

Martinez, Ruben

From: Samantha Jean Sumampong <[redacted]@pasadena.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 4:34 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Bad Weather Shelter

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Hello to whom it may concern,

I recently read that the city of Pasadena is not providing a bad weather shelter this year due to covid for people who are unhoused. It concerns me because I am asking how will people , who are unhoused, be safe during the harsh elements? If a shelter will not be provided, I, and many others, are asking the city to support funds for motel vouchers beyond what the Housing Department is asking, allow tents and suspend citations for makeshift shelters (people are trying to survive), make use of any or all city vacant city owned property, housing facilities (including the 45 FEMA trailers at the Rose Bowl-which are provided by the city to use them as they see fit, and are currently sitting vacant), and allow safe parking for people to sleep in their cars overnight without citation. The city needs to provide support beyond their constituents that have money. Please consider these points during your last council meeting of the year on 12/14.

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Item 3

Martinez, Ruben

From: Nathan Wong <
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 6:22 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Item #3 Pasadena Needs Bad Weather Shelters

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City Council Members,

COVID-19 has caused a strain for everyone, not to mention those at the margins of our society. Rather than cite public health as a reason to refrain from serving all of our residents, Pasadena needs to step up and make sure that public safety means public safety for all. For one, the city can use some of the FEMA shelters that are sitting vacant in the Rose Bowl to house some unhoused residents and relax some enforcement of citations for shelters.

Amidst pending evictions, unemployment due to lack of federal aid, and rising COVID deaths in our county, Pasadena needs to do its part to ensure that people are protected, no matter their social situation. Therefore, I urge the city council to take more action to protect our neighbors and not shy away from responsibilities that you all were elected to keep.

Regards,

Nathan

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Peter Cote <
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:31 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Shelter for unhorsed residents

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Hi my name is Peter Cote, I have lived in Pasadena for 8 years. I would like to urge you to make new considerations for our homeless residents this winter as the pandemic has forced the closure of the bad winter shelter.

The safety of these individuals is always important but the difficulty of the pandemic along with the economic suffering has put more people than ever in a vulnerable position. I believe Pasadena to be a city that has compassion for those who are struggling and so I am requesting that funding be expanded to help our homeless residents. Motel/Hotel vouchers can help, or city owned properties could be utilized. We will talk about how we handled this crisis for years, and I hope that the stories we tell will communicate that we protected the most vulnerable.

Peter Cote
Director/Cinematographer
Follow me on [Instagram](#)

Martinez, Ruben

From: Ann < >
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:47 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item 3

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The current suspension of the bad weather shelters in Pasadena is dangerous to all of us. Suspending life-saving services for the sake of safety is antithetical, and part of the reason why Pasadena is dealing with covid surges. Another way to prevent spread of covid in tightly packed spaces would be to start operating the unused hotel rooms in pasadena as additional shelters, as well as any government owned residential properties.

Please don't let Pasadena down.

--
Ann Kocarek

12/14/2020
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Martinez, Ruben

From: Greg Nussen <
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 7:16 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Comment for Item #3 for the 12/14 meeting

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Hello,

My name is Greg Nussen and I am writing as a Pasadena resident and as a member of DSA, the Democratic Socialists of America.

It is unconscionable and frankly heartless for the Pasadena City Council to consider getting rid of the emergency bad weather shelter. This action will quite simply mean more deaths for the unhoused on the streets, in a city and county where more people die by weather conditions due to homelessness than in New York City. Do the members of the Pasadena City Council really believe that the currently allotted motel voucher funds are enough? More must be done, including allowing the use of tents, and suspending the bullshit citations that have been issued for makeshift shelters. All vacant city-owned property and housing must be used to house those suffering in the streets, including (obviously!!) the 45 FEMA trailers at the Rose Bowl. You must allow, as well, people to sleep in their cars overnight without citation. These are obvious measures to help people experiencing homelessness, and the bare minimum of what a conscionable city council should do.

