

**PUBLIC COMMENT
FROM JUNE 1, 2020
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Public Comment; City_Council
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

Name: Sonja K Berndt **Email:** sberndt@pasadena.net **Address:** Pasadena, CA

Comments:

I want to thank Pasadena's Housing Department for the annual Report and the City Council for approving more supportive housing this year. The Homeless Count shows no increase, but our homelessness number is still over 500. The numbers of homeless seniors and chronically homeless persons continue to rise. African Americans continue to be substantially overrepresented among our homeless neighbors. We have so much more work to do. The Report notes the primary challenge in ending homelessness is the need for more resources. Reverend Mike Kinman of All Saints Church notes that budgets are "moral documents" and asks "Do we take funding [and put] it into social problems that lift people out of poverty?" You have the extraordinary responsibility of deciding how much to help lift our residents out of poverty. The City needs to continue to pursue more housing opportunities while we wait years for supportive housing units to come on line. And it needs to increase funding in hotel vouchers, purchase a motel/hotel to convert to homeless housing, explore modular housing, and approve safe parking sites so that some of our homeless neighbors can at least legally sleep in their cars overnight on church property. Thank you.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 1:03 PM
To: Public Comment; City_Council
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

Name: Teresa Eilers **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:** South Pasadena, CA

Comments:

Homelessness demonstrates the major cracks that exist in our social and economic infrastructure. 54% of individuals who are homeless in Pasadena previously lived in housing in Pasadena. 31% of Pasadena's homeless population is African American. We know that today homelessness is not due to bad personal decisions, but rather a broken system. I hope each council member here reads this entire report word for word.

I congratulate Pasadena for decreasing its homeless count two years in a row while other cities are see their homeless count skyrocket. City staff, elected officials, service providers, and advocates have worked tirelessly to address homelessness in Pasadena, and it shows. Other cities are watching and following your lead. You are on the right track, but the work is far from done.

Pasadena needs to continue passing laws to prevent and solve homelessness. Pasadena needs to work to keep individuals in their homes and prevent future homelessness. Examples of this include stricter rent control policies and more tenant protections. Pasadena needs to continue to provide housing for people who are already homeless. Examples of this include creating safe parking, converting motels into housing, building housing on church land, and developing more supportive housing.

Thank you for your leadership.

06/01/2020
Item 23

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Public Comment; City_Council
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

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

Comments:

It is encouraging that homelessness in Pasadena “remains relatively unchanged” but that means over 500 people continue another year by needing to find a place to bed each night outdoors, on the street, in parks or vehicles.

I applaud the city in the success of the Permanent Supportive Housing sites and encourage the approval of more, but note that three or more years are required to fruition.

Do we not have chronically unused buildings which might be rehabbed and staffed more quickly in order to provide transitional housing?

Recently vacated schools?

Commercial buildings now providing a financial loss in downward economic times?

Motels which are meeting some needs via Project Roomkey and which may be ready for sale by owners during this COVID-19 slack?

Might we investigate fast track modular housing as seen in other regions such as Riverside, Seattle, and Toronto.

The Report identifies the bottleneck of “long waits for a permanent housing resource to become available because the supply is scarce and vacancy rates are low compared to the need.” The city needs to search for solutions to increase transitional housing as well.

Thank you for your commitment to house the homeless.

06/01/2020
Item 23

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 2:33 PM
To: Public Comment; City_Council
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
ARETA CROWELL			PASADENA, CA

Comments:

Pasadena should be proud of its leadership in preventing and reducing homelessness. It has effectively prioritized housing retention, specialized support for youth , seniors and veterans .We applaud that there are no unsheltered families with children. Your recent actions assure Supportive Housing (PSH) will be available, but there are still too many chronically homeless visible persons . PSH construction is the long-term solution but does not solve the immediate problem for most who are experiencing homelessness. We need more short term actions . Federal CARES Act support is helping but must be replaced with permanent funding. More creative solutions must be used : more motel vouchers and developing empty space into housing rather than relying only on new construction. Let us find ways to encourage more affordable housing as vacant commercial space in Pasadena increases as the economic post-Covid problems grow.

Ending homelessness is a racial justice and moral imperative. Our budget reflects our values- safe housing is a basic need for all . The city can do more towards that goal.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

06/01/2020
Item 23

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Public Comment; City_Council
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23 - Homeless Report

Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 23 - Homeless Report

Name: Anthony Manousos **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:** Ave, Pasadena, CA

Comments:

As a resident of Northwest Pasadena, I have come to know personally some of those experiencing homelessness who are African American women. Council member Kennedy may recall a mentally ill woman who was living on the front porch of an abandoned home whom we encountered on one of his walks. I was moved to tears when she told me her story. When I slept overnight on the street during a vigil at Heritage Square South, I got to know a woman sleeping on the sidewalk near Church's Chicken. When she asked for my mat, I gave it to her. It seemed like the least I could do. I bring up these stories because when we hear numbers, we can forget that those numbers represent people whose lives have been broken, but who still have potential. We also know that supportive housing can transform lives and bring hope and stability. Inspiring examples include affordable housing advocates Dorothy Edwards and Shawn Morrissey. I urge you to prioritize both short and long-term solutions to housing our homeless neighbors. Our work isn't finished until every person experiencing homelessness is housed. This is what Jesus meant about caring for the "least of our brothers and sisters."

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

**06/01/2020
Item 23**