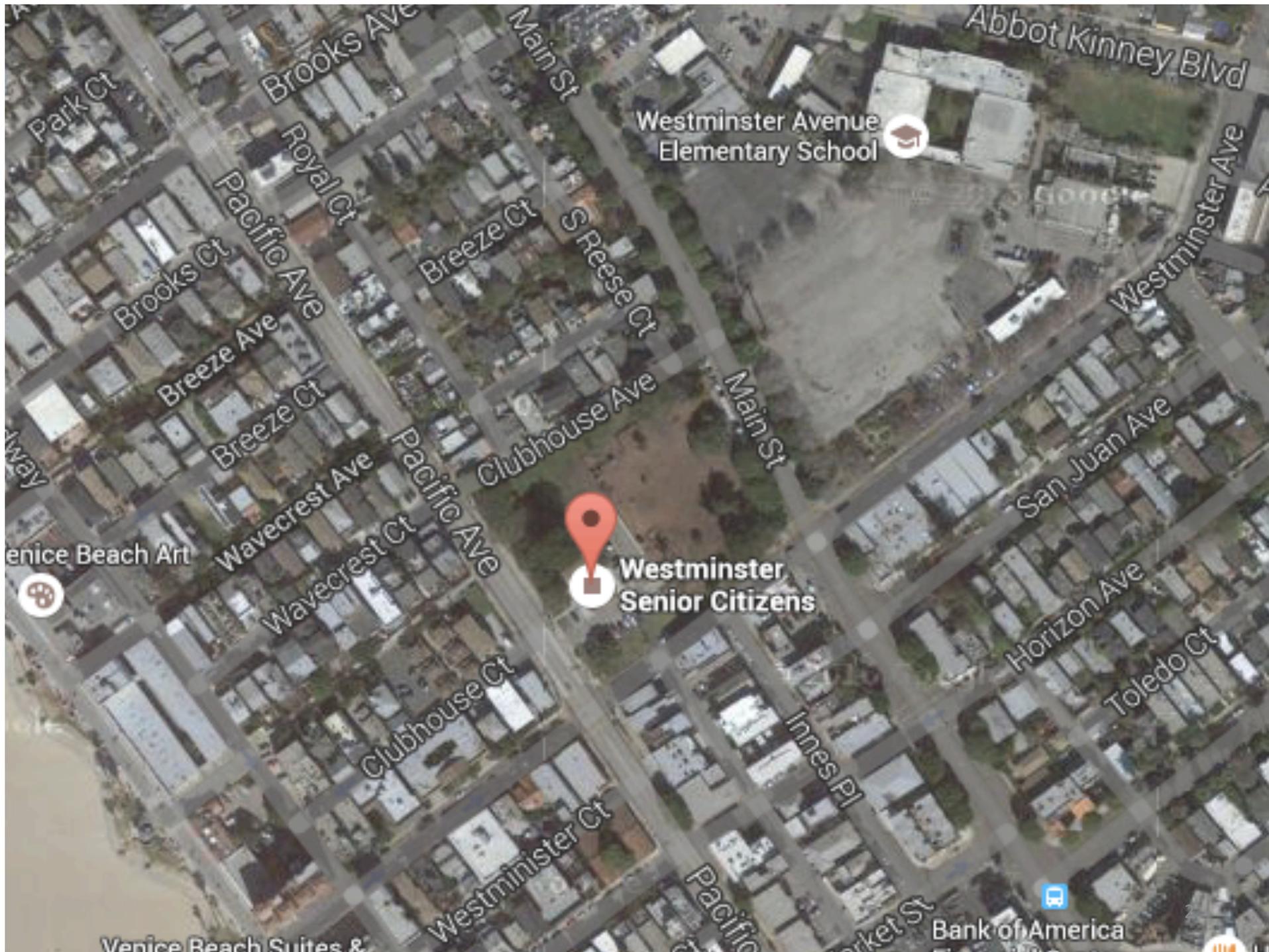


Argument Against the Conversion of the Westminster Senior Center as the Venice-based Center for Proposed Storage Services for the Homeless

The Westminster Senior Center is an inappropriate location to convert to a homeless storage center and services hub. It is in the heart of a family-oriented, residential community that has worked for a decade to minimize the impact of the growing homeless encampments that have taken hold on Ocean Front Walk in Venice CA.

Using this site for homeless services will not only shift the homeless community from a commercial zone to a residential zone, but it will institutionalize homelessness in a residential zone. Converting the Senior Center will have a profound and negative impact on a hard-working and vibrant community of families, schools and small businesses.

