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**MEMO**

**To:** Dan Flaming and Paul Tepper  
**From:** José Quiñonez  
**Date:** February 23, 2004  
**CC:**  
**Re:** Notes for Bring LA Home Tujunga Community Meeting

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**Meeting Overview**

Date: February 17, 2004  
 Start Time: 6:30 p.m.  
 Location: Tujunga Municipal Building  
 Attendance: 120 persons

**Meeting Notes**

- I. Welcome – Councilmember Wendy Greuel
- II. Bring LA Home Overview
- III. Reading of Mission Statement
- IV. Review of Meeting Agenda
- V. Presentation of *Homeless in LA* – Dan Flaming
- VI. Public Comments

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Donna Schwalm	We need housing for families who have gotten lost between the cracks. If persons who were homeless worked before they were homeless, what made them homeless? Coping skills should be taught.
Susan Ware	There are different types of homeless persons (families, elderly, etc). Some shelters don't accept dogs. Privacy and lockers are needed or else persons won't go into them because they and their belongings will not be secure. If someone is mental then take them to a hospital for treatment. Services and housing should be divided throughout the county.
Don Schulz	It is criminal that we have homeless people. How do homeless people hear about programs?
Michele Chimient	Homeless encampments in flood plains are a hazard. During the dry season campfires can cause brush fires. We hold community meetings to locate homeless people and bringing LAHSA to help remove people from public areas.
Timothy James Dempsey	Crews come out taking pictures then they remove your stuff. Homeless don't have cars but Wendy Greuel is removing 254 cars from the street. Food bank has denied me food for two straight years. Homeless are a small group. Ask us what we want and

	homelessness can be solved. I'm not a problem.
Anonymous Speaker	I'm homeless because they removed my car from the street.
Mary Shotwell	People don't get food at the temporary aid center if they use foul language. Folks won't go into shelters because they want to be safe.
Amelia Anderson	Not enough housing is being built. Poor inhabit older buildings. Tells of experience where she took a young homeless woman into her home and helped her find an apartment. Concludes story by saying woman refused to work and lost her apartment. Suggests looking into Alcoholics Anonymous and providing the program at all shelters. There is a denial in the homeless community about alcoholism.
Daniel Jeremy	Declares himself a hobo and continues to read from a prepared statement.
Rev. Galen Gobeia	There are outstanding people at my church feeding the homeless. It is laudable that we are planning to end homelessness in 10 years, but how do we deal with the day to day needs of the homeless, like getting a meal? Homeless people have dignity.
Jerry Piro	Veteran's Affairs Department head Principi stated that money from fiscal year 2001 has not been spent. Look into it. The city's environmental quality committee talked about spending money for public toilets. We need them up here. Check it out.
Lisa Genise	This issue is about money and discrimination. I live on the rock. I just want a shower and there is no place in Tujunga to take a shower. Meeting the goal of ending homelessness in 10-years makes me puke. It is not against the law to be homeless. Hotels are expensive - \$149 per month. Lots of work to be done, you have to do better.
Samuel Graham	I am concerned about waiting 10-years to end homelessness. We need showers and toilets for people to go to. Homelessness is different up here, most homeless grew up in this area and they became homeless. People have issues now.
Patricia Colon	I've been on the streets for seven years now. I was bulldozed out of Jurassic Park. I have worked for five of the past seven years. I lost my disability and then I went to the streets. I want to thank the church that feeds us. They care. My family turned their back on me. I have four dogs and they are like my kids and I can't go into a shelter and leave them behind.
Daniel Tostenson	My wife and I have established a 501 © 3 to build housing. In the process of getting funded. I want to establish monthly community meetings to help people obtain housing. Choices are always made, we have all made choices and many of the homeless people have made bad choices that landed where they are. People need help to be productive; we have to educate people when they are young, some persons will choose not to be helped.
Donna Lang	Listen to us. There are lots of empty lots in Tujunga, why can't some money be used to buy those buildings, hire security, build a place for people. They come at 7:00 a.m., they bring their things, don't mess with their things while they look for a job, and at 6:00 p.m. they come to pick up their things. Talk to us. There are no shelters in Tujunga. How many Andy Gumps are there in Tujunga?
Vic Vierech	It's unfortunate that there are not more non-homeless people here to hear this information. There is not enough housing. Problem is government regulation at all levels. There needs to be more incentive for apartment owners. Many of us are conscientious and would like to help but city is messing things up for us.
Mary Benson	At Hansen Dam park they build many sports fields but don't build restrooms. Showers and restrooms are needed. Often time's one paycheck is what differentiates those that are homeless from those that aren't. This area here is different. We need places for people to keep their belongings safe and off the street.
Ron McMullen	I am with the Homeless Liberation Army. I help homeless people in the San Fernando Valley to become invisible and arrange themselves under freeways to hide.
Andy Dukeshire	I've been homeless for four years and I am disappointed with what the city is doing. You

	can't solve every homeless person's problems. In order to get the city to do more you have to start with the city council.
Donald Cormier	How realistic is this? The state is broke. I have been homeless for four years. Society needs to change the attitudes towards the homeless. If you want to know how to find the best solution to homelessness, you should lose your wallet and identification, then live on the street and find out what you would do to survive.
Debra Thompson	I have a dream. I was homeless. I suggest you get a building, do a shelter, divide the shelter by groups targeted and get the community to help. I'll do it. We need to do something real soon.
Anonymous Speaker	Just give us a campground.
Raul Morales	Was homeless in the past because of addiction. Family did not abandon me but I was homeless by choice. It's hard to be homeless and survive but I made a choice to change. Clean and sober and I was homeless three years ago. My section 8 was taken away, lost welfare and food stamps and two years ago my wife and I almost became homeless. Today I am purchasing my own home.
Debra Thompson	Tujunga is no longer accepting Section 8 certificates.
Anonymous Speaker	Glad everyone came. I'm just a citizen trying to help people in small increments.
Donna Schwalm	Need low-income housing.