



London N. Breed  
Mayor

Health Commission

**Public Comment Regarding 1156 Valencia**  
**Hummingbird Respite**

**From:** Calder Lorenz  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 4:03 PM  
**To:** Morewitz, Mark (DPH) <mark.morewitz@sfdph.org>  
**Cc:** Leingang, Kendra (HOM) <kendra.leingang@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Respite program at 1156 Valencia

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Hi Mark,

My wife and I attended the first community meeting this past Monday evening regarding the opening of a Behavioral Health Respite program at 1156 Valencia. We live in the neighborhood and unfortunately will be out of town for the follow up meeting and possibly the hearing.

We wanted to say that we are 100 percent in support of this program and applaud all of the work and outreach that has been done so far. We see people suffering on our streets every day and night and this type of program will go a long way to support our neighbors, housed and unhoused, and help reduce harmful stigma associated with people experiencing homelessness and mental illness.

Thank you so much for your time. Best, Calder and Kendra Lorenz

**Sent:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 12:54 PM  
**To:** Morewitz, Mark (DPH) <mark.morewitz@sfdph.org>  
**Subject:** 1156 Valencia Community Meeting

Hello Mr Morewitz,

I work long hours and I do not have the luxury of attending planning meetings on short notice, so I am sending my comments to you.

I have lived 1 block from the proposed new site for almost 20 years.

I and my neighbors have watched the neighborhood change over the years, and many of us over the years have gotten to know the homeless people who call the neighborhood home, many of them by name. Its not only frustrating cleaning up feces and garbage almost daily, but even more, it is heartbreaking watching human beings deteriorate before our eyes for lack of housing and services.

The facility is VERY close to an elementary school (which not only is full of children during the day but has homeless children staying with their families there after hours) and the city has a pretty poor track record of maintaining good security around these site so far, but even despite this

I actually came to the meeting in (cautious) support of the facility. That support vanished when I heard that the facilities primary focus is allowing other districts to dump their problems here.

As you know District 9 (I realize the site is technically in District 8, but with geography and the neighborhood's nature, we all know that the residents of the facility will be mostly spending time in District 9 since District 8 is up hill and largely residential whereas District 9 is flat, and the shops and public areas are almost all east of the facility) ALREADY has some of the highest numbers of homeless individuals in the city.

The BIGGEST frustration that I and my neighbors have over the facility is that it is VERY disingenuous to claim that the choice is between leaving homeless neighbors (who we all have watched suffer and deteriorate living on the streets, and whose feces and left over clothes and bedding we clean up week after week after week) on the street or providing them a safe place to live off of the street - when the fact is that 95% of the beds will be going to individuals from OUTSIDE district 9.

5% of beds will go to local homeless? And the other 95% will go to those from other areas the city has decided to put there?

This "solution" doesn't mean getting help for the homeless people who make up part of our community, it means BRINGING MORE homeless people into a district that already has an unfairly large portion of the burden. And the fact that the facilities will only be open a few years

## Support for 1156 Valencia Street Program

Melissa Barger <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2/27/2020 9:19 PM

To: MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Lindler, Nicole (MYR) <nicole.lindler@sfgov.org>; shalini.rana@sfgov.org <shalini.rana@sfgov.org>; Hiramoto, Kelly (DPH) <kelly.hiramoto@sfdph.org>; Morewitz, Mark (DPH) <mark.morewitz@sfdph.org>; info@prcsf.org <info@prcsf.org>

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Thank you for the presentation this evening. It was very impressive and informative. I live two blocks away from the site on Valencia Street and my children attend Buena Vista Horace Mann. The meeting helped to allay my concerns regarding safety; I'm excited and optimistic about this first-of-its-kind facility.

It was mentioned that you are hoping to open more of these types of facilities. There are a few specific points that I would like to point out as opportunities for growth in the future. As many community members pointed out, we felt inadequately informed about the first community meeting. Please consider the following three concerns regarding transparency and community notification:

- 1) Please contact the company that helps you with your mailings to ensure that everyone was notified who you had meant to notify and that there isn't some mistake with their program. There are more than a few nearby neighbors who insist they weren't notified.
- 2) In addition to that, in starting a community project and gaining the support and trust of the community it would be beneficial to everyone involved to notify people within a much larger radius. That may not be required by law and will be more expensive but will help everyone to feel justly notified and start the process from a place a transparency rather than the community feeling like you are trying to slip something by them.
- 3) The principal at Buena Vista Horace Mann said that she was not notified about this project. I don't know if BVHM is exactly within the 300 ft radius marker but it's certainly close. Regardless, you should take extra time and consideration to inform and meet with communities who have been historically silenced and dismissed. Our school is currently recovering from a terrible injustice put on us by the school district in removing our principal without notice. By not actively communicating with our community, it feels as though more government officials are ignoring, overlooking and taking advantage of us. If this facility were planned half a block from Alvarado Elementary, there is NO WAY the officials in charge would have neglected to contact and meet with their principal.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this project. I hope that it is successful and can be used as a model for other future projects.

Many thanks,  
Melissa Barger  
1436 Valencia Street