

## CRA/LA GOWER STREET DEVELOPMENT MYTH VS. FACT

**Myth: The CRA is building a homeless shelter at Hollywood & Gower**

**Fact:** The development will not be a homeless shelter or time-limited transitional housing. It will be permanent housing (an apartment building like any other). The only difference is that it will be enriched with on-site supportive services designed to help homeless men and women stay off the streets and maintain housing stability over time.

**Myth: The project is going to bring active drug addicts and criminals into our neighborhood.**

**Facts:** Criminal background checks are routinely conducted as part of the standard application procedure in permanent supportive housing developments in order to protect child safety. Residents of the Gower Street housing will be required to sign and comply with all terms of a standard lease and with all local, state and federal laws. In addition, the selected developer/operator will be required to provide 24-hour security staff for the building.

**Myth: This development will bring more homeless people into the neighborhood. It's only going to increase loitering. People are going to be standing in lines down the block to get services.**

**Fact:** The development will not have homeless people lining up outside. To those passing by on the street the development will look like any other apartment building which houses individuals and families in our community. The only difference is that there will be on-site supportive services to help the residents maintain their housing stability over time. To the extent that some of these services may be made available to the public, those services will be very limited in scope and designed to prevent loitering and waiting lines visible to the public.

**Myth: Everyone in the neighborhood is opposed to this development. This thing is being shoved down our throats. No one in our community wants this.**

**Fact:** The project *originated* in the community. CRA/LA initiated this development in response to a request from hundreds of Hollywood residents who want to see fewer homeless people on the streets in their community. With the help of a community-based organization called L.A. Voice, these residents organized a town hall meeting attended by 200 community residents in March, 2005 where

they asked City and County officials to support and allocate resources for building permanent supportive housing in Hollywood. Moreover, neither the local Neighborhood Council (Hollywood United), nor the Hollywood Entertainment District (Business Improvement District), nor the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has taken a position on the development as of yet; and many Gower neighborhood residents and other Hollywood stakeholders have expressed great willingness to welcome permanent supportive housing to their neighborhood. As soon as a development team is selected to plan, finance, build, and operate this new housing, local stakeholders will be invited to provide input and help shape the development at every step of the planning process.