

Communication from Public

Name: Deborah Konitsney

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 10:02 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: A. Reaction to housing homeless in office buildings, hotels and public areas. I believe using unused office buildings and hotel space to house the homeless is a good idea if done correctly. This means having this solution be time-limited, done in a way that does not impact residential neighborhoods nor distracts from businesses doing business, and is safe and sanitary. I vehemently oppose housing homeless, building tiny homes and erecting tents on public lands, including parks, the beach and the beach parking lots. This also includes the Ballona Wetlands, tents on sidewalks and along the beach bike trail. Public spaces, by definition, belong to the public. ALL the public. Housing the homeless in these public spaces restricts the ability for ALL CITIZENS (i.e., taxpayers) to take advantage of these areas. As it is, there is very limited access to open spaces for our children to play, to recreate with friends, to relax and enjoy nature, and to be with family outdoors. Further limiting access to these spaces will negatively impact the health and wellness of our citizenry. Trying to use these areas with a tent city nearby will cause unnecessary stress when being in these areas and will increase concern about safety, sanitation, cleanliness and disease. In addition, placing a homeless tent city in or near the crown jewel of Southern California, our beaches, is really foolhardy and will negatively impact city revenue as tourists and residents no longer visit these areas. I also vehemently oppose the parking of homeless RV vehicles along Jefferson next to one of the only remaining wetlands in the state. This is a wildlife sanctuary. Wildlife has very, very few remaining spaces to live and thrive. Having people "live" at the wetlands is unconscionable. The recent fire in the wetlands underscores my point. No doubt set by a homeless person, this fire endangered wildlife, near-by residents and homes, and was near the gas storage facility that, if caught fire, would cause a disaster of enormous proportions. B. Unanswered questions 1. Rereading Bonin's proposed plan outlined in Bonin's April 3, 2021 newsletter, Bonin does not give a termination date nor indicate what metrics the Council will use to determine if his plan is working. All plans need to have a start and end date. It is imperative that this plan not be a permanent solution. It is unworkable and merely puts a band-aid on the problem. • What is the end date? • What are the metrics to determine success or failure? 2. How will the Council assess and deal differently with the various types of individuals that are homeless. As I understand the issue, the etiology of homelessness lies with (a) mental illness, (b) drug use or drug addiction, and (c) the temporary, down-on his/her-luck person that needs a limited amount of help and time to get back on his or her feet financially. • How will you assess or determine who belongs in which category? • How will you differentiate treatment for those in each of the categories? • What is the long-term solution for each? 3. How will you prevent homeless from other parts of the city to "pile into" the Playa del Rey, Westchester, Venice area? As others clean up, what prevents the problem here from getting worse? • What will you do to prevent more homeless living in our area? 4. How are you vaccinating the homeless against Covid-19, particularly the ones living in the "tent cities" you propose? • What is your vaccination plan and how will you know it is successful? C. What is the accounting behind the \$13 billion spent on this issue in the last three years statewide? Referring to the AP article, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/audit-california-track-homeless-spending-set-policy-75835197> • What is being done to account for all the wasted money incurred to date? • What is being done to ensure going forward that programs are accountable and successful? • What will you do differently in LA and Southern California? D. Gathering different ideas Homelessness is a crisis in many cities and countries, but none so dire as in LA and California. Why not learn from what other cities, states and countries have tried? I propose that you crowdsource ideas from around the country and world as to how to manage this problem. Crowdsourcing has been used successfully with hard to diagnose medical diseases (Please see the New York Times's effort in this area and the ensuing documentary on Netflix or Prime). By crowdsourcing and using the internet to garner the best ideas and best practices, there might be solutions you and your Council members have not thought of and from which you can learn. Restricting your thinking to just within the City Council members will not get you very far. After all, things have been bad and are getting worse. If someone had an idea, it would have been voiced by now.

Communication from Public

Name: Randy Paulson

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 10:31 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly opposed to the proposed plan to house the homeless in the Will Rodgers parking lot on PCH. This lot is immediately adjacent to a 6 lane highway and there are tragically many deaths that result from pedestrians who have attempted to cross PCH at night now - I believe this will increase significantly if hundreds of homeless are housed there. In addition, this is a heavily used public beach for all residents of LA and converting it to a homeless encampment will deprive thousands of LA residents of the opportunity to access the beach. I believe it is also a significant safety concern for the residents and the many children of this area as many of the homeless have addiction or mental health issues. I urge you to reject this plan. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 01:59 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I'm ABSOLUTELY AGAINST the proposal to allow encampments on Beaches and parks. Public beaches and parks are not intended for encampments. It will increase crime, decrease safety for everyone and increase trash and pollution. Mr Bonin admitted that he is not in a position to increase services, enforcement of criminal behavior. The City Council has been feeding us that it's a housing problem, when in fact it's a drug and mental health issues.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 02:43 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Re: 21-0350 Oppose Unless Amended to Remove Public Parks and Beaches Dear Councilmembers: As a resident of Brentwood, I oppose the use of public beaches and parks for the use of homeless housing and oppose 21-0350. Beaches aren't the place for the homeless. Run the city like it should be run and we wouldn't have anywhere near this amount of homeless people. Neighborhoods are being destroyed. Brentwood, in particular. Further, putting homeless people on the beach DESTROYS the beaches. Putting them on the beach IS AN INCENTIVE TO BE HOMELESS. Right now, there are hundreds living at the beach illegally. You do nothing to enforce the existing law, and have turned our beaches and boardwalk and all of Venice into a shithole. You are devaluing our city our property, our culture, and our standard of living. You are making our city dysfunctional, dirty, and dangerous. Don't you dare put the homeless on the beach and in our parks. Sincerely, Nels Hefty

