

**From:** emsmail135@gmail.com <emsmail135@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 11:03 AM

**To:** SmHousing Mailbox <SmHousing.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>

**Subject:** Housing Commission Public Comment re: Attachment D, SMHA response to Public Comments about SAFMR

EXTERNAL

To the Santa Monica Housing Commission,

While the decision of what basis to use to establish SMHA payment standards (exception FMR or SAFMR) is complicated and warrants further discussion and debate, the SMHA response to public comments regarding this issue is false and disingenuous. Regardless of their basis, SMHA payment standards are wholly insufficient to rent even "modest" apartments in Santa Monica. SMHA's data is dated and/or flawed, and returning to lies about "modest" housing and "helping more people" harms everyone in SMHA's jurisdiction—housing clients and community members alike. Please do not accept SMHA's baseless response at face value.

Thank you,

Michelle Gray

SMHA Housing Client/HCV Holder

## Public input – Object to participation of lobbyist Leonora Camner whose organization is funded by dark money - HC 11/18/21

OZ <zurawska@yahoo.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 11:53 AM

To: SmHousing Mailbox <SmHousing.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>; Melinda Espinoza <Melinda.Espinoza@santamonica.gov>  
Cc: Rene Buchanan <Rene.Buchanan@santamonica.gov>; Josh Hamilton <Josh.Hamilton@santamonica.gov>; Richard Hilton <Richard.Hilton@SMGOV.NET>; Carl Hansen <Carl.Hansen@smgov.net>; Leonora Camner <Leonora.Camner@santamonica.gov>; Phil Brock <Phil.Brock@santamonica.gov>; Christine Parra <Christine.Parra@santamonica.gov>; Oscar de la Torre <Oscar.delaTorre@santamonica.gov>; Lana Negrete <Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov>; Gleam Davis <Gleam.Davis@santamonica.gov>; Sue Himmelrich <Sue.Himmelrich@santamonica.gov>; mike.soloff@mto.com <mike.soloff@mto.com>; David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>; Joseph Lawrence <Joseph.Lawrence@santamonica.gov>; Denise Anderson-Warren <Denise.Anderson-Warren@santamonica.gov>; Clara Harter <clara@smdp.com>; Catanzaro Sam <sam@mirrormediagroupla.com>; jcasuso@santamonicalookout.com <jcasuso@santamonicalookout.com>

EXTERNAL

This is to object to Leonora Camner's participation on the Santa Monica Housing Commission based on the fact that she is the salaried Executive Director of Abundant Housing LA, a legislative advocacy group which is funded by dark money.

Ms. Camner has been bringing her organization's goals into the Commission's meetings and discussions, thus politicizing the Commission and distracting it from fulfilling its mission and operating within its jurisdiction. I have concerns about the original sources of the dark money Ms. Camner's organization appears to be receiving. Despite Ms. Camner's protests that AHLA does not receive funding from the real estate industry, Ms. Camner has to date not disclose all the sources of funding her organization collects.

