



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



March 23, 2009

Rudolph C. Montiel, PE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
2600 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Re: Request that the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) Allot an Additional 40 Homeless Section 8 Vouchers for Use by St. Joseph's Center's Proposed Chronic Homeless Intervention Program

Dear Mr. Montiel:

As you may know, the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) established an Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and Vehicular Occupation to address the plight of those living on the streets and in vehicles in Venice.

The Committee has recently presented an interim report and recommendations, which the VNC adopted at its meeting on March 17, 2009. Included in our action is the VNC's support for the proposal developed by St. Joseph's Center to establish a Chronic Homeless Intervention Program to assist the homeless living on the streets in Venice.

Homelessness experts advised the Ad Hoc Committee that one of the first steps in providing services to homeless individuals is an in-depth assessment of their background, and medical and mental health status, to develop a comprehensive "social service registry" which identifies, by ranking, the risk that these individuals might die on the street. Outreach services and housing are then directed to these most vulnerable of the homeless. This is the model – reflected in St. Joseph's proposal - which has been followed successfully with Project 50 in Downtown Los Angeles and by Santa Monica's homeless serving providers; each has developed a service registry of at-risk individuals and then followed up with outreach, services and housing.

The allocation of 40 additional Homeless Section 8 vouchers is critical to the success of this new venture. We ask that your agency support St. Joseph's proposal and provide the additional vouchers required for its operation.

Further, the VNC respectfully asks that your agency make a formal request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to raise the Fair Market Rent level in Venice and on the Westside, as has been done for Santa Monica. This would set the Section 8 voucher levels in line with the higher rents found in Venice and on the Westside and lessen the difficulty St. Joseph's experiences in finding apartment owners who will accept Section 8 vouchers.



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The VNC looks forward to working with HACLA to assist these individuals living on the streets of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse".

Mike Newhouse
President

Attachment