

# CORRESPONDENCE

04/08/2019  
Item 13

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Leslie Duremberg <leslieduremberg1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 5:40 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Pasadena YWCA as Permanent Supportive Housing

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Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I am a member of the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church of Pasadena. I strongly urge the Pasadena City Council to start the process of approving the conversion of the Pasadena YWCA to permanent supportive affordable housing.

I volunteer with the women of The Women's Room at Friends in Deed in Pasadena where I see women who are homeless and do not know where they will stay at night. They are fearful about their safety. This has been especially challenging with the end of the Bad Weather Shelter for this winter season yet we are still having cold nights and rainy weather. I have often been brought to tears when I hear that a woman does not have a warm, safe place to stay at night.

I have very fond memories of the Pasadena YWCA. I grew up in Pasadena and I attended summer camp at the Pasadena YWCA. That is where I learned to swim and put on plays on the stage in the small auditorium. I also worked there as a teenager at their old fashioned switch board. The Pasadena YWCA is the perfect place for permanent supportive housing because it is centrally located in Pasadena and close to public transportation. Also, it seems that the housing can be available rather quickly since this does not involve building an entire outer structure from the ground up. It is a shame that a beautiful building that could be put to such important and good use sits there empty and forsaken. I hope that the City of Pasadena will take the bold step, and be a model for other cities, by turning the Pasadena YWCA into permanent supportive housing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this vital issue.

Regards,

Leslie Duremberg

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Erich Frey <frey@oxy.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 04, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Homeless Housing in Pasadena

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Madam or Sir:

As manager of the Food Pantry of 1st United Methodist Church serving some 150 needy persons in this area , many of them being homeless, I plead that the City of Pasadena provide additional housing for our homeless people, as proposed by the YWCA project.

As you must know, dozens of homeless stay overnight outside in the corners of our local churches, defecating and urinating on church premises. This has become a health problem for our congregants and other citizens who enter our church facilities.

Respectfully,

Dr. Erich A. Fret, Mgr.  
Food Pantry  
FUMC, Pasaadena

**Reese, Latasha**

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**Subject:** FW: Restore the Julia Morgan YWCA to its original intention: housing poor and homeless women!

**From:** Anthony Manousos <[interfaithquaker@aol.com](mailto:interfaithquaker@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 4:51 PM

**To:** Jomsky, Mark <[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)>

**Subject:** Restore the Julia Morgan YWCA to its original intention: housing poor and homeless women!

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Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council members,

The Mayor has often said that he receives more calls regarding homelessness than virtually any other concern. That's one reason it is so important to address the growing crisis before it worsens. You have taken important steps by approving Heritage Square South for homeless housing as well as the motel conversion ordinance.

Advocates for homeless housing, including Union Station, GPAGH, and Faith Partnership to End Homelessness, applaud the Mayor's recommendation that the Julia Morgan YWCA should be used for the purpose for which it was originally built--to house low-income and homeless women. Many of our homeless neighbors sleep on the streets near this building which has been vacant for nearly 20 years.

On Wednesday, Feb 20, a group of Centennial Place residents and community activists held a candlelight vigil at the YWCA, praying that this property be used for God's intention, and in accordance with its original purpose, just as we prayed at Heritage Square South. We believe that "the prayers of the righteous availeth much" (James 5:16).

### **Why Permanent Supportive Housing?**

Using this YWCA for PSH makes sense since there is a desperate need for homeless housing in the City. As of the 2018 homeless count:

- 677 people in Pasadena are homeless
- 462 are living on the street
- 104 are in families
- 70% are men, 29+% women, <1% other

Union Station strongly supports using the Y for homeless housing given the need and given its ownership of the adjacent property (Centennial Place). Using the YWCA for PSH would provide economies of scale as far as service provision.

Homelessness exists around the Civic Center so this is an opportunity to address it as Centennial Place alone does not have enough units to address the problem.

