

Communication from Public

Name: Zaida Martinez

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 06:00 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Building encampments on our public beaches will not solve the problem of homelessness. It will exacerbate it because it will contribute to theft and insecurity for the neighborhoods around. Address the problem by surveying the people that are homeless and categorize the problems: mental, jobless, addiction, etc and start from there. Restructure the health help existing and reinforce mental help. Find a way to put people back in the workforce and the thieves and vandals put away. We the citizens paying taxes deserve the opportunity to enjoy the beach without fear of being robbed or attacked; we pay high taxes to have a home and work steady to keep it. There are a lot of homeless people that want to have a job and a steady income and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Don't try to solve homelessness by putting band aids such as encampments that don't solve anything but increase the problems that come with being disconnected from society and locked into a cycle of no job, no home, no means!

Communication from Public

Name: Don nelson

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 06:05 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I do not want homeless housing at the beach or in the residential areas. Please put them in the valley where the density is much less

Communication from Public

Name: Russell Cletta

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 01:54 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: As a long time resident, homeowner, landlord and business owner in Venice, I implore you to reject this short-sighted and reckless proposal by Councilman Mike Bonin. Turning our public parks, open space and beaches into filthy, lawless transient dumping grounds serves no one. Public spaces are meant to serve the public as a whole, not a specific group of individuals that contribute nothing to our community. The filth and crime surrounding the Venice Bridge Housing project is a perfect example of the lies, dishonesty and deceit that we can expect from Councilman Bonin's office and his enablers. Venice is already under siege from a lawless, violent and mentally unstable element that has been allowed to congregate and multiply due to the inactions and outright contempt shown by our uncaring and corrupt Councilman. Please reject this destructive proposal.

Communication from Public

Name: Heather Smith

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 01:59 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: VOTE "NO"--DO NOT ALLOW HOMELESS CAMPING ON THE BEACHES OF PLAYA DEL REY.

Communication from Public

Name: Stephanie Tokar
Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:00 PM
Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I ask you to DISMISS this motion. We have lived and owned property in Los Angeles (Mar Vista) for over 20 years and are now looking to move. We do not feel safe taking our small child to local parks anymore. We can't go for a bike ride without finding raw sewage dumped in the streets. Our community has seen nothing but a spike in crime and drugs. We need to get back to allowing our officers to adequately police these areas. If people are unwilling to accept care or help...then they should not be able to continue living on our streets. Our city government has opted to become enablers with policies that invite people to live as vagrants on our streets increasingly from outside of California. These so-called solutions are only making living here a growing nightmare for law-abiding residents. The most vulnerable in our communities is our CHILDREN and it's clear this city does not care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: stanton I stein

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:10 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I have cared about the homeless my entire adult life. I was on the board of OPCC for many years. I have also been a resident of the santa monica canyon after graduating from law school. I have raised my two children and five grandchildren by attending public schools and being involved in the community. I was a founder and president of the largest public interest lawfirm in the country. So i come to this issue with a genuine concern and compassion for the homeless. But for the many reasons others have articulated this is a terrible idea for the homeless, our community and the general public. It has the likelihood of creating problems for all concerned. Please seriously consider all of the reasons this is ill-advised.

