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Sent time: 05/13/2020 06:34:04 PM
To: mindy.nguyen@lacity.org
Cc: Amy Turk <AmyT@downtownwomenscenter.org>; Lorena Sanchez <lorenas@downtownwomenscenter.org>
Subject: Hollywood Center Project - Affordable Senior Housing Support Letter
Attachments: Hollywood Center Project - Affordable Senior Housing Support Letter_DWC.pdf

Ms. Nguyen:

Please find attached a letter of support for the proposed Hollywood Center Project and its commitment to increasing affordable senior housing in Hollywood.

Regards,

Zachary Warma

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Zachary Warma

Pronouns: he/him

Public Affairs Specialist



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May 13, 2020

Mindy Nguyen
Department of Planning, City of Los Angeles
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Hollywood Center Project - ENV-2018-2116-EIR

Ms. Nguyen:

On behalf of Downtown Women's Center, I write today to express my support for the proposed Hollywood Center Project and its commitment to increasing affordable senior housing in Hollywood.

In providing 133 units of affordable housing for seniors, this project addresses one of the city's most urgent needs – affordable housing for older Angelenos. Average monthly income from Social Security alone puts most seniors dangerously close to the federal individual poverty level. Even the maximum benefit – which is very difficult to obtain – results in an annual income that is far below the cost of comfortable living in cities such as Los Angeles.

According to the January 29, 2020 HCIDLA report to the Mayor and City Council, there are 368,290 SSI and SSDI recipients over the age of 65 in Los Angeles. In 2018, 40% of older adult homeowners and 62% of older adult renters spent 30% or more of their monthly gross income on housing, qualifying them as rent-burdened. From 2012 to 2017, average rents in the county increased at three times the rate of the cost-of-living adjustments to SSI, and twice the rate of median household income for seniors. That in the city of Los Angeles there are 125,000 very low-income seniors yet only 7,800 affordable units available for older Angelenos drives home the point that the city must prioritize the development of affordable senior housing.

In addition, we trust the reputation of Menorah Housing Foundation – who have long held up all housing regulations – and that they have gone through all appropriate review processes to create a much-needed housing solution.

As our local population continues to age, it is imperative that we build housing to the benefit of all Angelenos. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Turk, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer
Downtown Women's Center