

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/30/2021 03:42 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: April 25, 2021 Hon. David O. Carter, U.S. District Judge Michele Martinez, Special Master U.S. District Court, Central District of California Via email Re: Alliance for Human Rights, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.; Case No. LA CV 20-02291-DOC-(KESx) Dear Judge Carter and Special Master Martinez: Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association (SMCCA) has been a vital community organization and voice of the historic Santa Monica Canyon since 1946. Santa Monica Canyon is literally connected to Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB), and is a hillside community within the City of Los Angeles. SMCCA has been following the proceedings in the Alliance case with interest. We greatly appreciate the preliminary injunction ruling of April 20, 2021 (the April 20th ruling), and we agree in particular with your Honor's statements decrying the loss of public spaces such as beaches and parks as a result of appalling conditions that have forced homeless individuals into these spaces. SMCCA has, in conjunction with the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), worked with a dedicated group of community volunteers who make up the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH), an independent non-profit organization originally formed several years ago by PPCC and funded with generous community donations. Working with LAPD beach patrol officers, including Officer Rusty Redican, and with outreach workers from The People Concern, PPTFH volunteers compassionately engage on a daily basis with homeless individuals on and near WRSB, providing offers of housing and services and helping to reduce crime, unsanitary conditions and risks to public safety. Since 2016, the PPTFH has worked tirelessly to diminish this threat, has engaged with over 1200 homeless individuals in our area, successfully transitioned 141 homeless off of our streets, and helped relocate 90 into permanent housing. Will Rogers State Beach, Santa Monica Canyon, and all of Pacific Palisades, are located entirely within the LAFD-designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Risk of fire due to dangerous homeless activities on the beach and in nearby bluffs and canyons, covered by wild coastal chapparal, have been a constant threat. No less than 3 significant fires started by homeless encampments have been extinguished by LAFD. After years of dedication to the homeless in our immediate area of WRSB and the surrounding

bluffs and canyons we were very troubled to learn that the City of Los Angeles has submitted a Sheltering Plan in the most recent Quarterly MOU Report that includes the WRSB and Dockweiler Beach parking lots (the Beach Parking Lots) -- owned by the State of California and operated by Los Angeles County -- among locations for homeless housing proposed by and for City Council District 11 (CD 11)¹ We are equally concerned that in a motion now pending in Los Angeles City Council, CD 11 Councilmember Mike Bonin has unilaterally, with no community input, proposed that the City study the Beach Parking Lots for possible use for homeless housing. SMCCA has written letters to our elected officials, including the City Attorney, opposing these proposals and requesting that the City withdraw the Beach Parking Lots from consideration in any ongoing settlement negotiations and from the Sheltering Plan for CD 11 proposed in the Alliance case. See SMCCA letter attached. As explained in the SMCCA position letter, we agree that housing and services for the homeless are urgently needed in Los Angeles. However, the proposal to use the Beach Parking Lots would have the opposite effect of what your Honor seeks to accomplish, as expressed in the April 20th ruling. These Lots are regularly used by countless citizens of Los Angeles and the wider region in order to access the public beaches. The briefest of examinations of the conditions at Venice Beach show that turning the heavily-used WRSB Parking Lots into homeless housing would render these vital public beaches; unsanitary, inaccessible, dangerous and cause immediate fire risk to the surrounding communities. Should settlement negotiations or other proceedings in the Alliance case continue, notwithstanding the appeals of the April 20th ruling, we respectfully request that you both exercise your influence and/or authority, as appropriate, to exclude the Beach Parking Lots from any final settlement or order mandating locations for homeless housing in Los Angeles. Thank you, your Honor and Special Master Martinez, for your consideration and attention to this important matter, and most importantly, for your dedication to finding an effective solution to the immense and growing homeless crisis in Los Angeles. We have not received a response from Councilmember Bonin, nor have we have received a response from the City Attorney. Sincerely, Marilyn Wexler, President SMCCA cc (via email): Sharon Browning, Co-President, PPTFH Sharon Kilbride, Co-President, PPTFH

April 25, 2021

Hon. David O. Carter, U.S. District Judge
Michele Martinez, Special Master
U.S. District Court, Central District of California

Via email Re: Alliance for Human Rights, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.; Case No. LA CV 20-02291-DOC-(KESx)

Dear Judge Carter and Special Master Martinez:

Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association (SMCCA) has been a vital community organization and voice of the historic Santa Monica Canyon since 1946. Santa Monica Canyon is literally connected to Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB), and is a hillside community within the City of Los Angeles.