Communication from Public

Name: Patrick Reynolds

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:15 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles is in an escalating crisis: the homeless in most cities, including ours, are being permitted to camp and live in parks and on beaches where our kids play and seniors spend time. Watch the very short videos for a potent visual reminder of what this will mean to our neighborhoods. I've included links later in this post. I'm part of a group that is mobilizing residents to register to vote in the upcoming Neighborhood Council elections around the city. Later we'll give out a flyer and post online a list of the candidates citywide who have pledged to vote against Councilman Bonin's plan to allow the homeless to continue camping in our parks and beaches. Every one of us cares deeply about the homeless, and we most certainly agree with Mr. Bonin's plan to provide them with sanitation, mental health, addiction, temporary housing, food, and other services -- but just not where our kids go to play. There are many locations throughout our city where kids never go, and all of those locations will be acceptable. I'm told that Councilman Bonin has just proposed to cordon off sections of our city's parks for homeless encampments, but sorry, they will still be too close to our kids. Having my child step on a bloody needle or human feces is unacceptable! What are he and his team thinking? In our group's Zoom meeting last week, it was mentioned that Mr. Bonin is now seeking approval for a \$300,000 study on the feasibility of camping in Westchester Park and possibly others. I respectfully urge the Council to INSTEAD SPEND THAT \$300,000 TO FIND ALTERNATE LOCATIONS WHERE CHILDREN DO NOT GO, AND STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ALLOWING THEM TO CAMP IN THOSE LOCATIONS. Watch the short videos below to see what the homeless encampments look like now. It's shocking and not for children's eyes. Bottom line: Our parks and beaches can NOT be shared with children. There is no room for compromise on this. If kids play there, that location is not an acceptable one for the homeless to camp. Here are four very short videos that tell the story effectively: Video 1: Westchester Park Homeless Crisis - Many homeless tents pitched in Westchester Park, Los Angeles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8DzC38WLys> Video 2: In this disturbing ABC7 Eyewitness News report, a man is shot almost point blank on camera and another man sets a tent on fire. Not for kids. <https://abc7.com/venice-residents-outraged-over-dangerous-incidents-at-homeless-camps/10587178/> Video 3: Venice is Burning - Venice Beach Fires, Homeless Encampments, People defecating on the street, Failed leadership. Special thanks to Billy Joel. Music specially recorded by the band Venice. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZ3ZDbZk> Video 4: Homeless encampments in the Ballona Wetlands <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SK8JNzRv7pU> A CALL TO ACTION! VOTE in your neighborhood council election. Three things to know about voting in this election: 1. Everyone must vote by mail, and even if you're registered for that, you will not receive a mail-in ballot for the upcoming Neighborhood Council election. You must register online to vote in it. There will be no polling places because of Covid. 2. The deadline to register happens in the last week of May, in two weeks; it varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. You must register by then, and mail your ballot by June 5. 3. First you need to get a ballot. To do that, go to www.tiny.cc/VCmballot You won't see a "Create new account" link unless you scroll to the bottom of the page. You may be required to take a photo of your driver's license (maybe use your cell phone) and attach it, so best to use your phone. Once you are registered, log in to the site and register for your Neighborhood Council Election. You don't need to live in the area your Neighborhood Council is located in; you can simply be a stakeholder, such as a property owner, or just going to work there. Subscribe to our Facebook group, coming soon -- and we'll let you know who the candidates are that support keeping the homeless out of our kids' parks, and not camping on public beaches that our children play on. For now, just REGISTER TO VOTE in this election. We'll let you know who the candidates are who are with us. And remember -- even if you are registered to vote by mail, you will NOT be sent a ballot. PLEASE register NOW!

Communication from Public

Name: Caroline McClune
Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:22 PM
Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing today to express my sincere objection to use of Westchester Park and Dockweiler State Beach (or any beach/park) as “safe camping zones”. Though I see the need for everyone to step up and house the homeless I do not feel like these locations are the right fit. By taking away prime recreation areas from the many to provide for some is not justified. Westchester Park provides an invaluable resource for all its surrounding communities. Not just Westchester but for Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Ladera Heights, and Inglewood. There is already a dearth of open space in our community and the park has long been a safe place for families and seniors to go. In my 20 years in Westchester my family has used the area for a variety of activities: the recreation center for daycare, summer camp and biddy basketball; the fields for lacrosse, soccer, and church picnics; the pool for general recreation and swim lessons; the playground for general play and birthday parties; the tennis key and golf course for lessons and general play; and the senior center for lunch and informational advice. Now with all the tents on the ground I would not venture near the park nor would I recommend it to any young or old neighbors. Establishing a region within the park is not the answer. Far too often those regions do not confine themselves to those areas but spill into the safe zone of others. Likewise I do not believe Dockweiler State beach is the answer either. My family loves the beach and every weekend almost year round we are there enjoying our cities special benefit. If you have ever driven down Imperial Highway during a summer weekend you will see cars backed up from the beach to the 405. Dockweiler is not just the beach of the Westside, it is a beach for the city. By housing the homeless on the beach you are taking away a precious resource from thousands of inland city dwellers that just want to escape the heat and congestion of their neighborhood. That is unjust. So what is the solution? Instead of looking at scarce recreation space that is needed for the many...why not push for use of all the already vacant land between the new airport police station and firehouse. If that is not enough, how about the vacant land west of the firehouse? Above all though when you propose these things you should also have in place 1) an established plan of resources for the these safe camping zones (mental health outreach workers/addiction