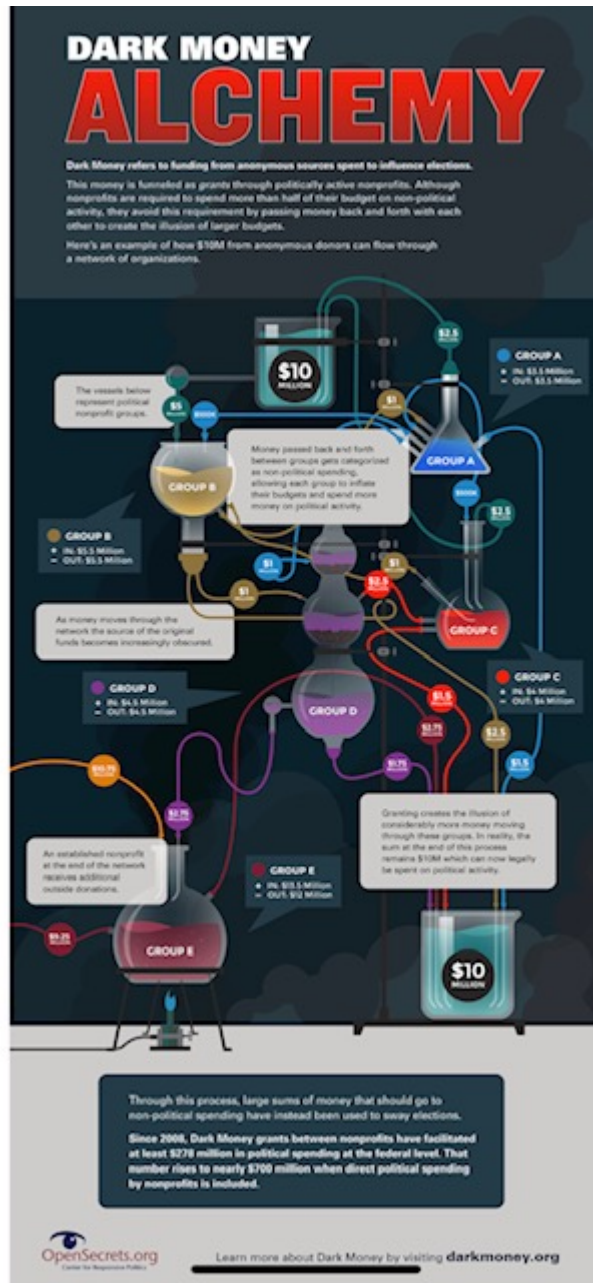
*What is Dark Money?*

*“Dark money” refers to spending meant to influence political outcomes where the source of the money is not disclosed. Here’s how dark money makes its way into elections:*

- Politically active nonprofits such as 501(c)(4)s are generally under no legal obligation to disclose their donors even if they spend to influence elections. When they choose not to reveal their sources of funding, they are considered dark money groups.*
- Opaque nonprofits and shell companies may give unlimited amounts of money to super PACs. While super PACs are legally required to disclose their donors, some of these groups are effectively dark money outlets when the bulk of their funding cannot be traced back to the original donor.*

*Dark money groups have spent roughly \$1 billion — mainly on television and online ads and mailers — to influence elections in the decade since the 2010 [Citizens United v. FEC Supreme Court](#)*

*Citizens who are barraged with political messages paid for with money from undisclosed sources may not be able to consider the credibility and possible motives of the wealthy corporate or individual funders behind those messages.*



Source: <https://www.opensecrets.org/dark-money/basics>

Abundant Housing LA, a local YIMBY front organization, only discloses some of their top supporters on their website.

Their Platinum-level Donors of \$50,000.00 or more were:

- WEINGART FOUNDATION (AHLAEF) started by Ben and Stella Weingart, who had become rich from real estate in Los Angeles.
- CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION started by the Hilton Family whose business is a large hotel conglomerate is also a Platinum Donor.
- CA YIMBY, the largest YIMBY organization in the United States. CA YIMBY plays an outsized role in advancing the cause of up zoning. Discovering their donors is difficult, but according to one website, in 2018 and 2019 Open Philanthropy donated \$2,850,000.00 to CA YIMBY. Who is Open Philanthropy? The main funders were Dustin Moskovitz, a co-founder of Facebook and his wife Cari Tuna. This billionaire has a net worth estimated at \$12 billion. <https://donations.vipulnaik.com/donee.php?donee=California+YIMBY>
- CZI, or the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. Zuckerberg is Mark Zuckerberg a co-founder of Facebook whose net worth is estimated at \$75 Billion.
- Anonymous, which can either be the infamous hacker collective or more likely another anonymous multi-billionaire donating Dark Money to the YIMBY up zoning scheme. [Abundant Housing LA Major Donor List](#)

YIMBY is funded by Dark Money, and the above just scratches the surface. It is also likely that YIMBY funders might be the same funders who have funded far right politics such as the Koch Brothers and their ilk, but since they have had a forty year history of stealth Dark Money politics they are probably a little better at covering their tracks.

In his article "Is Upzoning Progressive?" Russell Skiba, Ph.D. states:

*In a video recently circulated around Bloomington by upzoning proponents, a charming young man named Nolan Gray explores the question "Are Developers Evil?" He presents a series of cleverly arrayed movie and TV clips illustrating how developers are villainized and concludes: "Developers, like farmers and doctors, provide an essential service. We should want them to do well."*

*On close examination, though, progressives might be forgiven for feeling less generous towards the organizations that support Mr. Gray.*

*In his video, Mr. Gray is listed as a research fellow and planner at the [Mercatus Center, a conservative think-tank at George Mason University](#). The center was founded by and still receives much of its financial support from the Koch organization. Several*

*of its board members are closely allied to the Kochs, including board director Charles Koch.*

*Most of us are aware of the Koch family — conservative billionaires who have spent over 40 years developing and funding a national network of organizations promoting a [far right, libertarian agenda](#). Far from supporting sustainability, the Kochs were central in Donald Trump's plan to deregulate auto emissions, and their grassroots organization Americans for Prosperity led a successful [national campaign attacking public transit](#). Koch Industries was the [single largest corporate donor](#) to the Republican House members who pledged to try to overturn the election results on January 6.*

*The Washington Post has described the Mercatus Center as a “staunchly anti-regulatory center funded largely by Koch Industries Inc.” Greenpeace called Mercatus a “[Koch-funded climate denial front group](#),” for good reason. In a 2001 [public comment](#) on emission standards, Mercatus attacked climate change science, arguing: “data suggest that any warming that does occur will likely be at night, in the winter and near the poles. If a slight warming does occur, historical evidence suggests it is likely to be beneficial, stimulating plant growth and making humans better off.*

source: <https://stopbtownupzoning.org/2021/02/22/is-upzoning-progressive/>

These are the YIMBY supporters.

