

Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council (BHNC)  
2130 E 1st St Suite 110  
Los Angeles, CA 90033

September 16, 2020

RE Neighborhood Purpose Grant Application (NPG)

On September 03, 2020, Social Model Recovery Systems Inc. (SMRS) staff met with Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council (BHNC) members to discuss the feasibility of coordinating an outreach effort with volunteers at Hollenbeck Park. This request originated due to BHNC's COVID 19 restrictions which prohibits them from hosting events. As a result, SMRS was asked to collaborate with BHNC and apply for NPG funds to conduct this outreach and distribute hygiene kits to the homeless.

After careful consideration, we would like to withdraw our request. We were startled to hear the concerns raised by several BHNC members regarding our application at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. This is especially confusing because it was at BHNC's request that we submitted our NPG application. We strongly believe that clear and candid communication is an essential element of successful collaborative work. Yet this value is not reflected in your recent communication. We believe that it is unwise to begin a collaboration under these circumstances.

We continue to recognize the importance of helping our houseless neighbors and ensuring that there are services at Hollenbeck Park. SMRS will continue to work with community members to advocate for a safer, cleaner and welcoming environment for all park users, especially our houseless neighbors.

Sincerely,

*Dina Cruz*