

From: [Heather Schickedanz](#)
To: [PlanningCommissioners](#)
Subject: Support for Mercy Housing proposal
Date: Thursday, August 06, 2020 12:48:42 PM

-EXTERNAL-

Hello,

My name is Heather Schickedanz, MD.

I was born in Long Beach and am a supporter of the Long Beach Gray Panthers. I stand in support of Mercy Housing's housing proposal at Pacific Coast Highway and Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

As a family physician and geriatrician in the South Bay, dedicated to caring for low income and unhoused seniors, I see the tragic effects of homelessness on health, wellbeing, and community vitality every day.

There is a desperate need for housing for seniors with limited incomes, and senior veterans who have experienced homelessness in Long Beach. According to the 2020 Long Beach homeless count, senior homelessness increased by 13% from 2019. According to the City of Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults the percentage of seniors living below the poverty line is expected to increase from 18% in 2020 to 23% by 2025.

It is crucial that housing for seniors with limited incomes is built to address this growing need.

Thank you for considering my input.

Kindly,

Heather Bennett Schickedanz, MD

(She/Her/Hers)

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"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou