

Fwd: [NHDVS] The Truth About VA's Authority To Build & Operate Homeless Veteran Projects

Izabella Hovhanisian <izabella.hovhanisian@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 7:44 AM

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From: **Ryan Thompson** <rt@nhdvs.net>

Date: Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 5:03 AM

Subject: [NHDVS] The Truth About VA's Authority To Build & Operate Homeless Veteran Projects

To:

At the West Los Angeles VA Soldiers Home on June 4th, 2021 (and many times prior), VA GLAHS Executive Robert McKenrick stated to the Press On Record, as well as to homeless disabled Veterans eligible for housing and services at the Soldiers Home yet consistently denied such - that it is illegal for VA to house homeless and disabled Veterans in the otherwise habitable buildings within the remaining 400-acres of the Soldiers Home... That the only legal way to house disabled homeless Veterans at the Soldiers Home is via a controversial and previously banned, Enhanced Use Lease process whereby VA provides land to private developers for 75-years, free of rent, free of tax, that the developers manage; and whereby said developers are 100% financed by Taxpayers for construction and rent subsidies.

Excerpts of the June 6th, 2021 Meeting are reviewable here...

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H61N4szeG1qNaiF1pilOdLhJwBR9fRUo/view?usp=sharing>

In Fact, it was the 2012 Camp LeJeune Act that permitted such enhanced use leases; but only for supportive housing projects for homeless Veterans, over a much shorter term and not without consideration. That Public Law remains in effect at every VA in the Country, except the West Los Angeles VA Soldiers Home; due to the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 - that was misrepresented to the Public as the only enabler of housing for homeless Veterans at WLA.

I, nor anyone I know of, has ever seen a Public Law preventing VA from constructing and operating housing for homeless disabled Veterans at the West Los Angeles VA Soldiers Home... The only requirement for VA to do so, as with other Federal Agencies; is request funds from Congress. Amid approximately one year of written and verbal requests On Record for Mr. McKenrick to provide copies of such purported Public Laws, he has yet to do so. I am however aware that due to the private development lobby behind the WLA Leasing Act reforms that ALSO permit Enhanced Use Leases.

Not only can VA keep building and operating housing for homeless disabled Veterans at WLA VA Soldiers Home; and not only can it also retrofit such housing, supportive medical facilities and construct new utility systems (including sewers) there - Congress has appropriated hundreds of millions of Federal Taxpayer dollars for those express purposes between 2012 and today. While Mr. McKenrick still refuses to recognize that Fact in Public (as far as I know), he did so in a recorded meeting with Ted Lieu and Feinstein's staff on January 25th, 2021 - albeit was unable to answer inquiries as to where the money went.

A record of the January 25th, 2021 Meeting is here...

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IWR4KMXvxtwOMY6eqCHA7M-8_6RAWQzL/view?usp=sharing

For over 134 Years, Our Federal Government, via stewardship of the National Home For Disabled Soldiers Program, Veterans Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs - provides housing and food to homeless disabled Veterans at the remaining 400-acres of the Soliders Home. In fact, the Federal Government has redeveloped most to all of the WLA VA Soldiers Home for such purposes at least three times.

To date, a private developer has never constructed anything Principally Serving Veterans at the Soldiers Home; not even Building 209, which was handed over to a private developer group after it was built. Many of the developers who received Building 209 are also those purporting to redevelop Buildings 205 & 208; and are also those facing trial for fraud, deceit, quiet title and other charges against them by the City of Los Angeles for using homeless housing funds and public property "like their personal bank account".

To make Public Laws abundantly clear and demonstrate probable cause to beleive Mr. McKenrick and the third-party land mis-use Racket he serves more than Veterans at the WLA VA Soldiers Home is intentionally lying to the Public in ways that perpetuate Veteran homelessness in Los Angeles - A few of many relevant excerpts of Public Law are attached for your review.

So what motivates systematically evicting disabled Veterans from the WLA VA Soldiers Home into homelessness, while welcoming illegal third-party businesses running propaganda confusing the Public into thinking they're helping the Veterans they're actually defrauding? This might lend a clue...

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hZIZRXZ23_HNO8rf1HHsg1Eu6Ux0i1B7/view?usp=sharing

Best regards,

Ryan Thompson
Brentwood L.A. Resident
rt@nhdvs.net
<https://www.nhdvs.net>

 **WLAVA_HousingUtilitiesConstructionLawExcerpts.pdf**
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