

Sylmar Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee

Position/recommendation to the SNC Board for a letter and/or Community Impact Statement

(Draft Motel Conversion Ordinance – Council File #17-1432)

Committee Approved 2/8/18 – by a vote of 4/0/1

Board Approved 2/22/18

Opposed as drafted. The following issues have been identified for your consideration.

Public Outreach (General Comment)

Two public meetings which drew a total of 128 attendees from the entire City is nowhere near sufficient for public input. Additional meetings should be scheduled for the public.

Program Management

Revocation of the property as a program participant if the conversion creates a public nuisance. There should be specific triggers identified in advance and which will be enforced, relative to monitoring behavior, determination/definition of nuisance behavior thresholds, as well as enforcement mechanisms. Perhaps the LAPD could be required to produce reports of calls and crimes at each proposed conversion location in advance of approval of conversion, and on a periodic basis moving forward.

Emergency Services

Sylmar cannot handle such a program without an increase in emergency services such as for police and fire. Sylmar still has only the one fire station that it has had since 1956 with response times far in excess of National standards. Additional lives cannot be absorbed safely into our community without ensuring that appropriate emergency services can be provided to the entire community.

Community Equity

Communities across the City of Los Angeles should be asked to share equitably in housing our homeless, with no one community housing and servicing a disproportionate number of homeless Angelenos. Suggestions as to how to measure equity in communities are:

- No more than a certain percent of the community's average Homeless Count/Census over the previous 3 three years. The percentage decided upon should be uniform.
- No more than the number identified in the last annual Homeless Count/Census which notes homeless Angelenos already residing in the community.
- No more than a certain percent of the total number of motel rooms currently available in the community.

Neighborhood Impact

One of the public comments noted in the Planning Department staff report (CPC-2017-3409-CA) noted the potential to disproportionately impact some communities more than others. It suggested that the City should take neighborhood impact into account and require Council

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Member support. This ordinance as is, makes no effort to do that, but should, perhaps by requiring approval of the entire City Council.

Funding

Length of contracts (including renewals) should be aligned with the tax base providing funding. Contract terms should not exceed current expected revenue.

Performance Standards

This section of the ordinance only refers to security night lighting and office space for supportive services that may be onsite. There is no property management plan to allay community concern that the premises be clean and well maintained. There is no provision for crime suppression, quality control, oversight, and compliance, to make sure that service providers are actually helping the homeless. There is no requirement for on-site security, 24/7 availability of support personnel, and no complaint process for either program patrons or the community.