Ms. Camner and her organization Abundant Housing LA have been under investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) since about June 30, 2021.

Regards,

Olga Zurawska

### 3A - 11/18/21 Housing Commission meeting

OZ <zurawska@yahoo.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 11:58 AM

To: SmHousing Mailbox <SmHousing.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>; Melinda Espinoza <Melinda.Espinoza@santamonica.gov>

Cc: Phil Brock <Phil.Brock@santamonica.gov>; Christine Parra <Christine.Parra@santamonica.gov>; Oscar de la Torre <Oscar.delaTorre@santamonica.gov>

EXTERNAL

I object to the Commission discussing HOUSING COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT, BYLAWS, AND RULES OF ORDER in its current composition where five out of seven seats are up for appointments.

This agenda item should be discussed after the new appointments, overdue since June 30, 2021, have been made.

Regards,

Olga Zurawska

### 3C - 11/18/21 HC meeting

OZ <zurawska@yahoo.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 12:01 PM

To: SmHousing Mailbox <SmHousing.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>; Melinda Espinoza <Melinda.Espinoza@santamonica.gov>

Cc: Joseph Lawrence <Joseph.Lawrence@santamonica.gov>; David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>

EXTERNAL

I object to the HC wasting its time attempting to select a secretary where the secretary is supposed to be a staff member appointed by the City Manager.

Please see the enclosed email to Interim City Attorney Lawrence.

On Friday, October 22, 2021, 11:10:23 AM PDT, oz <zurawska@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Mr. Lawrence,

The Santa Monica Charter reads:

"The City Manager shall designate a City employee to act as secretary for each of such boards and commissions, who shall keep a record of its proceedings and transactions."

However, Housing Commission Chair Buchanan had the following item agendaized at last night's meeting:

#### E. ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Discussion and possible action regarding electing a Housing Commission Secretary.

Chair Buchanan stated that she had recently learned the Housing Commission was always supposed to have a Secretary, therefore one needed to be selected.

No commissioner volunteered.

My understanding is that Chair Buchanan is planning on bringing this agenda item back at the next Commission meeting.

Please clarify whether it's City staff or a member of the Housing Commission who is supposed to fulfill the duties of the Secretary.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,

Olga Zurawska



### 3D - 11/18/21 HC meeting

OZ <zurawska@yahoo.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 12:05 PM

To: SmHousing Mailbox <SmHousing.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>; Melinda Espinoza <Melinda.Espinoza@santamonica.gov>

Cc: David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>; Phil Brock <Phil.Brock@santamonica.gov>

EXTERNAL

RE Agenda item:

*3D. HEALTHY DEMOCRACY Follow-up discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to City Council to adopt a lottery-based selection process for housing-related workgroups, panels, etc. [HEALTHY DEMOCRACY PRESENTATION] [HANDOUT]*

I object to the Housing Commission wasting its time discussing topics that should have been forwarded to the Council Ad Hoc Committee on Boards and Commissions.

Under the influence of the lobbyist Leonora Camner, the Commission has seen a lot of agenda items that are editorialized/politicized, and do not fall under the Commission's authority.

Regards,

Olga Zurawska

### 3A - composition of HC

OZ <zurawska@yahoo.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 12:16 PM

To: SmHousing Mailbox <SmHousing.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>; Melinda Espinoza <Melinda.Espinoza@santamonica.gov>

Cc: Phil Brock <Phil.Brock@santamonica.gov>; Richard Hilton <Richard.Hilton@SMGOV.NET>

EXTERNAL

One seat must be reserved for a person with lived experience of homelessness in Santa Monica. This seat should not be available to a person with "experience in the homeless community," as the proposed dit suggests. It would open the door for people who do not have actual lived experience of homelessness.

[https://www.santamonica.gov/media/HED/Housing/2021\\_11\\_18\\_3A\\_EditedMissionStatement.pdf](https://www.santamonica.gov/media/HED/Housing/2021_11_18_3A_EditedMissionStatement.pdf)

Regards,

Olga Zurawska