counselors/job training) 2) sanitation and security detail 3) a legitimate answer to those who refuse to be housed. Though I do believe that this is a humanitarian crisis, I also feel like the homeless must also abide by the law. They should be in a safe place and provided shelter and food. They should not be able to litter, do illegal drugs or participate in criminal activities. It serves neither the homeless nor the surrounding community to avoid addressing these issues.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:25 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Homeless tents should be relocated to Federal, State, City, and Municipal-owned and managed properties. It is the duty of the City Council to maintain free access to beaches, parks, public venues, public streets and sidewalks, and related points of access for the benefit of the tax-paying 10,000,000 residents of the County and the 3,000,000 residents of the City for the enjoyment and health and safety of the public. These lands are not proper or allowable areas for tent encampments.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca Malamed MD

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:30 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I wanted to express my concern about this motion that will encourage homelessness at Will Roger State Beach. I understand that this motion is intended to help individuals who are homeless but I believe that this solution is going to be damaging to the community while not truly addressing the underlying causes of homelessness or actually helping the homeless in our community. Individuals and families from all over Los Angeles will be negatively impacted by this motion. Individuals and families, who are often of very modest means, need a safe place where they can go to spend time with their families to relax. Will Rogers State Beach is such a place and this motion will destroy this precious resource while at the same time endangering the community. I have done a lot of research on homelessness and I am very committed to helping those who are unable to get off the street. Our family has suffered the consequences of losing a family member who suffered with Serious Mental Illness and was homeless. She was raped and murdered in Santa Monica by another homeless individual. Research shows clearly that a large percentage of homeless individuals suffer with Serious Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse. Furthermore, there is a greater incidence of violent crime perpetrated by those who are homeless. Putting homeless individuals at Will Rogers State Beach will NOT address any of the underlying issues but it will create a dangerous situation for the community. The homeless crisis we are experiencing today stems from a period in the 1950's and 1960's when psychiatric hospitals started being defunded. Patients with Serious Mental Illness had no place to go and were not capable of participating productively in the community or housing themselves. This has been a travesty and very tragic not only for the homeless but also for communities all over the United States. This trend CAN be reversed with the right understanding of the problem and the political will to address the issues. I recommend that the council reads several books and look at a couple of websites. The council could also ask those who understand the history and underlying causes of homelessness to address the council. I believe that the council will be impressed and that a really productive roadmap can be created that truly lays the foundation to address the homeless crisis in Los Angeles. I recommend that the council goes online to the Treatment Advocacy Center and Mental Illness Policy. org to learn about the root causes of homelessness and it's relationship to Serious Mental Illness. Here are the links to these organizations.
<https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/> <https://mentalillnesspolicy.org/>
I also recommend that the council read a few books to help understand what is going on and the history of how we reached this terrible place. Insane Consequences by D.J. Jaffe
<https://mentalillnesspolicy.org/insane-consequences.html> Books by E. Fuller Torrey MD

<https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/about-us/dr-e-fuller-torrey> I would also recommend that you ask D.J. Jaffe and Dr. Fuller Torrey to speak to the council in order to help the city understand how to really solve the homeless crisis. Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, I can be reached by email at dr@drrebecca.com or by phone at 310-266-8406. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.
Rebecca Malamed MD

Communication from Public

Name: Edith Eliassen

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:34 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Council File 21-0350 Homeless & Poverty Committee of the Los Angeles City Council will vote to allow encampments in parks
Dear Member of the Homeless/Poverty Committee - Council File 21-0350 I OPPOSE the proposal to allow encampments on Beaches & Parks. Our PUBLIC Beaches & Parks were not intended for encampments. The increase in crime, decrease child safety & increase pollution in our public spaces. Councilman Bonin admitted that he is not in a position to increase services, increase enforcement of criminal behavior, nor address the larger root issues of homelessness such as mental illness, addiction, job training, job placement. Westchester Park "The Wild Wild West" current conditions have turned into a complete trash dump, drugs, needles all over the ground, alcohol, human waste, crime, shootings, verbal assaults, absolute NO respect of the environment or human life. The local residents and other people, have experienced a true horrific change in dynamics at Westchester Park! It's truly a "Sad" current state of affairs where we are now!! Just take a look at the condition of Westchester Park! Green Spaces & other spaces are there's (campers/homeless) for the taking, no longer enjoyed by others/the Public. This is a pure and simple "Health & Safety" issue for all, we don't need bandaids that just Fall Off, we need solutions for this beyond critical situation we are all in! I drive around & see so many empty fenced in large lots that could be converted into safe housing, unused lands, but there needs to be rules, No: weapons, guns, drugs, alcohol etc. Yes: security, showers, toilets, trash p/u and medical staffing visits to help with mental & drug issues for this to work. We can all agree, there's going to be those that only want a certain way of life, no rules attached. Well, if we break the rules there's consequences we face. Thank you for Voting No on this issue for the overall well being of the community, surrounding areas and the State of California. This is First and foremost a "Health & Safety" issue for all, please take this all into consideration and Voting No! Edith Eliassen - resident 85th Place Los Angeles, CA 90045