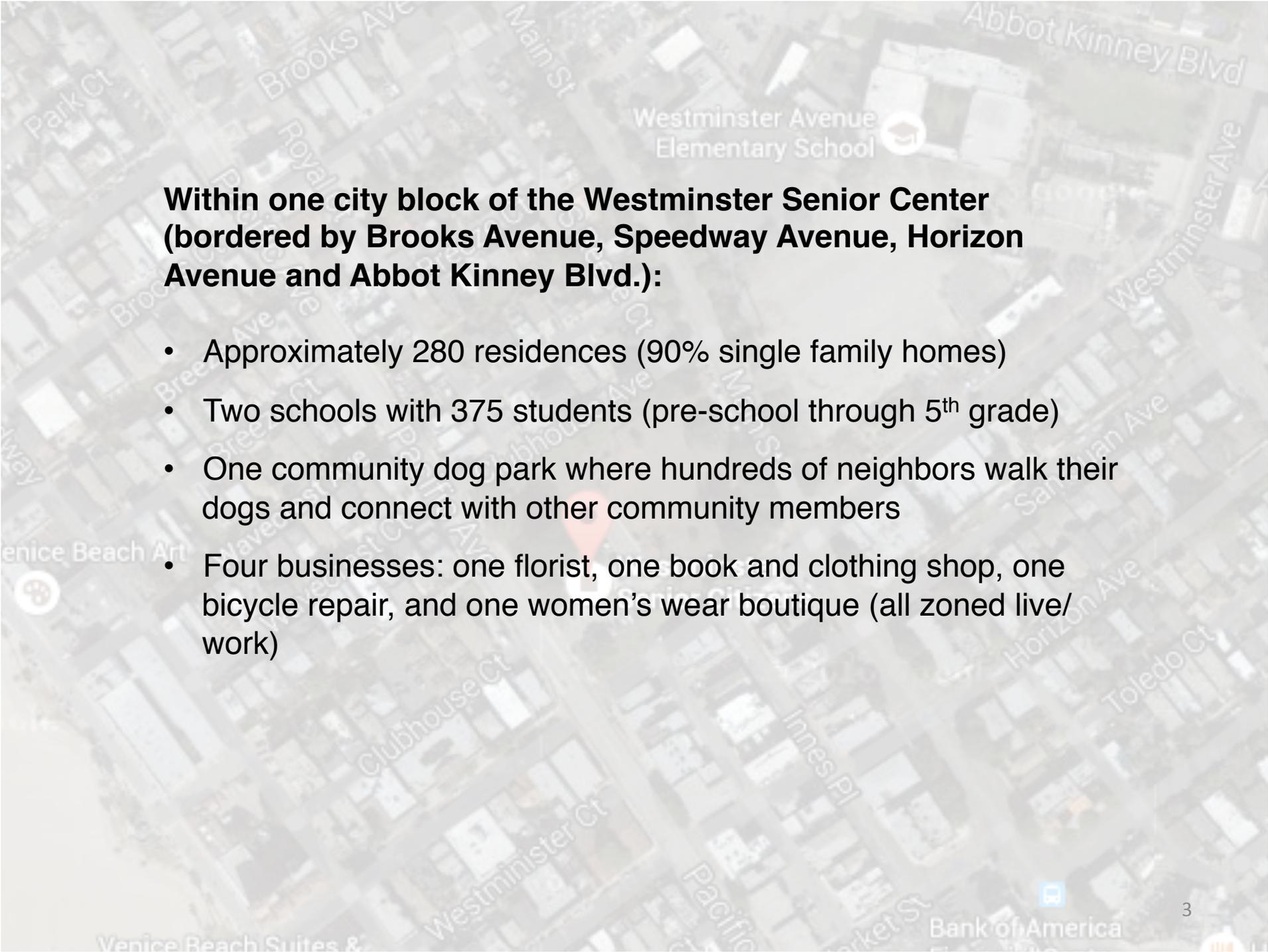
In addition, the potential negative impact is compounded by this particular neighborhood's physical configuration. Virtually all of the streets surrounding the center are walk-streets (with the exception of the Elementary School) and thus, have proven very difficult for LAPD to protect and patrol.



Westminister Avenue
Elementary School

Westminister
Senior Citizens

Bank of America



Within one city block of the Westminster Senior Center (bordered by Brooks Avenue, Speedway Avenue, Horizon Avenue and Abbot Kinney Blvd.):

- Approximately 280 residences (90% single family homes)
- Two schools with 375 students (pre-school through 5th grade)
- One community dog park where hundreds of neighbors walk their dogs and connect with other community members
- Four businesses: one florist, one book and clothing shop, one bicycle repair, and one women's wear boutique (all zoned live/work)

A collection of images of the residential neighborhood in the immediate blocks surrounding the Westminster Senior Center in Venice, CA - May 23, 2016



The Westminster Avenue Elementary School is directly adjacent to the park that hosts the Westminster Senior Center



School bus picking up kids from the Westminster Avenue Elementary School. Photo taken from the Senior Center with no zoom.



The owners of the houses directly aside the park report that “someone” queried them about the idea of converting the Senior Center to storage recently. It was explained to them that the site would be used to store belongings only – NOT that it would be accessible nor that other services would be offered. Naturally, they’re angry at being misled.



A typical walk street a stone’s throw from the Senior Center.



Claire Fontaine – a preschool half a block away from the Senior Center

A community maintained, privately owned pocket park - many kids who are too young to play at the park surrounding the Senior Center (seen in distance) play here daily.



The conversion of the Westminster Senior Center to a homeless storage center and service hub will clearly cause a profound negative impact to the dense residential community and will pose a very real threat to the safety of both families and schoolchildren. LAHSA must follow its own location criteria guidelines and seek another solution to ensure the program's ultimate success. Either a mobile solution or co-locating with one of the many participating local social service organizations is a far more reasonable solution that addresses the needs of both the homeless and the residential community.

6.3. Location Criteria

The location criteria outlined in the August report were designed with guidance from the above goals and with the objective to maximize the efficacy of resources allocated to storage and service facilities by the Mayor and Council. Shown below is a truncated version of these criteria; a complete version of the criteria can be found in the attached report (Appendix Item 11.8). Potential locations for expanded storage and services will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Data from the most recent homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count;
2. Multi-stage evaluation of demand in conjunction with an analysis of anticipated regional demand and the cumulative storage capacity of nearby sites to determine the size of potential facilities;
- 3. Impact on residential and high-traffic commercial areas;**
4. Start-up and operations costs compared to other sites and delivery models that could be implemented in the area;
- 5. Where traditional sites cannot be found, LAHSA will analyze the feasibility of mobile options for storage;**
6. Prioritize City owned properties as potential sites; and,
7. Prioritize sites that have the potential to accommodate hygiene and outreach services in addition to storage services.