

Summary of public comments for City Council Regular Meeting on May 5, 2020:

Name	Subject	Comment Summary or full comment if brief
Donna Baker	Public Input (items not on the agenda)	<p>Asks that the City consider participating in Project Room Key to utilize unused hotel/motel space for citizens who are healthy but vulnerable in today's environment, advocating compassion for non-COVID patients with cancer related issues, HIV, or otherwise immunocompromised.</p> <p>With regard to upcoming Housing Element discussions, encourages the City to take another look at future development and consider expanding percentage of affordable units being built, with concerns for blue collar workers and children of current residents being able to afford living in Monrovia, and asks both homeowners and renters be included in future housing element discussions.</p>
Melissa Taylor	Public Input (items not on the agenda)	<p>Encouraged the City to be leaders and change makers by taking part in Project Room Key, utilizing it as a way to help shelter unhoused community members while still collecting income from the Transient Occupancy Tax.</p>
Daniel Rogers	Public Input (items not on the agenda)	<p>Thanked the council for guiding the city through this unusual time, and requested public comment letters be read at council meetings.</p> <p>Speaks to the importance of the upcoming Housing Element update due in 2021, asking the City to increase the Inclusionary Housing Requirement, with more set aside units for low to moderate income levels, encouraging the use of incentives with developers to achieve the necessary increases.</p>
Carol Daley Foothills Kitchen	Public Input (items not on the agenda)	<p>Commended Governor Newsom and LA County Board of Supervisors' leadership to lease hotels and motels as part of Project Roomkey, noting the public health pandemic has exacerbated homelessness crisis, and highlighting the opportunity for local hotels to fill their occupancy.</p> <p>Urged the efforts to bring additional sheltering capacity through hotels and motels to provide support to those experiencing homeless while further preventing the spread of COVID-19</p>
Shane Jones	Public Input (items not on the agenda)	<p>Urges the City to consider Project Room Key to provide housing to people who desperately need it, suggesting the opportunity to imagine the future for Monrovia housing, sharing concerns about affordability, and encouraging the City demand more from developers. Looks forward to residents participating in review of the Housing Element.</p>

Comments submitted by deadline of 6 p.m. today were forwarded to the Council by the City Clerk and posted to the website. Comments submitted after 6 p.m. will be forwarded to the City Council and posted after the meeting. Copies may also be obtained by sending a request by email to cityclerk@ci.monrovia.ca.us or calling (626) 932-5599.

From: [Donna and David Baker](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 12:27:05 PM

Hi Alice,

I'd like to submit the following for public comment for tonight's Council meeting. My question to you is if we were in person, our comments would be allowed, but no one is hearing the comments we are submitting due to the online meeting format. I don't believe this is in the best interest of the citizens to hold back our voices. How do we get these comments read aloud?

Following are my comments:

I would like to suggest that the City consider participating in Project Room Key to utilize our unused hotel and motel space for citizens who are healthy, but vulnerable in today's environment. This is an opportunity for Monrovia to be a shining example of compassion and empathy for those who are currently struggling with cancer related issues, HIV, or those who are immuno-compromised. These are not COVID patients. There would be no reason for our residents to fear having them in our city. This would also be a great assist to generate much deserved income for our hotel and motel owners. I see this as a total win/win!

With regard to the upcoming Housing Element discussion, I would encourage the City to take another look at the future of development in Monrovia and consider expanding the percentage of affordable units being built. We do not need more luxury apartments; we need housing that our blue collar workers can afford if they want to live in our town. It's a shame that the children of Monrovia will likely never be able to afford to live here if all we provide is luxury living. I highly recommend the City include residents of Monrovia, both homeowners and renters, in the future housing element discussions so all voices can be heard and represented.

Thank you to the City Council for considering these items.

Donna Baker - Concerned Monrovia Resident


Monrovia

From: [Melissa Taylor](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Monrovia Council Meeting Tonight
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 1:24:03 PM

Good Evening,

Well, here we are eight weeks in and we are all still living in unusual times. Our tenants are at risk and our landlords are suffering. No one is immune to this situation. I am writing tonight to encourage our City Council leaders to take part in Project Room Key. Remember when Monrovia was a leader and a change maker? Let's be that for the San Gabriel Valley again.

Let's work with the income we have from the Transient Occupancy Tax, the county is still paying the local TOT and we can utilize this as a way to help shelter our unhoused community members in safe places with a tax revenue to assist with the decline we are facing.

We are facing an unprecedented time and any relieve we can utilize will help the city and the community.