SMCCA has been following the proceedings in the Alliance case with interest. We greatly appreciate the preliminary injunction ruling of April 20, 2021 (the April 20th ruling), and we agree in particular with your Honor's statements decrying the loss of public spaces such as beaches and parks as a result of appalling conditions that have forced homeless individuals into these spaces.

SMCCA has, in conjunction with the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), worked with a dedicated group of community volunteers who make up the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH), an independent non-profit organization originally formed several years ago by PPCC and funded with generous community donations. Working with LAPD beach patrol officers, including Officer Rusty Redican, and with outreach workers from The People Concern, PPTFH volunteers compassionately engage on a daily basis with homeless individuals on and near WRSB, providing offers of housing and services and helping to reduce crime, unsanitary conditions and risks to public safety.

Since 2016, the PPTFH has worked tirelessly to diminish this threat, has engaged with over 1200 homeless individuals in our area, successfully transitioned 141 homeless off of our streets, and helped relocate 90 into permanent housing.

Will Rogers State Beach, Santa Monica Canyon, and all of Pacific Palisades, are located entirely within the LAFD-designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Risk of fire due to dangerous homeless activities on the beach and in nearby bluffs and canyons, covered by wild coastal chapparal, have been a constant threat. No less than 3 significant fires started by homeless encampments have been extinguished by LAFD.

After years of dedication to the homeless in our immediate area of WRSB and the surrounding bluffs and canyons we were very troubled to learn that the City of Los Angeles has submitted a Sheltering Plan in the most recent Quarterly MOU Report that includes the WRSB and Dockweiler Beach parking lots (the Beach Parking Lots) -- owned by the State of California and

operated by Los Angeles County -- among locations for homeless housing proposed by and for City Council District 11 (CD 11)¹

We are equally concerned that in a motion now pending in Los Angeles City Council, CD 11 Councilmember Mike Bonin has unilaterally, with no community input, proposed that the City study the Beach Parking Lots for possible use for homeless housing.

SMCCA has written letters to our elected officials, including the City Attorney, opposing these proposals and requesting that the City withdraw the Beach Parking Lots from consideration in any ongoing settlement negotiations and from the Sheltering Plan for CD 11 proposed in the Alliance case. See SMCCA letter attached.

As explained in the SMCCA position letter, we agree that housing and services for the homeless are urgently needed in Los Angeles. However, the proposal to use the Beach Parking Lots would have the opposite effect of what your Honor seeks to accomplish, as expressed in the April 20th ruling. These Lots are regularly used by countless citizens of Los Angeles and the wider region in order to access the public beaches. The briefest of examinations of the conditions at Venice Beach show that turning the heavily-used WRSB Parking Lots into homeless housing would render these vital public beaches; unsanitary, inaccessible, dangerous and cause immediate fire risk to the surrounding communities.

Should settlement negotiations or other proceedings in the Alliance case continue, notwithstanding the appeals of the April 20th ruling, we respectfully request that you both exercise your influence and/or authority, as appropriate, to exclude the Beach Parking Lots from any final settlement or order mandating locations for homeless housing in Los Angeles.

Thank you, your Honor and Special Master Martinez, for your consideration and attention to this important matter, and most importantly, for your dedication to finding an effective solution to the immense and growing homeless crisis in Los Angeles.

