

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

PUBLIC COMMENT

October 22, 2020

GENERAL COMMENT

Jose Estrada, POWER & Ground Game LA

I'm Jose Estrada Organizer for POWER and Ground Game LA. I and some members of the projects, and leaders of POWER and Ground Game LA have observed that there has not been enough information for the residents, to promote participation through public comments, and thus provide ideas and opinions on the different plans and changes that the new Agency Plan has or intends to be approved. Therefore we consider it important to create more spaces and time for residents to give their opinions and comments. If not, we consider an Agency Plan with unilateral decisions and not valid.

We hope that these suggestions are really taken into account so that we can have a document (agency plan) that is sufficiently discussed and complete.

Thank you so much

Pico Gardens Resident Advisory Council

We address you commissioners with all the respect you deserve for the important role you play, however, you are not putting enough effort into the approval of the annual plan to analyze each point of the book. You are only paying attention to the oral presentation of the Housing Authority. You do not live within the communities and you do not realize the true reality of our residents. Those who live in the community do not represent our voices. It is sad but it is the truth. For the commissioners who are thinking about COVID 19 and for the families that are being evicted, do you want to send these families to occupy the streets or vacant lots? Under the bridge? By the way these places are already full.

Pay more attention and supervision to the work of HACLA. It is time to do something. No more privatization of public housing.

AT & T is a company that is not working well for the Pico Gardens Las Casitas community. AT&T has had a contract with the Housing Authority for more than 20 years and it is time to review those contracts and update them. Our community needs the use of a new updated technology so as not to be left behind and forgotten. Our children, youth, and parents need a computer to carry out their activities, such as taking classes, making transactions in the bank, such as paying rent and dances, etc. Our children urgently need the internet since they are taking their classes from home, but the slowness of the internet constantly disconnects and that makes them lose attention and interest in their classes.

Rosa Pineda -Mar Vista Gardens

My comment is we want more explanations of the transfer of LOMOD Property that the housing agency will give to other corporations as will be their profit. We are interested in forming a different agency that handles cases of domestic violence and sexual harassment. We need professional people who understand the person who has been abused and abused in all aspects and use the funds correctly for the program granted by the federal government. I look forward to improving this program.

Yolanda Centeno, Mar Vista Gardens

My name is Yolanda Centeno. I live in Mar Vista Gardens. I am supporting the formation of an independent committee of the Housing Authority on investigations of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and Trafficking where the people in the office are trained to conduct real investigations. The current detectives are not credible people to do this type of investigation because they cause people to be more harassed and more attacked. I hope you take seriously this issue of having professionals who are one hundred percent comfortable to do such research. It is your responsibility as part of the board to assert the voice of people who are victims.

Billye Fairley, President

Council of Housing Professionals- Administration

Good day Commissioners,

For the last two months I have come to you with concerns involving not just CHPs A- Members but employees in general.

For the last two months I have presented you with verifiable information and for the last two months Management has come behind me and declared that I was being less than forthcoming.

It is unfortunate that I am not given the opportunity to rebut their statements. What is even more unfortunate is the fact that I feel there is a need for a rebuttal.

Today Commissioners, I would like to give you an update.

In August the concern expressed was the fact that vacant positions were held hostage while Management figures out the CCC. It appeared that Management was willing to sacrifice the staffing needed to process contracts that would provide low income families with housing during this pandemic.

As of today, Management has allowed the hiring of Eligibility Interviewers (EIs) but has not allowed the hiring of Management Clerks (MCs). MCs are needed to assist the EIs as well as the AHMs that process the contracts including the PBV which are a high priority at this time.

In September we expressed concerns that Management wanted to take 4 QCAs for the CCC and leave 6 to process the workload in 8 departments. We also expressed that Management based this decision on numbers gathered during the pandemic. Numbers that would eventually increase as the pandemic wanes.

Last month I stated that we were bringing our concerns to you because the decisions were made without a meet and confer with any of the bargaining units. I stated that we had indeed met with Management but had come to no agreements.

In a rebuttal, Management stated that they had been meeting and working with the Unions and had decided to incorporate some of the suggestions given by the Union during our August 11 and September 8 meetings. This was news to us since we had not heard anything since the September 8 meeting.

Our next meeting was October 15 and we are scheduled to meet today, Thursday October 22, 2020. Although we are close to an agreement we are still concerned about not filling the QCA positions. From what I understand, Management is willing to revisit the matter as the workflow returns.

Commissioners, this is not to say that all is well, however, we are moving forward. I am not sure how much you had to do with the progress but I want to thank you for listening. I would also like to thank Commissioner De La Cruz for hearing us.

Emma Cortez, Jordan Downs

Emma Cortez called regarding the Agency Plan process. She did not receive notification. She is against privatization and private management of the sites. She was unaware of the meetings that have happened at Jordan Downs and she would like for someone to keep her informed on the redevelopment meetings.

Leticia Lopez

I would like for you to put something in place where if I die, someone else within my home will be able to keep the apartment. If I were to die, someone else that is currently living with me would be able to keep the apartment like one of my kids. I don't want my kids to be put out without a home if I die. I want you to add it to the rental contract or lease. Please add it to the contract.

Daisy Vega, Mar Vista Gardens

RAC President, HARAC Representative, Organizer and Leader of POWER

My public comment is to tell you that very few residents participated in the agency plan process. The decisions that you are making, they are too delicate and this can affect many people that have

not been totally taking these meetings seriously and these has not been lots of publicity for the agency plan. I am totally against this agency plan. This is not a transparent plan. This is my point regarding the agency plan.

Another thing, I was investigating the computer lab at Mar Vista Gardens. It is totally inefficient. It doesn't have cameras, the internet is only direct internet and it cannot be used with a laptop. I am saying this because we were taking English classes and we were trying to connect and the computers don't even have Zoom. How can a person have their meeting with the professor if there is no Zoom? How can someone do their doctors appointment or other meetings they may need if there is no Zoom? This is a failure and a waste of money. There's only one person there that is only good for making copies. I hope to speak to someone about these changes to help our community. Thank you and I am totally opposed to the Agency Plan. It was not a transparent process.

Sandra Obando, San Fernando Gardens

Good Morning Commissioners. My name is Sandra Obando. I am calling regarding the Agency Plan. I would like for you to give an extension because there were very few residents that participated and gave comments. That is my comment. Thank you and I look forward to listening to the meeting. God bless you.

LOMOD South Special Meeting

Pico Gardens Resident Advisory Council

The Los Angeles Housing Authority speaks in the background of LOMOD South, which has 52 properties in the management portfolio. They have to explain to the community what they are referring to with all these properties.

He's also talking about an approval date, which reads as October 22, 2020, the Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners approved the transfer of properties from HACLA to LOMOD South.

The Housing Authority has a community process to carry out all the plans that are projected in the community. There are many factors that the Housing Authority is not complying with. This is an act of imposition without counting community participation. Is the Los Angeles Housing Authority excusing itself from its responsibility?

The Commissioners cannot approve any project that has not been presented to community leaders such as RACs and HARAC. We need more transparency. Commissioners, please you have to pay more attention and review the proposed plans. You have to put a little more effort.