

Media Advisory for Thursday, August 27th at 12:00PM

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South LA Community Groups, Clergy, and Labor to Caravan and Rally Demanding City Build Affordable Housing, Not Luxury Hotel at Former Site of Bethune Library

Hundreds to Caravan and Hold Press Conference Calling on the Los Angeles City Council to Take Immediate Steps to Ease South LA Housing Crisis; Commit to Affordable Housing Development Amid Economic Fallout of COVID-19 Pandemic

LOS ANGELES, CA – South Los Angeles residents, clergy, and labor allies will lead a car caravan through South Los Angeles to USC to hold a press conference demanding the Los Angeles City Council develop affordable housing at the site of the former Bethune Library, a site that has been selected for the development of a new luxury hotel.

The action comes just weeks after [a letter signed by over 20 South LA community organizations was sent to Los Angeles City Councilmembers, calling on elected officials to prioritize public land for public good.](#)

The ongoing gentrification and rapid development of South Los Angeles has had a devastating impact on long-time residents, and has already led to massive displacement. A 2013 study determined that more than 80% of families that lived on the two blocks of 36th Place between Catalina Street and Vermont Avenue—half of a block north of the Bethune Library site—were displaced between 2003 and 2013.

Now, as the lasting economic fallout of COVID-19 promises even more devastation, it is imperative that our elected officials take swift action to ensure the long-term stability of South LA residents. A recently released report by the UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy on the intersection of the long-standing housing crisis and the COVID-19 crisis warned that “[w]ithout intelligent planning and immediate action, Los Angeles faces the prospect of many thousands of people, including families with children, joining the thousands already on the streets or living in their vehicles. Unless Los Angeles officials take immediate action now, they will then be forced to scramble to erect something like refugee camps, on a scale never before seen in the United States.”

WHAT: Car caravan and press conference calling on Los Angeles City Council to develop affordable housing at former Bethune Library site.

WHEN: Thursday, August 27th at 12:00PM

WHERE: Hoover St. and W. Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007

WHO: USC Forward, UNIDAD Coalition, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, ACCE, Clergy for Black Lives, LA Tenants Union, clergy, labor, and South LA residents.

VISUALS: Cars decorated with signs, flags, and window paint.

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