

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 08:52 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: NO to homelessness by choice! NO to encouraging and supporting homelessness by choice!

Communication from Public

Name: Kisma Baker

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 08:55 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am in favor of a feasibility study for a safe camping program in Westchester Park. The conditions as they are now are of a greater threat to our community at large as well of those unhoused. This is a desperate situation that has no easy solution but safe camping seems to be a step in the right direction.

Communication from Public

Name: Alyssa Bost

Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 10:48 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Hello. I'm a 8 year resident of Westchester. I'm writing in support of the city providing a safe, secure, and sanitary area of Westchester Park for safe camping and/or parking. My two daughters (ages 3 and 6) have enjoyed and continue to enjoy the playground at Westchester Park. I do not feel any safety issues while my kids and I are at the park. I would love to show my kids that our city is doing whatever we can to help our unhoused neighbors while trying to get them housed as quickly as possible. My husband also runs regularly through the park for the past 8 years and continues to do so. He told me that he feels no change in his level of personal safety since people started camping at Westchester Park. I know of several other neighbors and friends who are enjoying the park today just as they have for many years. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Simon

Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 12:33 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am entirely opposed to allowing a homeless encampment at Mar Vista Park. This not only endangers the neighborhood, but it prevents our children from using the park. This is a terrible decision, and I would hope you'll reconsider.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/25/2021 08:39 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Warehousing the homeless in Westchester Park is dangerous, unsanitary and at best a temporary solution to the homeless problem. Dangerous - for those warehoused there and those who live and use the park and public facilities in the area. My young daughter and I went to our beloved Westchester Library by mistake during the height of COVID to borrow library books; unfortunately the library was indeed closed but it was very scary to have one of the homeless approach and yell obscenities at us. What safety measures would be in place for those who would be warehoused there? Didn't Echo Park develop gangs of enforcers who regularly asked for "rent" in order to stay there? What safety measures will be in place to prevent the warehoused homeless from being victims of those co-habiting the park? What services are planned to help those with mental illness? We believe that the homeless individual who harangued us was one such person. Unsanitary. Conditions at the park have gone down considerably. There are feces along the walkways which are unlikely solely from pets being walked in the park. In fact, we rarely walk on the grass for fear of both of stepping on the piles and to prevent a repeat of the harassment we faced at the Library. What protections would the warehoused homeless have to ensure sanitary conditions? What upkeep has been planned? To date, we've seen very infrequent servicing of the port-a-potties currently in place. Touted as a temporary measure until permanent solutions are developed, it is clearly not an acceptable solution. In fact, as Westchester Park becomes a warehouse for the homeless, it will attract more there. What plans are there to mitigate the overcrowding and over-use of that would stem from the increased usage? What plans are there to ensure that the facilities, the trees and the park are upkept? As we look forward to the re-opening of the City, warehoused homeless would displace public and neighborhood use of the park due to the dangerous and unsanitary conditions aforementioned, and for those who live and own homes around the park, warehousing would reduce access to this public, outdoor park. We bought our home in this neighborhood to have access to outdoor spaces and Westchester Park is one of the last open spaces in the area.