

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
2021 Draft Agency Plan Public Hearing – October 15, 2020

Public Comment

Loma White

Senior Field Deputy – Councilman Curren D. Price Jr.

Pueblo Del Rio Resident

My name is Loma White. I am a resident of Pueblo Del Rio, also a staff person of Councilman Curren Price, of the 9th district.

I let Councilman Curren Price of the 9th district know that I would be calling in on the conference call meeting held Tuesday, September 15th at 5pm. I joined on the 2021 Agency Plan Meeting call on the phone.

There were some residents that had the following questions:

1. Cal 403 Pueblo Del Rio Housing Authority Development are having their units painted on the outside of each unit. Also bar doors being placed at front and back doors which the residents are very happy for it.

Their concerns is that they want to know:

- a. Will the workers complete all Cal 403 units this year 2020?
 - b. Did any of the funds used to remodel the inside of the Management Office come out of the funds for painting Cal 403 units? If not, where did the money come from?
 - c. Residents want to know why the RAC office is never open for the residents to come in to speak with a Board member before the COVID-19 and now which the residents understand. The residents ask me if I can check to see when the Housing Authority will have elections for the Pueblo Del Rio RAC.
2. Will the Housing Authority be able to have outside maintenance to have the residents remove all canopies, swimming pools, fences that are made out of bed rails around their gardens to see the community look nice?
 3. Letters need to go back out to remind the residents no smoking inside their units or on the outside of their units.
 4. Housing needs to send letters to residents if they have any pets (dogs/cats) they must have a permit from Housing Authority Management Office. If their dog is outside they must be on a leash. The owner of the dog must pick up behind their dog.
 5. Residents want to know if housing has any funds to replace trash containers because they are all damaged and have very bad smells.

6. Letters need to be sent to residents no parties after 10pm.
7. The residents came to me wanting to know is there any funds to hire more maintenance ground staff to help clean up Pueblo Del Rio as cleaning the parking lots and the streets/ around the trash containers station. I only see one ground maintenance person to clean up the outside of Pueblo Del Rio development that is to clean up around all the trash containers station, which is to pick up bulky items/ loose trash debris and that's not enough help. I remember there were more ground maintenance person to help clean up the development and the summer youth that lives here in Pueblo Del Rio will help clean up the development so it won't look as bad. I know the residents are responsible to clean their own yard. What happened to the other ground maintenance staff that was assigned to Pueblo Del Rio to help clean up the development?
8. I know two years ago, if I am not mistaken, the Social Hall was remodeled. Why would they take out the kitchen and place three restrooms inside the Social Hall when there are meetings going on inside the Social Hall? Sometimes there is food being served. The people that prepare the food have to go inside the restroom to wash their hands and that does not look good. I know there would not be any meetings or any events because it's not safe since COVID-19.
9. Residents of CAL 403 they thank you for painting the outside of their units and placing bar doors, but they want to know why have CAL-403 Pueblo Del Rio development has not been repaired inside their units. The residents say every year in the past at the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Draft Agency Plan public housing presentation, they asked the residents what they would like to have done in their development inside and outside of the development. These are some of the items they said they wanted to have done in CAL-403 inside their units.
 - Bathrooms being fixed, showers updated (never got done)
 - Bedroom, larger closet space (never got done)
 - Living room and kitchen painted (never got done)
 - Better lighting in the outside of their units. Why did housing take away the light off the outside building of the development?
10. Residents want to know that Pueblo Del Rio has CSP Officers from Newton Street Police department that are assigned to Pueblo Del Rio. They say the officers are here during the day time. The residents say they would like for the CSP Officers to be inside the development after Housing Authority working hours like starting at 6pm due to in the evening is when the problems start mostly on 54th street between Holmes Avenue and Long Beach Avenue. The residents say they never see a CSP officer come down that street.

Jonathan Jager

Staff Attorney

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

1. HACLA's policies and procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other future catastrophes could be improved.
2. HACLA's procedures for processing emergency transfers for Victims of Domestic Violence under VAWA continues to be inadequate.

Please refer to the attached letter from the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for detailed comments and recommendations on policy changes for the 2021 Agency Plan Public Hearing.

Resident Advisory Council (RAC) – Pico Gardens/Las Casitas

1. HACLA/LAPD (CSP)

Many housing complexes know how the Community Safety Partnership program has worked. We believe that it is not enough for many. A lot of money is being invested in this program, but it is not having favorable results for the youth or for the community. This program is an accomplice of HACLA to more easily evict families that have children in gangs instead of bringing them educational programs to have a well-paid jobs and integrate into society. These funds that are invested in this program should be used to make more public housing for people with very low resources. At this time there are many families without homes since as human beings we have priorities and the first thing is housing and it is also a human right. Pico is opposed to this program. We want our funds for priority needs.

2. Internet at Pico Gardens/Las Casitas

AT&T is a company that is not working well for the Pico Gardens / Las Casitas community. This company is not working well for the Pico Gardens community as it is very slow and for this reason communication is also quite slow. The community cannot be left behind because of this service as technology advances day by day and our residents do not want to be left behind. Our children need the internet at this time. The need for the internet is great because they are taking their classes from their homes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Also many of the parents are working from home and are using the internet for various purposes since they cannot leave their home. We are making this urgent request and people are under a lot of stress and do not know where to go for help since they cannot hire another company other than AT&T. It is urgent for you to put another company because AT&T does not work and has a long contract with Housing and it is not fair to the community and the contract is very expensive. We want an immediate response.

3. Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)

Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) this is another program that is privatizing public housing, as they are doing in Jordan Downs, Pueblo del Sol and other projects that are in their 25 year vision. This program is beneficial for HACLA, but not for the public housing community. HACLA is taking advantage of this program to evict families by not giving them all the correct information.

There are so many doubts about how the annual plan is presented to the community. As the RACs only receive Information, there is no interaction, there is no debate, no prioritization of the community's needs. A project cannot be imposed in that way. We want you to clarify to us as a community about each project and how it is going to affect us. We are thinking beings, we do not deserve so many lies, and it is not fair. Have respect for the community. HACLA needs to do a community process for each project that they have to implement and keep in mind that housing is a priority resource for humanity.

Patti Prunhuber

Senior Housing Attorney
Justice In Aging Organization

Re: Public Housing Waiting List Preference for Homeless Seniors

In its 2020 Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy for the Conventional Public Housing Program, the LA County Development Authority (LACDA) established a waiting list preference for 25% of turnover units for homeless seniors (62+ years of age) within two of its senior properties (p. 30). This policy will add critical units to serve one of the fastest growing populations of persons experiencing homelessness. According to LAHSA, homelessness among adults 55 years and older has increased 20% since 2017, and is expected to exceed 14,000 older individuals by 2026, unless we make significant increases in the supply of accessible and affordable senior housing. We urge HACLA to create a similar preference or set-aside in its public housing waiting list for all of its senior public housing properties to help meet the growing housing needs of homeless older adults. Further, given the small number of dedicated units for seniors or persons with disabilities, HACLA should also consider creating a similar waiting list and admission preference for older adults for its inventory of public housing units that are not specifically designated for older adults.

Please refer to the attached letter from the Justice in Aging Organization for additional comments and recommendations on policy changes for the 2021 Agency Plan Public Hearing.