

Restorative Justice Village Master Plan

Last year, the Board of Supervisors (Board) voted to begin the process of closing Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) in Downtown Los Angeles. This historic action followed years of advocacy and reform efforts for Los Angeles County’s justice system, including the cancellation of the County’s Mental Health Treatment Center design-build contract with McCarthy Building Companies and last year’s passage of Measure J, which dedicates at least 10 percent of the County’s unrestricted local funding towards addressing the impacts and causes of racial injustice. The impending ~~closure of~~ plan to close MCJ signals significant progress towards implementing a “Care First, Jails Last” approach to criminal justice reform, but much more can be done. Those who are incarcerated in Los Angeles County jails have histories of homelessness, substance use disorders, and medical and mental health needs who end up in our jails instead of receiving housing, services, and treatment in their community. The status quo has not worked and it is expensive—“Care First, Jails Last” allows the County to provide the basics and, most importantly, outside of

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

jail cells.

In a major step towards providing the critical housing units and services needed to support the work of the ATI Initiative, the County has begun constructing the Vignes Interim Housing Project (Vignes Project) in Downtown Los Angeles on a site that was once intended to support the Mental Health Treatment Center. In preparation for the construction of the Mental Health Treatment Center at the MCJ site, the County acquired a four-acre property located at 1060 N. Vignes just east of the jail in the Chinatown community to be used as a parking garage. Following the Board's cancellation of the Mental Health Treatment Center contract, the Vignes property was freed up for use as an interim housing facility providing 232 units for homeless individuals along with kitchen, dining, and administrative spaces. Similar to the First District's work at the LAC+USC Campus where development is focused on services and affordable housing, the Vignes Project is exemplary of the County's commitment to allocating resources towards addressing housing insecurity and the mental and behavioral health needs of our most vulnerable residents.

Nearby community partners have also launched efforts to support the most marginalized, including the formerly-incarcerated and gang-involved. Homeboy Industries, a gang rehabilitation and re-entry program whose headquarters is located just east of Vignes and MCJ, is in the midst of planning an expansion of its campus to grow programming and social enterprise opportunities and to deliver new services such as transitional housing and daycare. The expansion will capitalize on a partnership with the City of Los Angeles to utilize adjacent City-owned land for the construction of 148 transitional housing units at Alpine Street and Alameda Street. The California

Endowment, an organization focused on expanding and improving healthcare for underserved communities, has also indicated interest in expanding the resources and services they provide. Additionally, the City of Los Angeles has made efforts to partner on other housing and development projects in the area as well. In a motion from October 2019, Los Angeles City Councilmember for the 1st Council District Gilbert Cedillo directed City Departments to work with the County of Los Angeles to create a transit-oriented, mixed-income housing development at City- and County-owned sites including County parking facilities along Spring Street. Community stakeholders have also expressed interest in bringing more affordable housing, nonprofit offices and services, and other community-supportive developments to Chinatown on sites such as the County-owned Lot 45.

Each of these efforts is taking place in a community that is experiencing rapid gentrification and displacement. Both low-income residential tenants and small businesses that have been in the neighborhood for generations are facing development pressures that are forcing them out of the community they helped to build. Deeply affordable housing, access to healthy foods, cultural preservation, workforce opportunities and economic development initiatives focused on small business growth are sorely needed in order to support the Chinatown community. A Master Planning initiative can help weave together the needs of Chinatown residents and businesses as well as the needs of the chronically homeless, the formerly incarcerated, and other marginalized populations. As an extension of the ongoing Vignes Project, a Restorative Justice Village Master Plan can tie together all nearby development and ensure that public resources are used effectively.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Director of Public Works and the Executive Director of the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, to engage NAC Architecture, Inc. and its subconsultants, as part of its ongoing work on the Vignes Project, to begin work on a Restorative Justice Village Master Plan that expands upon the Vignes Project and the LAC+USC Restorative Care Village Project to support the County's "Care First, Jails Last" initiatives ~~the closure of Men's Central Jail, implement the recommendations of the Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group Final Report,~~ and provide affordable housing and economic development to the Chinatown community. The Chief Executive Office should report back in ~~90~~ 180 days with an update on the following:

- a) Recommendations from ~~the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative and the Men's Central Jail Closure Workgroup~~ on the types of housing, services and programs that should be included in the Restorative Justice Village Master Plan to best ~~support the closure of Men's Central Jail~~ support the ongoing work at the LAC+USC Restorative Care Village and other "Care First, Jails Last" initiatives and implement the recommendations included in ~~the Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group's Final Report and the Men's Central Jail Closure Workgroup's forthcoming final report;~~
- b) Outreach framework that includes a participatory planning process involving Chinatown residents, businesses, and stakeholders to ensure incorporation of local needs into the Master Plan as well as engagement with social and criminal justice reform partners;

- c) Summary of outreach efforts to nearby property owners including the California Endowment, Homeboy Industries, and the City of Los Angeles as well as confirmation of their interest to participate in a Master Planning effort;
- d) A cost estimate and potential funding sources (including outside philanthropic funding sources and others) for the preparation of the full Master Plan, including any recommended contract amendments for NAC, Inc. and its subconsultants; and
- e) An implementation timeline for preparation of the Master Plan.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer provide a status update in 60 days including recommended subconsultants, if any.

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HLS:mr