

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2021 12:14 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** The homeless problem throughout Los Angeles is a serious problem. The residential neighborhoods in which we live, the roads that we drive on, the parks our children play in are completely overwhelmed with homeless people. They go to the bathroom in/around their tents, steal, do drugs, litter everywhere, and have set fires. We are terrified and our children are too. Why do we pay huge amounts in taxes if we are not able to find a solution? Continuing to create encampments in our neighborhoods is NOT the solutions. We will move out of CA like everyone else is. Enough is enough.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dana Locke

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2021 12:23 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am extremely opposed to allowing camping in all parks and Westchester Park in particular. Alternative locations have been identified, and our park should be made safe once again. I am also opposed to allowing camping on our beaches and in/on, what used to be, our protected wetlands. These are areas that should be protected, so that our children have save outdoor areas to live and play.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chris

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2021 12:31 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** Do not allow homeless encampments on our beaches or parks. There are already tents and rv's cluttering these areas. Trash has piled up and fires set illegally. Needles have been found on the beaches. It is not safe for children to go to the beach or play in the parks. We recently had a shooting at our park that has never seen that type of crime. There are other, better locations to place these encampments. These people need help with mental issues and drug/alcohol addiction, and should be helped, not pushed off onto the beaches and parks. You are not helping the problem, you are further damaging our neighborhoods and destroying the communities you supposedly serve.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2021 12:40 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to urge the Homelessness and Poverty Committee NOT to take away the right of residents in Councillor Bonin's District to the safe and peaceful enjoyment of our parks and beaches. Homeless encampments do not belong in these locations. You can identify alternative locations in unused parking lots, commercial areas, etc where services can be provided, including hygiene and storage facilities. Why has this work not already been undertaken? The homeless population has been growing consistently for many years - this is not a sudden crisis that has emerged. The plan to allow "temporary" encampments on beaches and in public parks strikes me as a careless expedient solution - both wrongheaded and wronghearted. Surely we deserve better than this! Please do NOT destroy outdoor recreation and meeting facilities so desperately needed by all local residents including seniors and children, many of whom have little or no access elsewhere. Summer is almost here, school will soon be out, and we need to relax, exercise and socialize outdoors. Outdoor areas are more important than ever as gatherings in the open air are much safer from transmission of Covid19 disease. If you continue on this path of implementing Councillor Bonin's proposals you will inflame resentment against the homeless and create misery in our neighborhoods. This will not be to anyone's benefit but will merely exacerbate the political divisions that are poisoning our public life. Humane treatment and services for the homeless do not need to conflict with our public health need for open space and outdoor activities - you just need to identify and support better solutions to the problems of the homeless population. The State, City and other agencies must join forces to design statewide solutions and devote resources to address this huge problem instead of dumping it on a few local neighborhood parks and beaches. Residents of Mr. Bonin's district, including Westchester/Playa where the public park has already been turned into an encampment, deserve the wholehearted support and respect for our concerns of all City Councillors, and most especially of Mr. Bonin himself.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2021 12:41 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** No to Beach encapments. This poses health and safety hazards and pollutes precious waterfront property that is a public asset - not a private place to bring crime and danger.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/12/2021 05:29 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** PLEASE do not destroy Venice any more than has already been done. I am horrified at what has been done to my community by the ill considered actions and response to the homeless crises by our city council and political leadership. I attended the meetings. We have been made promises and assurances that have not been honored nor kept. I have no trust that this proposal will lead to anything different and absolutely do not support it, at all in any way. PLEASE do not destroy Venice any more. This community can not take further deterioration and in fact needs to be restored. The damage needs to be corrected and quickly, before any more damage is done to the fabric of life in the community.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chase

**Date Submitted:** 05/12/2021 05:45 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live at 16001 PCH, Pacific Palisades. I want to go on record to say that I strongly object to a homeless village at the beach in Pacific Palisades. This is such a bad idea in so many ways. I live right at the beach and have been here for 22 years. This effects the entire city Of LA. Where will people park who come to visit the beach? It's nuts down here especially during the summer. How will the homeless get any where? This is a very isolated area, with limited buses, no stores, shopping ect near by. I object because I am so worried about fires. This is a high fire danger area. What if there has to a an evacuation? I object because I am so concerned about crime. My community, the Tahitian Terrace and the Palisades Bowl are the two mobil home parks at the beach and are the only homes within easy walking distance of this proposed site. There are a lot of seniors living here. Who will protect us? I object because there is no police presence here in the Palisades. There is one car that is stationed in WLA. Even Officer Rusty who lives here and works with the local homeless thinks this is a terrible idea. It seems to me that in all of Los Angeles there MUST be a much better site for this homeless village.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Heather Turner

**Date Submitted:** 05/12/2021 05:46 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I oppose the use of public beaches and parks for the use of homeless housing and oppose 21-0350 unless amended to remove them from any feasibility studies. Public spaces were developed and codified for the recreation and enjoyment of all residents and should not be subject to the extensive environmental, sanitation and safety issues related to placing homeless shelters in those locations.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Donna HICKO Partipilo

