

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Woodland Hills-Warner Center

Name: Sheppard Kaufman

Phone Number: (818) 854-6249

Email: [s.kaufman@whcouncil.org](mailto:s.kaufman@whcouncil.org)

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(4) Abstain(0) Ineligible(1) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/11/2019

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

#### Impact Information

Date: 11/05/2019

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 19-0050

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: At the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council's full board meeting on 09/11/19, the board voted to support the goals outlined in Councilmember Blumenfield's motion, and asked for additional steps to regulate and mitigate building and safety violations within high fire severity zones, whether caused by encampments or others, that could lead to a severe fire hazard.

**Community Impact Statement / 09-11-19**

**To:** Los Angeles City Council, Office of Mayor Garcetti  
**From:** Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council (WHWCNC)  
**Re:** CF 19-0050 (Posting Requirements-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones)  
**Position:** FOR-if Amended

*The Board Approved this CIS on 09/11/19 by a vote of:*

*Aye (8) – Nay (4) – Abstain (0) – Ineligible (1)*

Update to Previous Input: NO

MOTION: As pertaining to the increase of homeless encampments in high risk fire hazard areas, and in an effort to create a more safe environment for homeless encampments and their surrounding neighborhoods, the WHWCNC requests the Los Angeles City Council and Bob Blumenfield's office, Council District 3, recognize and pursue the following:

WHEREAS, there has been an increase of homeless encampments in brush-heavy hillside areas that pose a high fire risk; and,

WHEREAS, there has been an increase of fires in homeless encampments located in high fire risk areas, and,

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Fire Department has completed a survey of encampments in the city's high fire risk zones, finding a total of 191 possible encampments on both private and public land, and,

WHEREAS, some homeless people prefer these areas because they are away from the rest of society and thereby the encampment residents feel free of judgement and rules that restrict their stay in temporary shelters, and,

WHEREAS, as stated by Karen Boyd, spokeswoman for the Oakland City Administrator's Office, "Homeless encampments are not regulated under the California fire code."; and,

WHEREAS, currently other California cities, such as Oakland, are proceeding with reviewing and/or rewriting their city's standard operating procedures around encampments; and,

WHEREAS, Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Ralph Terrazas took a stance, after the Skirball fire had been possibly tied to a homeless encampment, that the encampments in heavy brush areas require the serious attention demanded of this public safety and trespassing issue; and,

WHEREAS, not enough permanent housing or bridge housing to accommodate the number of homeless persons increases the number of homeless people living in encampments; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Garcetti has proposed removing encampments from areas of heavy brush only during High Fire Risk days, which only partially addresses the problem; and,

WHEREAS, homeless encampments in heavy brush areas and in general, pose a threat of fire and safety to neighboring residents, schools and the public at large;



THEREFORE, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council resolves to request that the following items be acted upon by the Los Angeles City Council, and the Mayor's office:

1. The Building Department and Fire Department need to recognize homeless encampments as Temporary Housing and need to create fire codes, and building safety codes regarding how and where an encampment can be located: ie: allowing encampments in cleared areas of brush only, requiring flammable substances to be located outside of tent areas separate and apart from cooking areas, trash containment must be in nonflammable bins, etc;
2. Los Angeles Recreation and Parks must define locations where homeless encampments can exist, that are secluded but do not create hazardous conditions adjacent to residences and public businesses and assembly areas;
3. Signage must be created and posted everywhere indicating "High Fire Zone No Trespassing" and the penalty of trespassing in non-encampment designated areas;
4. Recreation and Parks must create signage for locating in all public areas and parks prohibiting overnight camping and cooking from Dawn to Dusk, including a hotline number for the public to be able to report violations of trespassing;
5. Recreation and Parks must create signage where overnight camping is allowed that lists the laws governing usage of these camping areas, with a hotline number for the public to report violations.

The Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council requests that Council District 3 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, the City Council, and the Mayor's Office review this request and kindly respond in writing to the President of the WHWCNC within 21 days of receipt.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Fletcher".

Joyce Fletcher  
President  
Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheppard Kaufman".

Sheppard Kaufman  
Vice President  
Woodland Hills-Warner Center NC

Cc: Councilmember Blumenfield (CD3)