

California Legislature

May 2, 2017

Theresa Ritta

Program Manager, Federal Real Property Assistance Program
Real Property Management Services, Program Support Center
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, Suite 7W01
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Re: Notice for Surplus Determination – Mission Street Parking at 1064 and 1068 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; GSA Control No. 9-G-CA-1704-AB; HUD Property No. 5421710008

Dear Ms. Ritta,

We are writing to express our strong support for the application by the San Francisco's Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, to acquire and develop the surplus property located at 1064-68 Mission Street as permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and seniors. We applaud the significant investment that the City and County of San Francisco has made over the last decade in partnership with nonprofit developers and service providers to create permanent supportive housing through capital, services and operating subsidies, yet clearly more supportive housing is needed. The 2015 Point in Time Homeless Count found 7,539 sheltered and unsheltered persons including youth, which is a 2% increase in homelessness since 2013. San Francisco has a long waitlist to get into shelter, and is working to create additional Navigation Centers, or low-barrier shelters. However, without additional permanent supportive housing units for people to enter, chronic homelessness will continue to grow on the streets.

As you know, 1064-68 Mission Street is a federally owned parcel, currently operated as a parking lot, adjacent to the Federal Appellate Court at the corner of 7th and Mission Streets. We believe that this central location, with excellent access to public transportation and proximity to service providers, would be an ideal spot for new supportive housing. The approximate 250 additional units would provide economies of scale for construction, operation and service provision. The use of the property for housing for formerly homeless people is a far better use than parking.

We support targeting of one of the buildings for formerly homeless seniors. The *2016 Assessment of the Needs of San Francisco Seniors and Adults with Disabilities* prepared by the San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services found that older persons are an increasing proportion of the homeless population in San Francisco, creating new challenges for service providers. The 2015 Homeless Count found that about 30% of homeless persons were 50 or over and 9% were 60 years of age or over. We know that homelessness hastens aging, chronic health conditions and mental health issues, making this senior population particularly vulnerable.

This proposed new permanent supportive housing at 1064-68 Mission would be an ideal site for San Francisco to utilize the State of California's *No Place Like Home* (NPLH) capital financing program. NPLH funding could be used for the development of permanent supportive housing for individuals living with a serious mental illness who are chronically homeless with appropriate targeted services on site. NPLH was established by Part 3.9 of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, with guidelines recently released to the public for comment. San Francisco intends to leverage this capital financing source to build supportive housing for this target population, as mental illness is a prevalent health condition amongst the chronic homeless population on the streets.

San Francisco has supported the development of design award-winning 100% permanent supportive housing developments for the chronically homeless, with wrap around support services that help residents stabilize and reduce public health costs, such as Rene Casenave, Drs. Richardson and Kelly Cullen communities. San Francisco should build on these successful models to create more permanent supportive housing to address the needs of the most vulnerable people on the streets of San Francisco. Similar to the above mentioned sites, this future development would become an asset to the surrounding neighborhood with high quality design that enhances its urban context. Most importantly, the proposed housing would address the crisis of homelessness that is enfolding on San Francisco streets with a proven model of success.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember David Chiu



Assemblymember Phil Ting



Senator Scott Wiener