**Date Submitted:** 05/12/2021 05:57 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** It would seem that you are very capable of transporting people places...we see that from the border crisis. It makes more sense to set up more permanent housing in areas that may have lower property costs and expenses. Inland, where there are jobs. We can fund the move, if it makes sense. Putting homeless in one of the highest rent districts in the country makes zero sense. One would have to question all the financial and planning decisions of anyone that makes such a recommendation. It isn't helping anyone and it would drive down local commerce from paying Beach goers, drive real-estate values. Is THAT the objective? Socialism and wealth redistribution or do you really want to help the homeless?. Show us

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David S Jackson

**Date Submitted:** 05/12/2021 06:00 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose any version of using our beaches and parking lots to house or temporarily house the homeless. I would like to quote LAPD officer Redican, using his well thought out observations and suggestions on how to address homelessness in our community and specifically, in opposition to the motion to use our County beaches for homeless housing: "These are my Personal thoughts and ideas, that I've come to via physically working on the Homelessness issues day in and day out, as my main focus since 2016..... First off..... I am just a Police Officer. But I too have a close family member, who has battled and continues to battle addiction, depression and homelessness. So I see them, in every single person I interact with who is experiencing homelessness. Every single one! Hence why it is likely something that is a little more personal to me. Will Rogers State Beach, or really anywhere in the 24.6 square mile, mostly single residence, mostly residential area of the Pacific Palisades, are NOT viable places for these resources and encampments... this idea is quite simply not a pragmatic one. Really, all of our beaches and parks across Los Angeles are for everyone to recreationally use. Specifically our beaches, are enjoyed and visited by people from all over Los Angeles, who are trying to enjoy the beach, and many times escape squalid conditions all over the City. It is not compassionate to continue to ignore and allow those who are sick and addicted, to slowly die on the streets. It's easy for some to talk about homelessness in the abstract, it is a whole different matter, to sit down daily with people who are experiencing that despair, and feel the despair they are going through on a daily basis. I have spent a massive amount of time, and emotional capital, on and off duty, helping our fellow Men and Women, experiencing homelessness. Sometimes that includes talking them out of suicide. I may not have any degrees of higher learning in these issues, but I would put my practical application, successes and abilities in these issues down as prima facia evidence of my bonafides. While working in the Palisades daily, and with the PPTFH (Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness), TPC (The People Concern), as well as LA Beaches and Harbors, I have had to think outside the box, and take a very unorthodox approach from the Law Enforcement portion of our efforts. Very low on "enforcement"/over burdening the judicial system, or

adding unnecessary additional stressors to the individual, on a case by case basis. Laws MUST be enforced! But sometimes the leverage of enforcement is enough to get someone to accept help. Sometimes that leverage is life saving. Again, here in the Palisades (PPTFH) we have the model that works. The City could simply change out the Volunteers, and hire social workers, and the LAPD could be properly funded and adjust to the type of "Enforcement" model that I have applied here in the Palisades.

- Update antiquated and broken Mental Health Legislation (first and foremost) - Thresholds for Holds -Increase minimum hold/observation times for realistic observations (a true 72hr, 6 weeks depending on mental illness severity and medical mitigation tools) - LPS Conservatorship - Probate Conservatorship -Rescind and change Prop-47, Prop-57, with respect to mandatory, secure rehabilitation, counseling, job training for hardcore narcotics related offenses. -Immediately identify all City, County and State buildings, property and parking lots (for safe parking programs) not being used, and reconfigure for housing, safe parking and all applicable wrap around services.
- Create and stand up several large scale Campuses with full wraparound services, in several strategically located areas of the City of Los Angeles. (Think UCLA or USC Style campus). Private construction or Army Corps of Engineers could work with City, County, State and Federal resources to make it happen.
- Drastically Increase Social Services involving counseling for the homeless who are in the pipeline to get off the streets. Rebuilding self-esteem is vital. -Enforce all No-Loitering and No-Camping laws and infractions -Create a City run program to help/assist people get back home to their families in other States, if that's what is preferred and is feasible in them in getting help. -More Job corps programs to train, retrain or assist our fellow citizens in getting back into the work force (this is especially vital, in helping those recently homeless, who are living in their vehicles, trying desperately to keep their noses above water.) Galvanize and include the private sector...." His suggestions go on, but the message is clear: **PUTTING HOMELESS ON OR NEAR THE PUBLIC BEACHES IS A TERRIBLE IDEA. LOOK AT VENICE -- THE BOARDWALK HAS BECOME A DISGUSTING, CRIME RIDDEN, UNSAFE AREA. WHY CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IS CLEARLY A COMPLETE FAILURE?**