Union Station Homeless Services has over 45 years of successfully addressing homelessness in Pasadena and would commit to quality services and ensure permanent stability for residents.

Supportive or affordable housing is in line with the purpose of the architect's original design and purpose – to provide housing and opportunity for vulnerable members of the community.

### **What are the Possibilities?**

**Historic Restoration** – Abode Housing (the developer of Centennial Place) has experience preserving historic buildings and would likely use Historic Resources Group, also here in Pasadena, to ensure the historic nature is preserved.

We'd also engage stakeholders such as the Pasadena Historical Society, and others; any new structures on the surface parking lot would be respectful of the YWCA's historic significance and grandeur.

**Economic Development** - Sensitive to the desire to see some sort of economic development component, we'd like to propose the inclusion of a social benefit enterprise such as a high scale restaurant that provides economic training/job skills to the residents of YWCA and Centennial (and other low income) Catalyst Kitchens is an example of a successful enterprise.

Another economic benefit of PSH is that developers are required to hire at least 20% of their workers and contractors locally and purchase at least 20% of their supplies locally. Heritage Square North generated over \$7 million dollars in the Pasadena economy due to this policy.

**Public Space** - Sensitive to the desire to preserve public open space our plan would preserve the existing open space area with the Robinson statutes and would focus only on redeveloping the YWCA along with adding new units on the surface parking lot to the south immediately adjacent to the YWCA.

The building would remain a landmark in the city, while providing opportunity for those most vulnerable – a fitting tribute to the compassion and strong sense of community of Pasadena.

Yours in friendship and peace,

Anthony Manousos  
1628 N Garfield Ave Pasadena CA 91104  
626-375-1423  
[interfaithquaker@aol.com](mailto:interfaithquaker@aol.com)

Blog: <http://laquaker.blogspot.com/>

"Common folk, not statesmen, nor generals, nor great men of affairs, but just simple men and women, if they devote themselves ... can do something to build a better peaceful world."--Henry Cadbury, 1947"

The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious, and devout souls are everywhere of one religion; and when death has taken off the mask, they will know one another, though the liveries they wear here make them strangers."--William Penn.

Pasadena City Council:

It is with enthusiasm and delight that I support your plan to transform the former historic YWCA building across from the City Hall into supportive affordable housing for the homeless in Pasadena!

I have seen that attractive building sit vacant for years, and have repeatedly wondered why. How great to hear now that the YWCA was created originally for the poor and vulnerable. Julia Morgan had more foresight than she realized. Or Mayor Terry Tornek is using his vision to see the possibilities in this day.

As a member of the Risk-Taking Mission committee of First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, I have witnessed the enthusiasm at recent City Council Meetings about plans to build housing for the homeless in the city. Onward!

Blessings,

Wanda Gae Stefansson

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Phoebe Conn <phoebeconn@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 11:39 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** YWCA Conversion

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Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I am a member of Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church of Pasadena. I strongly urge the Pasadena City Council to begin the process of approving the conversion of the Pasadena YWCA to permanent supportive affordable housing.

Best regards,

Phoebe Conn

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Thomas Petersmeyer <newtqp000@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2019 6:23 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** CONVERSION OF THE PASADENA YWCA TO PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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Mr. Jomsky, I am a member of the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church of Pasadena . I strongly urge the Pasadena City Council to start the process of approving the conversion of the Pasadena YWCA to permanent supportive affordable housing. Regards, Tom Petersmeyer  
818-248-6383



**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Jackie Knowles <jjknowles@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 9:59 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** YWCA

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The mixed use of social enterprise and housing for women who are homeless is the perfect solution for the Pasadena YWCA. A real model for the nation and a huge step in ending homelessness in Pasadena. The Women's Room of Friends In Deed has been waiting for this for 12 years. And now it's happening! Huzzah!

Sincerely,

Jackie Knowles, founding program director of The Women's Room