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Agenda Items: ID#20-00944 (10:20 A.M.)

Date: 8/20/2020

2020 AUG 17 P 2:30
CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Additional Information

Agenda Related Item(s) – ID#20-00944 (10:20 A.M.)

Item(s)

Actions pertaining to the Permanent Local Housing Allocation 5-Year Plan:

1. HEARING to obtain public comments regarding Permanent Local Housing Allocation 5-Year Plan
2. ***RESOLUTION – Adopting and authorizing submission of a five-year Plan to the California Housing and Community Development Department in application for funding from the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) for the development of affordable multifamily and single family housing, owner occupied home rehabilitation, and down payment assistance to benefit low- and moderate- income persons and authorizing the City Manager to sign all necessary implementing documents (Subject to Mayor's Veto)
3. ***RESOLUTION – 2nd amendment to the Annual Appropriation Resolution No. 2020-159 appropriating \$3,407,700 for affordable housing development, housing rehabilitation, and homebuyer assistance through state entitlement grant programs (Requires 5 affirmative votes) (Subject to Mayor's veto)

Contents: Public Comment from Michaela Bennett

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

From: Michaela Bennett |
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 12:07 PM
To: District3
Subject: Contact District 3 Form submitted on City Council

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

First Name Michaela

Last Name Bennett

Address

Email

Phone Number

Subject Public Comment - 5yr plan (housing)

Message Dear Councilmember/Council President Aria's:

Would you kindly send my public comment to all of the other Fresno City Council members about the 5-yr housing plan. The meeting is this week.

I've had wifi problems and email problems.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,

Ms. Michaela Bennett
Fresno, CA

My Public Comment

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Michaela Bennett

To: Mariah Thompson ; Cherie.Vick@fresno.gov ; Sophia.Pagoulatos@fresno.gov ;

Drew.Wilson@fresno.gov ; Jennifer.Clark@fresno.gov

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020, 10:18:23 AM PDT

Subject: Re: Public Comment -General Plan Implementation Review Committee Agenda

All:

My name is Michaela Bennett and I'm a 58 year old unemployed paralegal in Fresno, CA. A native to the Bay Area who moved here 3 yrs ago for the cheaper cost of housing and a Social Work degree at Fresno State.

My plans were derailed by major illness and hospitalization. I couldn't work, spent thru my savings, and applied for Social Security disability, a three year process so far.

I became homeless, despite having no substance use or criminal history. I've been through Fresno's homeless services, which were unhelpful, didn't use a medical model, didn't have trained staff, were dangerous, and rendered many people homeless again, including me.

As someone who had worked for top Bay Area law firms and earned A's in college, I have alot to say about Fresno's housing plan and what I've learned.

1. We must develop a homeless outreach team like Austin, TX and go throughout Fresno to meet, greet, befriend, help, and build trust with the homeless. Many need advocates. They want off the streets, but in a truly safe environment.

2. Our homeless veterans that I've spoken to also want off the streets. I've told that about Kansas City, MO's tiny house community, with case management, for homeless vets. Fresno vets love the idea and would like to live in that community, in a heartbeat they've said.

I think that Fresno State's Lyle's College of Engineering could be tapped to design such a community and tiny homes.

I think we can stabilize this part of our vet population, who can't get into impacted VA housing with waiting lists and can't afford apartments on disability.

3. The homeless population would like to see housing developed in the neighborhoods that they were born and raised in, not just south Fresno.

- 3a. They have suggested that the vacant Walmart on West Shaw Ave be converted into apartments.

- 3b. They have suggested that the vacant OSH store at the corner of Barstow and Blackstone be

converted into apartments

3c. They have suggested low income apartments on lots on Ingraham, near the Herndon Ave. Walmart. This would give them access to shopping, the buses, medical offices in the area, and St. Agnes Hospital.

3d. I would like to see the empty apartment building west of Blackstone on Olive St in the Tower District, at the corner of Delphia, repurposed into low-income housing.

It is butterscotch colored with plexiglass over all of the doors and windows.

4. Nearly everyone's family has some relative who is homeless. Therefore, all the zip codes should be part of the solution and stabilization.

Many of the homeless that I've met are sweet people with hidden talents. Many are mentally ill, which is a brain malfunction problem that is a medical problem, not a moral problem.

We need to take a medical approach.

Please contact me should you need further insight and information.

I also suggest you take a look at the wonderful buildings that the Mid Peninsula Housing Foundation in Northern California has made to stabilize this population. One is across from Stanford University. Another was in my former Mountain View, CA neighborhood (Google Headquarters is in the city).

Thank you.

Regards,

Ms. Michaela Bennett
Fresno, CA

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