Thank you so much,
Greg Nussen

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Martinez, Ruben

From: McCormick, Jennifer < >
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:06 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Housing options for those without shelter

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Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing to request that you work harder to shelter the most vulnerable among us. I understand why emergency shelters have been shut down, but as residents, we must consider alternatives for the unhoused in Pasadena. Please consider the following options:

- A) Provide a more robust motel voucher plan and offer this plan to all, not just those with pre-existing conditions.
- B) Make use of all vacant property to provide shelter, including the 45 FEMA trailers at the Rose Bowl that are currently vacant.
- C) Allow people to sleep in their cars overnight.

Winter is upon us. We must do everything we can to provide shelter to those who need it. Thank you for reading this email and for considering every shelter option available to us.

Sincerely,
Jennifer McCormick

JENNIFER MCCORMICK
Professor
Charter College of Education
California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032
jmccorm3@calstatela.edu

calstatela.edu *Pushing Boundaries*

Martinez, Ruben

From: Robyn Popp <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:55 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Comment on City Council Agenda Item #3 12/14

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Hello,

Our unhoused neighbors face significant risk this winter and need more resources than what the city is currently planning to allocate. As you know, COVID-19 cases are surging throughout the country. The recommendation to stay home and avoid others is impossible for people experiencing homelessness, at least without government assistance.

On top of the existing safety concerns posed by COVID-19, our unhoused neighbors will be facing progressively more inclement weather. Although we think of this area as having a moderate climate, a 2019 *Los Angeles Times* article states: “**Hypothermia has led to more deaths in L.A. than in colder regions** because 39,000 homeless people here live outdoors — by far the most of any metropolitan area in the country. L.A.’s generally moderate Mediterranean climate is no shield, because **hypothermia can set in at temperatures as high as 50 degrees**, experts say.” (emphasis added)

In the absence of a Bad Weather Shelter, we need to **increase funding for motel vouchers** so that we can provide them to any unhoused person who wants one. For unhoused people who do not wish to use a hotel voucher, the City should **suspend citations and fines for the use of tents, makeshift shelters, and cars for overnight shelter**. Please expand the funding and allowances made to keep all our unhoused neighbors healthy and safe this winter.

Sincerely,

Robyn Popp
Pasadena district 4 resident

(*LA Times* article:
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-homeless-hypothermia-20190217-story.html>)

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Robyn

Martinez, Ruben

From: Nora Salem <nora.salem@pasadena.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:07 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Bad weather shelter

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Pasadena City Council:

I'm writing to urge you to provide bad weather shelter for our city's unhoused neighbors this winter. The pandemic does not absolve city council of the responsibility to protect people. There are many options for providing safe shelter, including motel vouchers, temporarily allowing tents and/or makeshift shelters, using empty city property like the 50 FEMA trailers that will go unused for this year's Rose Bowl, and allowing people to park overnight without citations. Without these protections, our neighbors could end up very ill or even dead. Don't leave Pasadena residents out in the cold this year!! We know you have options and we will not take kindly to shoddy excuses.

Best,
Nora Salem

Martinez, Ruben

From: Gretchen Saalbach < >
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:40 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Comments submitted for Agenda Item #3 today

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Good morning! Thank you for all that the City Council has done to mitigate homelessness in the City of Pasadena. I know that compared to other cities in teh region, we are in many ways proactive making sure that our citizens have access to services so that all can thrive. Yet we still need more energy and effort to go toward helping those on the margins, especially as the Bad Weather Shelter will not be offered this year.

Please do consider not only putting more money toward vouchers but other means of support, such as putting into place temporary measures that would allow for Safe Parking in designated zones, making the trailers that are currently housed at the Rose Bowl also available, among other things. Distributing ponchos and other bad weather gear is helpful but ultimately what people need is shelter. Current COVID restrictions do make it hard, but not ultimately impossible to come up with creative alternatives, and there are many organizations who are happy to assist with alternative means of housing and shelter.

Thank you for all you do, and thank you for your consideration of expanding the scope of what is possible for those without viable housing options.