We have not received a response from Councilmember Bonin, nor have we have received a response from the City Attorney.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Wexler, President SMCCA

cc (via email): Sharon Browning, Co-President,
PPTFH Sharon Kilbride, Co-President, PPTFH

¹ It is unclear how the City would be authorized to contribute non-City owned property to a possible settlement of the Alliance case. We have learned that the term sheet for a possible settlement (obtained by the LA Times) indicates that the City would be required to contribute City-owned property. We do not know whether State or County officials have approved or would approve of this use of the State-owned/County-operated Beach Parking Lots. Moreover, the Lots are subject to the Coastal Act; Coastal Commission permission would be required but is unlikely, given the Commission's core mandate to preserve and protect public access to the beaches. Pacific Palisades Community Council April 24, 2021

Communication from Public

Name: Lori Emerson

Date Submitted: 05/10/2021 03:45 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: "I OPPOSE the proposal to allow encampments on Beaches & Parks. Our PUBLIC Beaches & Parks were not intended for encampments. This will increase crime, decrease child safety & increase pollution in our public spaces & ocean. 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, etc. Encampments should be allowed in the many underutilized City owned properties." Tourism will stop. Any promotion of tourism is literally inviting prey to a community overloaded with crime, and NO POLICING to stop it. It is irresponsible to put children and anyone in this amount of danger. And lawsuits from injury or death will follow. You are creating HUGE liability for the city, county and state. You are depleting property values, and not promoting public safety, as you have sworn to do.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/10/2021 09:49 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Voting no! On this one

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 12:46 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not build homeless villages on beaches, parks, and near residential areas throughout Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 07:10 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Protect our beaches. This will only serve to increase homelessness in LA County. Vote no.

Communication from Public

Name: TB

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 08:09 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: The homeless problem in the city is out of control. San Vicente Bl and all the parks and streets in the city need to be cleaned up. The city needs to set up encampments away from residential and retail areas. Venice is disgusting, there are tents and wood structures built on the streets in parking spaces. RV's cannot be allowed to park all over the city. I am opposed to moving the homeless to beach parking lots or anywhere near homes. The beach is already an unsafe place at night. This move would be unfair to people who live in beach communities and our citizens who would like to enjoy our beautiful beaches and coastline. Our Mayor and Council members need to do their job. The homeless need resources to help get them off the streets. They need drug rehabilitation and we need to open facilities to house and treat them.

Communication from Public

Name: HFC

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 09:40 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: COMMENT FOR CITY COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING ON 05/12/2021 ITEM #21-0350
Hello, I am the mother of two elementary school children. My family has lived in the Westchester area for over a decade, and we are regular users of Westchester Park. My kids love the playground. They are also avid readers, so they were very happy to finally borrow some new books from the Westchester Library (located at the park) when it reopened last week. And before the pandemic, I participated in the weekly knitting club at the library on Monday afternoons. I am writing to express my strong support in FAVOR of a feasibility study for a “Safe Camping” program in Westchester Park. As a regular user of the park, I want the city to investigate ALL possible options for tackling issues of homelessness. I think it is an especially good idea because a Safe Camping program may offer a quick and cost-effective method for regaining order and safety in the park. I hope the City Council will also support exploring this idea so we can make the park a great location for everyone in our community. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2021 09:56 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Angelinos are sick and tired of the condition of our city streets and sidewalks. There is trash and debris everywhere and our city has become a campground. This is unacceptable. And now, Bonin wants to hand over our beaches as well. As taxpayers we have had enough! We need to be able to enjoy our beaches and parks without fearing for our safety. This is not the solution to the homeless situation. Our leadership has failed despite all the funds they have available to them. Development of beaches is strictly regulated but homeless encampments are ok? You are only asking for more homeless people to come to our neighborhoods and decline services that are already out there. Taxpayers have to follow rules while those in the streets are barbecuing, taking up lanes of traffic, littering, and rendering sidewalks unusable. Teenage girls are being harassed by homeless men and the police cannot do anything unless an actual assault occurs. This is ridiculous. Has all common sense gone out the window? Our beaches should not be used in this manner. This motion should not be approved.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy Krank

Date Submitted: 05/12/2021 10:01 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Because of my love for City Parks, and especially Griffith Park, I request the Committee take action to recommend corrections to the Mayor's proposed budget: 1. Save the four critical staff positions within City Planning in order to complete the Wildlife Pilot Study and implement upcoming measure to retain wildlife connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation. 2. Grant hiring authority for 140 Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff positions.

