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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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October 10, 2023

**Re: Community Impact Statement on CF 23-0737: 217 West First Street / North Broadway /
Temporary Homeless Housing / Utilities / Future Park**

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regularly held public meeting on **October 10, 2023**, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement **in XX** of CF 23-0737: 217 West First Street / North Broadway / Temporary Homeless Housing / Utilities / Future Park

The homelessness crisis in Los Angeles is a pressing issue that demands immediate and effective action. With nearly 7,000 people experiencing homelessness in Downtown Los Angeles alone, the urgency of the situation cannot be overstated. We acknowledge the City Council's efforts to address this crisis, including the recent motion to establish temporary homeless housing at the City-owned site on First and Broadway.

With Downtown having both the largest concentration of individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as providing the majority of both interim and permanent supportive housing, our community has ample, long-term experience with solutions to addressing this crisis. As such, it's imperative that we leverage our successes and lessons learned to provide a solution that meets the needs of all the communities we serve. There have been too many instances where the environmental impact of programs has been detrimental to quality of life when community concerns are not remedied.

DLANC is in full support of interventions to address the homelessness crisis. However, our support is conditioned on the following points being addressed and implemented to the fullest extent for this temporary housing site:

1. Transparency and Community Involvement:

Due to the proximity to multiple equity-burned communities such as Chinatown, Downtown, and Little Tokyo, it is imperative to hold **community/public forums** prior to and during the design phase to allow education of the community and to address public input regarding potential concerns. In addition, provide regular updates to stakeholders and other interested parties throughout the design, implementation, and operational period of the site.

2. Preserve Future Site Uses:

Work with the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Bureau of Engineering to ensure the **future feasibility of the lot for open space/ park space** as initially intended with the *First & Broadway* (FAB) Park Proposal. Concurrently, work with relevant City departments and the City Attorney to **create an ordinance** specifying the maximum duration of time the site may be used for temporary housing in accordance with Los Angeles City Charter Section 594(d).

3. Security:

Provide enhanced **public safety patrols** around the site utilizing existing city resources within the Civic Center area to ensure vulnerable members housed onsite and adjacent communities are safe from illicit activities. Additionally, fencing around the site should allow for some **visibility and transparency** to the street, while maintaining privacy for onsite residents, to avoid the creation of dead space around the site.

4. Community Beautification:

Consider creating a **temporary public art component** such as murals or decorative elements, along the fenceline of the housing site to create a more inviting experience around the site while maintaining safety sightlines on the street. In addition ensure operational maintenance plans are in place to clean and maintain the perimeter of the site during the lifespan of the site.

5. Lighting:

Installation and enhancement of existing pedestrian and **perimeter lighting** at the public right-of-way (PROW) adjacent to the site. This can include the installation of LADWP Outdoor Area Lighting fixed to Bureau of Street Lighting light poles. Security lighting illuminating the PROW should be emphasized on the street frontage along 1st and Spring Streets.

6. Community Accessibility:

Creation of a dedicated site specific **Community Liaison Officer** that stakeholders, CBO's, Neighborhood Councils, Business Improvement District, and Council Office can reach when issues occur.

7. Addressing Vulnerable Populations:

Work with service providers, LAHSA and other CBO's to ensure **prioritization of placement** of unhoused individuals **from within Downtown Los Angeles**. Ensure social and mental health services are adequate for the acuity of the individuals housed onsite. Additionally, create a mandated pipeline to transition individuals to permanent support housing or other appropriate care models.

*** SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON OCTOBER 10, 2023 ***

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC

Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

Cc:

Council District 14 (via email)
Office of the Mayor, Housing & Homeless Solutions (via email)
Bureau of Engineering (via email)
Department of Recreation & Parks (via email)
LAHSA (via email)
Arts District Little Tokyo Neighborhood Council (via email)
Downtown Center Business Improvement District (via email)