED MOTEL VOUCHERS TO SERVE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS:

As we start this new year, it is my hope and prayer that our imaginations will be engaged and fully preset to our most vulnerable residents. As we lay comfortably in our warm beds, let's imagine what it would be like for us to lack such comforts, no bed, no convenient place to use a bathroom, no place to enjoy breakfast and read the paper delivered to our door. As we express thankfulness for all these comforts and conveniences we enjoy and too often take for granted, let us also exercise the Golden Rule—to want for others what we also want for ourselves. Please allocate all the funds needed to assure that Pasadena continues its reputation of consistently lowering our homeless count as we have since 2011 by 54%. Please increase the funds for both vouchers and the support needed to assure a highly successful voucher program.

7. AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$118,098 TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE TO PASADENA HOUSEHOLDS AT RISK OF FALLING INTO HOMELESSNESS

In my conversation with Lola Osborn a few weeks ago, she indicated that indeed many folks in Pasadena are struggling to keep their homes. To assure community stability, prevent displacement and further homelessness, please allocate even more additional funds for the Housing Rights office so they might be able to expand their efforts. Our organizing team for a Community Land Trust throughout SGV is hoping to help those who are facing foreclosure by changing the ownership structure so that they would own the home, but not the land. The land would be placed into the Trust. This would make the home, without the land, more affordable and enable folks to stay in place. We hope that members of the City Council might explore this option with us. As we move forward with our team, we hope to partner in some way with the Housing Rights office.

16. PREDEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW OF A 70-UNIT MIXED USE PROJECT AT 710-738 NORTH FAIR OAKS AVENUE AND 19-25 EAST ORANGE GROVE BOULEVARD (HERITAGE SQUARE SOUTH)

As I bike, walk and drive around Pasadena, those I see who are experiencing homelessness appear to be seniors. I am thankful not only for the wisdom of our city to support 69 units for this population, but to serve as a model for other SGV cities to see for themselves what is possible. If several cities collaborate to build such housing, they could end homelessness in their cities. I am also thankful for the Heritage Square South site finally developed after all these many years—a long-standing community commitment to provide affordable housing here for at least 25 years. In addition to the provision of sorely needed housing, the need to revitalize and beautify the N. Fair Oaks corridor is real and affordable housing does just that. The prime example is Heritage Square North, right next door. Due to the 20-20-20 rule that our city wisely created, this development exceeded the number of local hires, local contracts and local materials infusing six million into our community. Please assure that we continue to use affordable housing as a tool to house our most vulnerable residents, while also infusing local jobs and strengthening our businesses with local purchases.

Jill Shook, Missions Door, Catalyst <http://www.missionsdoor.org/missionaries/shook-jill>

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Anthony Manousos <...>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 12:08 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Items 6,7 and 16 on today's agenda

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members,

Please give your consideration to these public comments regarding matters pertaining to housing justice in our City. Thank you so much for your efforts to end homelessness and housing insecurity.

6. AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR WEATHER-ACTIVATED MOTEL VOUCHERS TO SERVE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS:

I commend City Council members for urging the City Manager to ensure that every homeless person who needs a motel voucher will receive one during this time of pandemic. I am pleased that the Housing Department is diligently working with service providers like Friends Indeed and Union Station to enable the most vulnerable population of our city to be housed during critical times of bad weather, but I am concerned: is there enough funding for vouchers and for the staffing needed to implement this program? I urge the City to seek further funding to increase not only the number of vouchers, but also the support needed for those with vouchers to insure a successful voucher program. With the number of COVID cases rising exponentially, our homeless neighbors are becoming increasingly vulnerable. They need all the help that the City can muster.

7. AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$118,098 TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE TO PASADENA HOUSEHOLDS AT RISK OF FALLING INTO HOMELESSNESS

Anthony's comment:

I want to thank you for calling on the Housing Department to look into increasing the funding for legal services for Pasadena households at risk of falling into homelessness. Nine months ago, we heard heart-breaking testimony from tenants facing the risk of eviction because of the pandemic and the situation has gotten worse, not better. Many tenants can no longer work full-time and are stressed to the max and unfortunately some landlords are taking advantage of this situation to deprive them of their rights. Increasing funding for legal services will help tenants to have the support they need to stay in their apartments until this crisis ends and they can get back to work full-time and pay their rent. I urge you to support the recommendation of the Housing Department.

16. PREDEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW OF A 70-UNIT MIXED USE PROJECT AT 710-738 NORTH FAIR OAKS AVENUE AND 19-25 EAST ORANGE GROVE BOULEVARD (HERITAGE SQUARE SOUTH)

I am very happy to see that the supportive housing for homeless seniors is moving forward at Heritage Square South. I can't thank the City Council enough for your commitment to housing our low-income and homeless residents. I especially want to commend Mayor Gordo for making affordable housing a priority and Council member Kennedy for boldly calling for 1,000 units of affordable housing in 1,000 days. This goal is possible if the city sets this as a goal. We need bold leadership to address the housing crisis that is facing our city and our state.

01/21/2021
Item 6,7 and 16

Sincerely yours,

Anthony Manousos
Co-founder of Making Housing and Community Happen