



Dear Friend:

Thank you for contacting me about potential sites for homeless shelters and services in Council District 2.

I want to take some time to explain to you my perspective on the issue, review some of the facts about what is really happening, dispel some misconceptions and ask for your assistance in confronting the homelessness crisis.

My aim is to be as aggressive as possible in carrying out the mandate that Angelenos overwhelmingly approved when 70 percent of voters passed Measure HHH in 2016. Along with Measure H, taxpayers spoke loudly and uniformly that they wanted action to create more temporary and permanent housing for the homeless and compliment that with greater services across the city.

Because this is a citywide issue, there must be geographical equity in where services and shelters are placed. Earlier this year, I signed the 222 pledge to build at least 222 units of supportive housing in Council District 2 by 2020. We are well on our way to this goal, but in the meantime, we need to bridge the gap in shelter and services while such housing is built.

### **Motion to Review City-Owned Properties**

Along with the 222 pledge, hosting homeless connect days, increasing and coordinating city services, and organizing a large town hall on the issue, I recently introduced a motion to review eight city-owned properties in Council District 2 to determine if they are suitable for development to provide shelter, storage, safe parking or another use to address homelessness. Two of these properties are in Studio City: 11220 Ventura Boulevard and [12225 Ventura Boulevard](#). The other six are in different parts of Council District 2.

Just to be clear, this motion only asks for a feasibility study on city-owned properties and nothing more. Some of the eight properties may be appropriate for shelter, some for parking and some may not be suitable for any use related to homelessness. Once we receive the report from the City Administrative Officer, I will be able to make more informed decisions about what, if anything, should happen on these properties.

Looking at 11220 Ventura, I do not believe it will be deemed useful to alleviate homelessness, but I included it in my motion because it is a city-owned parcel and I wanted to make sure we explore every option.

While it is too early to judge what actual projects will come of this study, I urge you to withhold judgment at this early stage. With this motion, we are doing what voters tasked us with doing, working diligently to explore all available options in the search for solutions to this crisis. And we are not in this alone, as councilmembers across the city are reviewing city-owned properties to determine how they can be used to reduce homelessness. Pursuant to the Mayor's bridge housing initiative, there will be temporary

shelters in each of the 15 City Council District across the city, including Council District 2. The citywide nature of this issue means that each area of the city must shoulder responsibility to fix it.

### **Housing, Not Relocating the Homeless**

In order for us to change this situation and get homeless people off the streets, I need your support. If we want to end homelessness in our community, we must be willing to accept shelter and services in our community. People are already living out in the open in our neighborhoods because they lack a roof under which to sleep. Last year, of the more than 1,200 homeless people living in Council District 2, only 28 had shelter, which means that 98 percent of our homeless population lives in tents and encampments in neighborhoods across the district. With only one shelter in the Valley far outside of Council District 2, that shameful number won't change unless we act.

**There are only two ways forward: we can either provide the unsheltered with housing, or allow them to continue sleeping on our streets and sidewalks, in our parks and outside of businesses, which is unsafe for everyone.**

Providing shelter and services will not cause people to flock to Council District 2 because they are already here. We will be providing the people who are already living in the area with secure and monitored shelter, not inviting others in. There will be similar temporary shelters built in all 15 City Council districts across the city.

Rest assured, no decisions will be made without an opportunity for the public to be heard. Homelessness is a difficult issue and I am committed to finding a balance that protects the integrity and safety of our neighborhoods, while at the same time is compassionate to those in need.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please email or call me: (818) 755-7676.

Very truly yours,



Paul Krekorian

Councilmember, District 2

Read the motion here: [http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0357\\_mot\\_04-20-2018.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-0357_mot_04-20-2018.pdf)