



Community Impact Statement to Support Project Roomkey

SUPPORT: [Council File 20-0478](#)

Expanding Project Roomkey Efforts in L.A. City, June 2020

The Hermon Neighborhood Council expresses our support for [Project Roomkey](#), a collaboration by the State, the County, and LAHSA that plans to secure 15,000 hotel and motel rooms for unhoused populations across LA County during COVID-19. As of June 10, 2020, only [3,601 rooms](#) were secured.

Project Roomkey is, first and foremost, a demonstration that we value the livelihoods of those who may suffer the greatest impacts of this pandemic in our shared city. Secondly, the initiative is necessary to minimize the spread of COVID-19 *everywhere* and is more effective from a public health perspective than solely increasing and maintaining handwashing stations. Additionally, the closely packed shelters have already demonstrated widespread and rapid transmission, resulting in some shelters with a more than 35% positive COVID-19 rate – a concern for housed and unhoused community members alike. Hotels and motels have lost significant revenue due to the pandemic, but can earn income from leasing their rooms. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will [reimburse 75% of their costs](#) and their solvency will benefit our City Treasury.

We urge our City Councilmembers to do everything in their power to swiftly and efficiently secure vacant rooms at hotels across the City, especially in downtown LA, near the epicenter of the homelessness crisis. This includes eight hotels, which received [over \\$797 million in taxpayer revenue](#) from the City since 2005. We are in circumstances that measure the humanity and character of our City – its elected officials and its citizens alike. We ask that your actions display your commitment to both the represented and underrepresented members of our society.

YES 9 NO ABSTAIN