




COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ
City of San Diego
Eighth District
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2018

TO: Honorable Council President Myrtle Cole

FROM: Councilmember David Alvarez 

SUBJECT: Public Hearings on Placement of a Transitional Storage Facility in Logan Heights

Since the Mayor announced in January that a Transitional Storage Facility for homeless individuals' possessions would be located at 20th St. and Commercial St. in the community of Logan Heights, the flow of information to the community has been almost non-existent. The Logan Heights community and the neighboring community of Sherman Heights were not notified or informed of this decision prior to the announcement. Since then I demanded that city staff host a public forum that would provide residents with additional information and an opportunity to express their thoughts on the Mayor's proposed location for the facility. The forum was held a few weeks ago and over a hundred residents attended. I joined the community in expressing grave concerns regarding the proposal. However, since that forum was held, the community has been kept in the dark concerning next steps, including not even being given the courtesy of being told what date the Mayor would bring this item to the City Council for discussion.

Last week the Housing Commission held a public hearing regarding the approval of a contract to operate the proposed Transitional Storage Facility. Hundreds of residents from Logan Heights and Sherman Heights attended and spoke at the meeting. The Housing Commission failed to approve the proposed contract to operate the Transitional Storage Facility. Now there have been rumors that the Mayor may ask the Council President to docket this item at next week's City Council meeting as a supplemental item- public noticing that would just barely meet Brown Act requirements. A last minute placement of this item on the City Council agenda would suppress community involvement and rush a flawed proposal to the City Council before it receives proper vetting. A large number of residents are likely to attend any hearing on this matter and they deserve to receive as much notice as possible prior to it being placed on the City Council docket.

I would formally request that this item not be placed on next week's docket and that prior to it being docketed for Council consideration that the Southeastern Planning Group be given the opportunity to discuss the specific proposal that will be heard by the City Council. This is the

minimum courtesy that should be given to the community with a major project like this one. Additionally, given the extreme community concern over this proposal, I would request that it also be discussed at the City Council's Smart Growth and Land Use Committee (SG&LU) prior to Council consideration and that the SG&LU Committee make a recommendation to the full City Council.

Residents have raised many questions and concerns that continue to go unaddressed by the City regarding this facility. The ability for the community to fully participate in the decision on the Mayor's proposed Transitional Storage Facility being placed in Logan Heights is critical to ensure that a fair, public and transparent process takes place.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CC:

Honorable Councilmember Georgette Gomez, Chair, Smart Growth & Land Use Committee

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer

Kris Michell, Chief Operating Officer

Erin Demorest, Director of Legislative Affairs