

From: Brandi Orton <BORton@sbssla.org>
Sent time: 05/18/2020 03:28:03 PM
To: mindy.nguyen@lacity.org
Subject: SBSS Support for Hollywood Center NV-2018-2116-EIR
Attachments: Hollywood Project- SBSS.pdf

Dear Ms. Nguyen,
On behalf of St. Barnabas Senior Services, please accept the attached letter of support for the Hollywood Center.
Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you.

Best Regards,
Brandi

Brandi J. Orton, MSG
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy, St. Barnabas Senior Services
Managing Director, Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition
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"Change happens when those who do not usually speak up are heard by those who do not usually listen"- John O'brien



May 15, 2020

Support Letter for: ENV-2018-2116-EIR Hollywood Center Project

Ms. Nguyen,

I am writing on behalf of St. Barnabas Senior Services to express our support for the Hollywood Center Project. We operate the Hollywood Senior Center located at 5170 Santa Monica Blvd. in the City of Hollywood. Through our case management services, we see that upwards of 70% of the seniors who walk through our door for case management, have a housing related issue. Increasing rents, coupled with a decreasing supply of affordable units, leaves these seniors living on the brink.

St. Barnabas Senior Service's (SBSS) mission is to empower a diverse community of older adults to Live Well, Feel Well and Age Well in the community with dignity and respect. AARP estimates that by 2030, one in every five Americans will be over the age of 65. By 2035, the number of those over the age of 60 is projected to grow by 68% and the number of people over 80 is expected to increase 118%.

For these reasons and more, the time to grow our housing options in Los Angeles is now. These buildings would provide much needed affordable housing for one of the City's most vulnerable and fastest growing populations: low and very-low income older adults. The project, which is located in the heart of Hollywood, will offer these individuals an opportunity to have critical neighborhood serving resources such as grocery stores, pharmacies, entertainment, and public transportation, all within a short walk from their front door.

Additionally, this project will be built on a site that is currently underutilized and would be better served as a location to house individuals, as opposed to vehicles.

As the world fears an economic slowdown, this project brings the promise of necessary stimulus to our local economy, while also ensuring that the supply of housing (both market and affordable) does not continue to grow unproportionally to the demand we currently see in our City.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to participate in the public comment period, and again stress the importance of how projects like this need to be moved forward with urgency.

Sincerely,

Rigo J. Saborio
President & CEO
St. Barnabas Senior Services
Hollywood Senior Center