Thank you,

Melissa Taylor

From: [Daniel Rogers](#)
To: thomas.adams@century21.com; [Alex Blackburn](#); [Larry Spicer](#); [Gloria Crudgington](#); [Becky Shevlin](#); [Alice Atkins](#)
Subject: Our Voices & Housing Element
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:26:13 PM

Good afternoon, Ms. Atkins,

I hope all is well. I am submitting, and would appreciate you reading my letter during tonight's public comment.

Good Evening, Mayor and City Council:

I want to thank you for guiding our city through this unusual time in our lives, it is quite challenging for us all.

As an activist on behalf of those in need, homeless, low wage earners, day laborers, and tenants, it is quiet important for our voices to be heard during public comment. And under these current circumstances the only way for us to be heard is with our letters being read at council meetings.

I, along with my fellow activists, would appreciate our comments being read at the meetings. When they are our voices are heard.

And, the city's, General Plan, which includes the, Housing Element, is due to expire next year, 2021. As we know this is a very important document that sets the plans, vision, goals for the next eight years for the city.

The current Housing Element states: "...affordable housing for all economic segments of the community, including individuals with special housing needs." (City of Monrovia 2014-2021 Housing Element, Pg. 1, Introduction to the Housing Element, Section A: Background)

We would appreciate you sending us a schedule of meetings for us and others to attend to give our suggestions and input.

Also, The city must increase the Inclusionary Housing requirement, with the increase of set aside units from low to moderate levels of income. There will be no financial costs to the city, or the developer because of the extra density they can access from SB 1818. There is numerous incentives for the city to utilize with the developers to achieve the necessary increases.

Thank you for your time,

Daniel Orellana-Rogers
Monrovia

Foothills Kitchen

P.O. Box 126
Monrovia, CA 91017

Cofounders: Janie Duncan 626 201-3277, Carol Daley 626 506-5252, Pam Werner 626 483-1687
Tax ID 501 c3 #187027

“Caring for those in need”

May 1, 2020

Re: Support for Project Roomkey – Housing to Prevent COVID-19

To Mayor Tom Adam and City Council leaders:

Foothills Kitchen’s primary mission is to serve people in need with Christ as our role model. *(Is there anyone that Christ would leave out?)* Foothills Kitchen is proud to be part of our Monrovia community where your job is to oversee the care of our neighbors. To meet this moment, we must tackle the many challenges resulting from COVID-19 together.

Specifically, we commend Governor Gavin Newsom and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors’ leadership to lease hotels and motels as part of Project Roomkey to provide housing to people experiencing homelessness. Every single community was affected by the homelessness crisis prior to COVID-19 and now – more than ever – that crisis has been exacerbated by the public health pandemic.

As Monrovia’s Fiscal Resiliency’s Plan shows, hotels in our city are suffering immensely. At least one is even on the verge of closing. It will be a long time before our hotels begin filling up again, especially with the non-operation of Santa Anita race track. There is an opportunity for hotels to fill their occupancy by taking on agreements with Project Roomkey.

People experiencing homelessness are members of our community. The number of people experiencing homelessness is expected to increase with the economic turbulence. This means we must collectively support all efforts to secure rooms to house our most vulnerable neighbors. Compassion and collaboration Countywide are the linchpin to ameliorating that reality.

Additionally, we care deeply about continued efforts to flatten the curve of COVID-19 and, by extension, ensure hospital capacity. By allowing people to remain unsheltered, our neighbors will be at more risk of contracting COVID-19 and hospitalized. Without leases of hotels in the San Gabriel Valley, people who are unsheltered will suffer and we all will suffer. **The COVID-19 crisis has made clear that our individual health is intrinsically linked to the health of our neighbors – sheltered or not.**

To that end, we urge you as a caring body that people in our community come to for help to meet this moment and support all efforts to bring additional sheltering capacity through hotels and motels to prevent further spread of COVID-19. **Morality dictates that this is right.**

Sincerely,

Carol Daley
Janie Duncan
Pamela Werner

From: [Shane](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:06:53 PM

I wish these words I am typing could come straight from my mouth into your ears, but I must settle for the screens and keys. We meet in less than ideal circumstances, and I recognize you are leading under immense uncertainty. The COVID crisis has magnified the need for affordable housing in this city. I urge you to consider Project Room Key as a way to begin housing people who desperately need it. While immediate relief is necessary, I also realize we must think about the future of our city. We have an opportunity to imagine the Monrovia left behind for our families, friends, coworkers, and loved ones. Currently, I see new development emerging in our city that is not affordable for teachers, police officers, managers, and people who are trying to provide for their families. I would encourage you to demand more from developers who want to build in our beautiful city.

Finally, I understand the Housing Element is up for renewal. I look forward to hearing how you plan to involve residents in this process. Thanks for your leadership and time.

Shane Jones