Sincerely,

Pastor Gretchen Saalbach
First Baptist Church of Pasadena

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Brita Pinkston
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:53 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Bad Winter Shelter

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Council,

I am writing because I received very unsettling news this past weekend that there would not be a bad weather shelter for Pasadena's homeless this year. I have read the report by the housing department and the corresponding movements forward. I am writing to implore you that we cannot allow our city to accept this as our reality. Furthermore, as this is the final council meeting, the reality is each of us has a home to go to. We cannot rest until we have a genuinely viable solution.

I am a pastor in Pasadena and have served for 25 years. There are so many who are homeless but even more who are at risk of becoming homeless due to covid and loss of job and income. No one I spoke with this weekend knew about our not having a bad weather shelter. This is happening without public knowledge or attention.

I ask you to increase the funding for motel vouchers to provide shelter for all who want shelter this winter. Furthermore I ask you to put a hold on anti-homeless laws that ban or give citation/move along orders to those trying to get sleep or protection from the weather. This includes the anti tent ban. Please provide tents if you will not provide housing. The cycle of debt and poverty and criminalizing of being homeless must end.

Without a drastic effort we will see more homeless struggling in health, adding to the load at emergency rooms, and further making our police department the only agency to interact tying up their resources.

Thank you for your attention, for recognizing the human rights of all people and for ensuring Pasadena does not fail to care for the poor and provide adequate shelter for our homeless population.

Sincerely,

Pastor Brita Pinkston
Pasadena Foursquare Church

Sent from my iPhone

12/14/2020
Item 3

Martinez, Ruben

From: Donna Sider <
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:55 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Council agenda item #3

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As a long-term resident/homeowner in Pasadena, I am thankful for the passage of Measure P. I served 4 years as chair of the Pasadena Covenant team who helped staff the Bad Weather Shelter. Serving the needs of the most vulnerable is a moral imperative. I have seen first hand, how offering food, shelter, health check ups and more, can impact a person with little else. Yet, even MORE IMPORTANTLY was the connection on a human level with caring people for much-needed emotional support. To 'pull out' on those who are in dire need is not acceptable

Many persons experiencing homelessness are highly vulnerable to serious illness and death from sleeping in near-freezing temperatures or rain due to age and chronic illness. Handing out warm clothing and ponchos, is simply not enough. Our city has a moral obligation to provide shelter with Measure P funds for our most vulnerable residents. They are not "numbers." They are people. Alternatives like allowing shelter in city-owned properties are available. Housing advocates and the faith community stand ready to help. Please direct the Housing Department to immediately address this issue.. This is a matter of life or death for our siblings

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Donna

Martinez, Ruben

From: Amara Ononiwu <
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:24 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Additional Comments - December 14 Agenda Item 3

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Dear City Council,

I understand the many suggestions of the public in response to no Bad Weather Shelter this year, one of which is allowing residents to shelter in tents and makeshift housing. After hearing many many public comments with this suggestion to the city I feel a need to go on record stating that allowing tents and makeshift shelter is not actually an appropriate response to care for human lives. While I see how many would consider this a good option, it seems a bit short term reactionary without longer term thought. Tents do not provide proper shelter for those who are most vulnerable psychologically and health-wise. It is not a good haven from rainy streets nor extreme cold unless there are warmers and sleeping bags provided. And if we are willing to do this then why not find actual shelter for them? I want to fight for four walls and a floor whether that is motels, hotels, kind airbnb owners, or FEMA trailers. I believe not penalizing those sleeping in their cars should be the lowest we are willing to go in preservation of human life. The standards have to be higher to truly care for people. I believe the City has tried, and also believe there is more that can be done with innovation and creativity. I worked in Los Angeles and volunteered on Skid Row for years before coming to Pasadena and in speaking with those we aim to protect, they would rather have real shelter. We owe them real shelter not band-aid solutions. I say that with full understanding that even motel vouchers and trailers are interim solutions but at the very least they provide more adequate shelter and access to private hygiene. This is critical in a pandemic. Tents are not the best solution; we can do better. I offer you my assistance in any way I can.

Thank you.

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