



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Telephone (213) 974-4111 / FAX (213) 613-1739

HILDA L. SOLIS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

June 6, 2023

Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
P.O. Box 5235
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

RE: 7th Avenue Village (Homekey)

Dear Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

As you know, the County's number one priority is to responsibly tackle homelessness. Since I joined the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I have advocated for more funding and resources to help us overcome this crisis and increase public safety, especially for our unincorporated areas. Since I began representing Hacienda Heights in December 2021, I have prioritized augmented funding for the Sheriff's Department to enhance public safety priorities such as funding \$274,000 for trail enforcement and \$980,000 for crime enforcement teams. I have also been a strong supporter of the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) which works in partnership with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to house people experiencing homelessness in unincorporated Los Angeles County. In 2020, I directed the County to expand HOST, which resulted in an investment of over \$2 million annually. I also provided \$130,000 from my discretionary funds to support a housing navigator and motel vouchers for unhoused Hacienda Heights residents. Time and again, I have heard from our partners on the ground that the single biggest barrier to getting people off the streets is access to temporary and permanent housing.

The pandemic offered an unexpected opportunity and demanded immediate response to bridge the gap in housing resources. In April 2020, Governor Newsom launched Project Roomkey which helped quickly bring people off the streets and ensure that our most vulnerable County residents did not suffer the consequences of COVID-19. While I did not represent Hacienda Heights during that time, I supported several Project Roomkey sites across the First District including in Monterey Park, Rosemead, Baldwin Park, Pomona, El Monte, and Los Angeles.

Later that year, when the state released funding to purchase motels and convert them into homeless housing, the County acquired 10 properties including the Motel 6 in Hacienda Heights, which was then in the Fourth District. The plan from the beginning was to convert these 10 properties in Baldwin Park, Commerce, Compton, Long Beach, Norwalk, and other areas of

unincorporated Los Angeles including Whittier and Harbor City, into permanent supportive housing, creating 847 units of housing to help bring our unhoused neighbors safely indoors. My hometown, the City of El Monte, also purchased two motels through the Homekey program. The second round of State Homekey funding released in 2022 allowed the County to acquire an additional 14 properties. The Homekey Round 2 sites are in Boyle Heights, Compton, East Hollywood, Koreatown, Redondo Beach, Lancaster, San Pedro, Westlake, Woodland Hills, and unincorporated Los Angeles County. As you can see, the Board of Supervisors is working diligently to increase the supply of housing for our most vulnerable neighbors in local communities across the County.

As a date for construction for the Motel 6 was set, I requested the site developer, Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge, and Services (WORKS), to engage the community around the plans for the site. WORKS met with many community leaders prior to scheduling the May 4th community meeting. I was optimistic that the meeting would serve to reintroduce the project to the community and provide opportunity for feedback and collaboration. WORKS was prepared to share the project design, eligibility requirements to live in the project, supportive services available on site, and a detailed security plan. They have followed up with the attached questions and answers document. In the future, I hope that we can engage in productive conversations about how to make this project work for all Hacienda Heights residents, including those who are currently unhoused within the Hacienda Heights boundaries.

As scheduled, the Motel 6 has ceased operation as an interim housing site in preparation for a year-long conversion into permanent supportive housing. When the 7th Avenue Village reopens at the end of 2024, it will provide housing for 142 rent-paying tenants who were formerly homeless, prioritizing those living on the streets of Hacienda Heights. I hope that we can work together to ensure the tenants of the 7th Avenue Village feel welcome in their new home and that all residents, regardless of their income level feel safe in Hacienda Heights.

The only way we will ever overcome our homelessness and affordable housing crisis is to galvanize every city and Supervisorial District to do their part. It is our collective responsibility to humanely address this crisis. I remain steadfast to our Homekey project because housing is a human right. Shelter is the most basic need for any human being to flourish. The residents of the 7th Avenue Village will thrive in their new home and prove to be a positive addition to the Hacienda Heights community.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS

Supervisor, First District