Communication from Public

Name: Karin Espinosa

Date Submitted: 05/23/2021 03:23 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I adamantly oppose the motion to turn our crowded and much needed parking lots along the beach (Pacific Palisades, Marina Del Rey, Venice etc) into homeless encampments. I am a Clinical Social Worker and this decision goes against basic Social Work 101. It is imperative that people in need be housed immediately nearby necessary resources. Housing the homeless miles away from basic services is incomprehensible.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/23/2021 05:16 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Office of the City Clerk: My wife and I are residents living in the Castellammare area of Pacific Palisades. We and our neighbors are absolutely in shock over the possibility of our beaches and attached parking lots in this area being turned into encampment sites for the homeless. This is a very thoughtless and reckless decision and I assure you will result in complete chaos in an area already over-concentrated population of homeless people living freely in our town. Our nearby hills are already unsafe as it is with transients hiking up our hills and displaying some pretty aberant behavior as well as being an area of great risk of fires. Please do not let Councilman Mike Bonin get his way with this reckless idea. We, the residents (who are paying enormous property taxes already) of Castellammare will suffer huge losses in our security and property values. Dumping the homeless into the most sought after tourist area of Los Angeles will backfire in every conceivable way. We urge you to come up with another solution to the homeless situation. Thank you very much. Sincerely, Glenn Dicterow 17711 Revello Dr. Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Communication from Public

Name: Tricia
Date Submitted: 05/23/2021 06:15 PM
Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am a business owner in the Palisades and I am constantly cleaning up trash, feces, harassed by homeless. It's unsafe for homeless to be at the beach with kids. Not even police can do anything to them. They are lawless cockroaches. I am so disgusted with our politicians how corrupt they are. Where is all the prop HHH MONEY????? These homeless are filthy, mentally ill, criminals, and drug addicts living on the beach. Disgusting idea to put them in my neighborhood. Clean up the trash by the freeways, Put them in mental facilities, drug facilities, not on the beach. DID YOU NOT SEE THE FIRES????? ARE YOU ALL BLIND TO THE DESTRUCTION THESE HOMELESS CAUSE!!!! Beaches where people go to unwind and enjoy is not a place for homeless. I certainly do not want to live near another. Venice beach rat hole. All because Bonin and his empty promises and lies! Disgusted with politicians! I SAY NO AND WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING. LAW ABIDING CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE A SAY WHAT HAPPENS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD... there are 14,000 sites to look at. NOT THE BEACHES for Gods sake listen to the people for once.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/23/2021 07:57 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: We, as longtime residents of Pacific Palisades, are against file number 21-0350 CD 11 HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to evaluating site feasibility and identifying funding for potential projects at various locations in order to continue to try different interventions to address homelessness, most notably, Will Rogers State Beach. We are for helping to find a solution—we even have our a community Homelessness Task Force to help with the homeless in our area and neighboring hillsides—but the current proposal, instead of solving a problem simply creates another one as the beach is a public place for the ENTIRE city, not just for residents who live near it or panhandling by it, particularly as Angelinos as a whole are coming up for air as we crawl our way out of a global pandemic, the crowds will be getting even larger as temperatures rise. It's a place for summer camps, families, the general public, and, most recently, the LAFD to fight the fire in the Palisades/Topanga hills, a succession of fires that, as I'm sure you are well aware, forced a hard close of Topanga Canyon Blvd, the evacuation of two zones in the Topanga community and an evacuation warning in the Highlands area—all ahead of fire season, no less. By proposing the Will Rogers beach to be used to house the homeless community (even an organized, professionally-run situation) thoroughly negates the overwhelming majority of the Los Angeles community that utilize these areas year-round. Yes, they theoretically can still go to the beach, bike path, etc...many will not because the area will no longer feel safe or clean or a place of escape. Again, we are all for working together to come up with a logical, humanitarian and long-term solution to help these struggling, often mentally ill, contingent of our population. They need help—and have for years. That said, Will Rogers beach is not the solution. We're already dealing with homeless wandering our neighborhoods, people living in cars and RVs along PCH, dumping their waste and trash, and grilling iin open-fire bbqs on the mountain-side below Sunset Mesa, never mind the naked young woman strolling along the roadside from RV to RV between Coastline and Topanga Canyon Blvd. The last time I saw her, I didn't even bother to call it in, because, why. You all are aware of her existence, and yet, there she, literally stopping traffic as she strolls

on the shoulder of a state highway with a long line of illegally parked cars and RVS, collectively compromising the safety and cleanliness of our community. Please, please, come up with something better.