Communication from Public

Name: William Manahan

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 02:45 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Subject Westchester Park Homeless Camping. Dear Council and Committie members, I strongly ask that Westchester Park not allow homeless camping anywhere on park grounds. I love my local Westchester park and my family used to use it constantly. Over the last few years but especially now I no longer feel it is safe, clean or friendly place to go with my family to use. In Westchester this is our only big park with facilities. The tennis courts, basketball gym, pool, library & senior center. Since the homeless have been allowed to stay in the park and parking lots the park has become unsafe for children, seniors and adults in general. I personally have been subject multiple times aggressive begging for money and harassed 3 different times (in my face yelling jibberish) by a homeless male either high or mentally unsound when going the the Westchester library. The Senior center is an unsafe environment to use due to the take over by the homeless. Seniors do not feel safe due to the presence of large numbers of homeless all around the center and its parking lot. The pool is drained and unused with homeless camping all around it. The park is devoid of familys enjoying the park, no parties, playing catch, barbecuing using the picnic area. The tennis court had lessons cancelled (ended) due to harassment of people attending. The library grounds smell of urine and I have seen human feces on the sidewalk near the entrance. I have also witnessed several times homeless relieving themselves in public for everyone to see. This all adds up to the City allowing an unsafe environment to exist for our childern. In contrast you go to Culver City's park on Overland during the day you will see zumba classes, toddlers, moms with thier kids, kite flying. People feeling safe and secure using thier park. Our surrounding community has experienced greatly increased crime related to the increased numbers of homeless in the area too. The Ralph's market across the street from Westchester park has had to hire security and secure at night the entrance facing the park due to multiple incidents involving homeless from the park including assaulting the Manager. Westchester has been disenfranchised historically by the City of Los Angeles for years. Promises made then broken. 1) Over expansion of LAX, 2) Eminent domain use to take residential property near the airport, 3) Promised new youth sports facilities (soccer fields where some of the homes were taken). 4)

This over expansion of LAX has resulted in our local high school becoming under enrolled and being no longer available as a home school to local residents and now our children have to call Venice High their homeschool. Venice high is not close to Westchester. It is too far to walk to and the traffic in the morning is heavy making it difficult to have 2 members in the same household have full time daily employment. 5) Prior to pandemic covid-19 our Sepulveda and Lincoln Blvd often gridlocked with traffic to and from LAX. (At 11 pm at night you could find gridlocked traffic heading to LAX causing 20 to 30 minutes to go 3 blocks on Sepulveda). No traffic control officers assigned to keep intersections clear. Now again the City of Los Angeles is again considering yet another proposal to again further dis-enfranchise the residents of Westchester by allowing homeless overnight camping on or around park property. The Westside of Los Angeles lacks adequate parks and recreational facilities. Westchester need this park and even more built as promised on the lands controlled by LAX. The tax paying residents of Los Angeles are fed up with what they feel is the mismanagement of the homeless problem in our City. We need our park and in addition want it completely deep cleaned, painted and restored to pre-homeless occupation conditions. Lawns replaced, trees that were damaged replaced, restrooms updated, shrubbery cut back, damaged fencing, facilities, equipment replaced, cleaned and painted. Additionally the residents would like the park to be gated in with entrances that will be locked when the park is closed. There have been murders and multiple shooting in the park the last 2 years. Again please do not allow homeless camping anywhere on Westchester park grounds. This is the only real park we have and we need it. Find another solution this is not a good choice. Thank you for your time and attention.