Communication from Public

Name: Joan Vandegrift
Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 03:00 PM
Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I OPPOSE the proposal to allow encampments on Beaches and Parks. Our Public Beaches & Parks were not intended for encampments. I keep asking myself how the City of Los Angeles allowed the encampments to get so out of hand. I am a law abiding citizen. I would not be allowed to use a propane tank on a sidewalk. I would not be allowed to walk around nude on public streets. I would not be allowed to pile filth and junk my sidewalk. I have had man masturbate in front of me while at a stop light. I have seen drug deals right in front of me. I have had my windshield pounded on by a crazy person. I have seen piles of used syringes by a city drain. I have walked into a public library only to walk out because of the stench of urine. I have been followed out of a market by homeless person HARASSING AND DEMANDING money from me. I am an adult but why are you allowing children to be exposed to this needless nightmare. Angelenos voted money to help solve the homeless situation. Where are the mental hospitals, where is the economically feasible housing? ENOUGH. I love the City of Los Angeles. But, it becomes very hard to love a city that abuses tax paying residents. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN LOS ANGELES?

Communication from Public

Name: Victoria Ter-Arsenian

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 03:04 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I find it extremely inappropriate to allow homeless encampment at Will Rogers Park. Will Rogers is a state park, allowing people of all ages to enjoy prime beach location, ocean, access to bike/rollerblading trail. Homeless encampment poses several hazards to the public: a huge problem of human waste, trash, fires and other dangers. 80 percent of homeless population has either mental illness or drug abuse problems. I would no longer feel safe to patron this beach with my kids. Please, don't dump the problem of homelessness on a public, that just wants clean public spaces and parks to enjoy a weekend off. Venice beach boardwalk already became a scary place, where nobody wants to go. With no police around and a huge homeless population it's absolutely unsafe there. With no safe environment, the tourists will take their dollars elsewhere. The restaurants and small shops will be forced to close, with no tourists bringing their dollars. There will be a white flight and a deserted place. Venice already became a Skid Row. Don't let it happen to Will Rogers Park that I have been personally patroning for 30 years.

Communication from Public

Name: Toby Muresianu
Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 03:05 PM
Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am in strong support of tiny homes on parking lots as an alternative to the awful status quo of encampments directly along beaches. We need a more regulated, safe and humane area for people to begin exiting homelessness without disrupting *that* public space--which is far more valuable than a parking lot. Our community voted overwhelmingly in favor of Prop HHH, which promised to create 10,000 homes for the homeless in Los Angeles. This was done with an understanding that homes would have to go somewhere in LA. Until we get the thousands of homes needed, thousands of shelters are an appropriate interim solution to prevent further harm and disruption. There is no place that we can place shelters which will not generate backlash from some immediate neighbors or opinionated folks, but they should not have the power to overrule the broader community mandate or micromanage the process. We should also be looking to create shelters in other areas, like underused city-owned plots, but overall need to be doing more--not less--and working faster, not slower.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 03:13 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Garcetti, I OPPOSE the proposal to allow encampments on Beaches and Parks. Our PUBLIC Beaches and Parks were not intended for encampments. This will increase crime, decrease child safety and increase pollution in our public spaces and ocean. Councilman Bonin admitted that he is not in a position to increase services, increase enforcement against criminal behavior, nor address the larger root issues of homelessness such as mental illness, addiction, job training, job placement, etc. Encampments could be allowed in the many underutilized City owned properties. Thank you for your kind consideration. Respectfully,

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Hild

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 03:18 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Re: 21-0350 Oppose Unless Amended to Remove Public Parks and Beaches Dear Councilmembers: As an resident of the area, I strenuously 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. By repurposing these public spaces for this use, we are denying tax-paying residents--including families with small children such as mine--their ability to utilize such spaces. This is especially necessary as indoor activities are still restrictive and not recommended for young children (<12 years old) who are ineligible for the coronavirus vaccine, thus needing this outdoor space all the more. Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Hild

Communication from Public

Name: Pamela Brown

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 03:21 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Re: 21-0350 Oppose Unless Amended to Remove Public Parks and Beaches Dear Councilmembers: The Brentwood community represents 33,000 residents and 3 business districts covering 15 square miles of the City of Los Angeles. As a resident of Brentwood for more than 26 years, 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. Respectfully submitted, Pamela Brown