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# SULLIVAN SAYS

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The Smartest Conversation in Town

## **STRAIGHT TALK ON CCA'S SHINY OBJECT; BEHIND KEDRIC'S BLUE DOOR TO OC; HADDAD, HORNE HEAD NORTH**

Jerry Sullivan

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First a few words about the plan hatched by 14<sup>th</sup> District Los Angeles City Councilmember **Jose Huizar** and approved by his colleagues for an emergency homeless shelter at a warehouse at **1426 Paloma Street**, on Downtown's industrial edge.

City documents indicate that a nonprofit entity called **Home at Last Community Development Corp.** has been designated to operate the 115-bed shelter and plans to employ 60 full-time employees there.

I had this in mind when I attended a conference on "**Rethinking Homelessness: Innovative Necessary Legal and Policy Tools to Solve a Public Health and Humanitarian Crisis**," presented by the **Seminar Group**, which specializes in continuing legal and professional education.

The day-long gathering drew a classroom full of lawyers, public officials and journalists to the **Doubletree Hotel** in Little Tokyo on March 8, with **David Waite** of **Cox Castle Nicholson** in Century City as co-chair. It covered a lot of ground with a lot of insights from experts.

One of the experts was **Cynthia Nagendra**, a San Francisco-based director of the **Center for Capacity Building** at the **National Alliance to End Homelessness** in Washington, D.C.



I asked Nagendra about standard staffing levels for emergency homeless shelters. She said the levels can vary based on circumstances but didn't hesitate to offer a view that one staffer per 25 beds over three daily shifts is a solid benchmark.

That would work out to about 15 staffers at the Paloma Street facility.

And that brings up some questions about the city's plans to hand out a contract that calls for four times that number.