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Venice Chamber of Commerce

**Date Submitted:** 05/12/2021 06:03 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0350

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Venice Chamber of Commerce urges you to make every effort to clean up homeless encampments and enforce existing laws to protect the safety of neighborhoods around Los Angeles and the residents of those sites. We agree with the following: A. Abate and Correct Unsafe and Unhealthy Conditions in Homeless Encampments That the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to immediately direct the Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation (“LA Sanitation”) to undertake site clean-ups, trash collection, and sanitizing of all homeless encampments located in the neighborhoods on the Westside of Los Angeles, in order to abate, correct, and remove hazardous, unsafe, unhealthy, and unsanitary conditions, including without limitation all combustible materials such as propane tanks, at all homeless encampments forthwith. B. Enforcement of Crimes in or Near Homeless Encampments That the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti direct the Los Angeles Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the sale and distribution of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and other serious crimes taking place in or near homeless encampments on the Westside of Los Angeles. C. Enforce Laws Prohibiting Blockage of Public Right of Way That the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti direct the Los Angeles Police Department and the Department of Public Works’ Bureau of Engineering Street Services Division, as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to direct the Veterans Affairs Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the blockage of the public right of way on the Westside of Los Angeles, including all applicable provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). D. Increase Funding to Support Additional Safe Parking Programs That additional funding and resources, from all available sources, be allocated to implement more Safe Parking Programs and to support existing, reputable safe parking programs, including those operated by organizations such as Safe Parking LA, throughout the Westside of Los Angeles. Respectfully Submitted, George Francisco 2020/21 President Venice Chamber of Commerce



May 12, 2021

Re: The Venice Chamber of Commerce opposes council file 21-0350

To: Mayor Garcetti and Los Angeles City Council

The Venice Chamber of Commerce is strongly opposed to the use of all public beaches and parks for homeless housing. The use of shared, public recreational spaces are a benefit and resource for the entire community of Los Angeles. California beaches are a unique and valued place for residents and visitors from throughout the world. The county-owned parking lot at Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific palisades; the county-owned parking lot #3 at Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey; and the Mar Vista Park and Westchester Park are not suitable for homeless temporary housing. The California Coastal Commission has clearly stated that "protecting public access to the coast for all and recreational opportunities is a core mandate of the Coastal Act."

The Venice Chamber of Commerce supports the Pacific Palisades Community Council Straw Poll Motion that "opposes the use of our beaches, parks and any open space dedicated for public recreational use in the City and/or County of Los Angeles, as well as facilities attendant to such spaces, to shelter or house homeless individuals (i.e., for "tiny homes" or "safe camping"), as proposed in the motion by Councilmember Bonin (Motion), including without limitation at the following locations specified in the Motion:

- the County-owned parking lot at Will Rogers State Beach, 17000-CA 1 in Pacific Palisades;
- the County-owned parking lot #3 at Dockweiler Beach, 11999 Vista del Mar in Playa del Rey;
- any portion of Westchester Park and/or Mar Vista Park, unless otherwise approved by clear public consensus.

We also unequivocally, do not support the use of any parking lots for the same purpose located in adjacent Venice Beach and our Boardwalk.

In addition, The Venice Chamber of Commerce supports the Brentwood Community Council Motion opposing Council File 21- 0350 unless amended to:

- Remove all public recreational space from the Motion, including deed restricted City parks;
- Instruct the CAO to include the results of Councilmember Raman's (Council File 21-0063) study of municipal property in the final recommendation report for this Motion;
- Request U.S. District Judge David O. Carter to direct that any homeless shelter opened in CD11 be restricted to homeless persons who were registered in the Coordinated Entry System as living within CD11 during the 2019 Annual Homeless Count or who can show a connection to CD11, such as birthplace, prior school, work, or home address, or receipt of any public benefits, or relatives currently living in CD11.

The Chamber recognizes the severity of the homeless crisis across LA City and County and the need for services and housing. The pandemic has worsened the situation for the homeless and requires immediate action.

The Chamber strongly supports use of the vacant West LA Civic Center for homeless shelters given its proximity to transportation and services in a safe environment. BHA supports the expansion of Project Roomkey combined with other alternatives. The City and County need to do more to identify government-owned land that is suitable for temporary housing and longer-term construction of low-income housing. We believe there may be opportunities for buying or leasing commercial properties as more employees work

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from home as well as strip malls where businesses have permanently closed. Another opportunity for land purchase is along the Metro right-of-way and parking lots, some which are now being leased to car dealers for vehicle storage.

The City and County must work together to simplify access to services, aligning their laws related to homelessness to be uniform for easier implementation. For example, in the City you cannot camp overnight on City streets but in the County, it is allowed. The bifurcation of responsibilities with Prop H funds under the County and Prop HHH funds under the City call for coordinated oversight and decision making under one leader.

The Los Angeles Department of Public Health reports the #1 cause of death for people experiencing homelessness is drug overdose, and the Los Angeles Times reports 67% of those living in street encampments suffer from mental illness, substance abuse and other disabilities but there is no mandate to accept housing when offered. These are life threatening illnesses. Would you ask someone suffering a heart attack if they wanted treatment? No. You would take the necessary steps to save their lives. The same must be done with those living on the streets with these illnesses by increasing outreach and eliminating the red tape to get services to those who need it as soon as possible.

The City, County and State have failed their constituents, both housed and unhoused. Now is the time for all elected officials to review current laws covering this portion of the homeless population which have proven to be inadequate to humanely deal with this entrenched crisis and balance their medical needs and safety with that of the public. More money needs to be spent on outreach and mental health programs.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Francisco  
President  
The Venice Chamber of Commerce