

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Wexler MD

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

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: A big NO to proposal to ruin our beach recreational areas with a homeless encampment . For the amount of \$ spent to house and maintain 154 units already built you could have given hundreds of homeless the cash directly to get them off the streets . The Venice beech example should be enough to see a failure of this proposal in action.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Devkar
Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 08:37 AM
Council File No: 21-0350
Comments for Public Posting: We oppose turning the public beaches into homeless housing areas.

Communication from Public

Name: Ted

Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 08:39 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I know we have a terrible homeless issue that continues to spiral out of control but putting an encampment on one of the most beautiful properties in all of Los Angeles, used by thousands of people each year, will not solve the issue. Please stop this motion now and let's find a real solution that solves the core of the problem.

Communication from Public

Name: Melanie Goldberger
Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 08:39 AM
Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I acknowledge the severity and urgency of the homeless problem in Los Angeles. However there are also millions more low income and middles class families barely holding on. These families are working two jobs, often at or below minimum wage and they do not have the funds to take “vacations”, nor have boats in the harbors to avoid heatwaves, nor have many places to spend valuable, low cost time together — where do they go? To our public beaches and state parks. I am extremely concerned by this idea of of Mr Bonin’s which may exacerbate the issues of low income families already on the edge or in crisis but not yet homeless. I cannot see the rationale of turning already PACKED lots at the beach — be it Will Rogers, Dockweiler or the other beaches mentioned in Mr Bonin’s Motion #21-035 — into shelters. These and other beaches that are used DAILY by families with young children cannot safely accommodate a site for "safe camping" and "tiny homes” much less share public access & facilities with the many homeless who are mentally ill, often have drug paraphernalia and are often abusive to strangers. And, has anyone also considered, that for example, Will Rogers is the evacuation site for Eastern Malibu and the Palisades in the event of wildfires? I am in disbelief that anyone thinks this is a good idea. I acknowledge that we must work hard to find solutions for the homeless epidemic but I feel this solution is a recipe for disaster, not only for public safety of our lower income families but also traffic safety concerns but also for the safety of ALL the public, particularly children. Thank you for listening.”

Communication from Public

Name: Cindy

Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 08:39 AM

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 could be allowed in the many underutilized City owned properties.

Communication from Public

Name: Doug
Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 08:39 AM
Council File No: 21-0350
Comments for Public Posting: I am objecting to adding and further allowing homeless in prime properties in our community.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 09:05 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: This is the worst idea yet. We need to support our homeless population with mental illness facilities and drug rehab facilities, not house them at our beaches and parks where our children and most of our tourists want to visit!

Communication from Public

Name: Venice resident
Date Submitted: 05/13/2021 09:09 AM
Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: In 2018 Mike Bonin rejected the idea of homeless housing at Dockweiler beach and similar sites: "We're not trying to have them go away, we're trying to get them housed and integrate them into society and the parking lots at Dockweiler Beach have nothing around them. No other people. Putting housing where other people are not is not what makes it work. Housing need to be where housing is. People need to have access to a store, to a church, to public transportation." That quote is from his Bridge Housing Town Hall, you can search for it on his facebook page and go to 1:40:30 in the video. Here is the link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=575039996277542&ref=watch_permalink Why is the Councilman proposing locations he already stated would not work? Getting people into organized safe camping and tiny homes is smart, but these specific locations are not and the Councilman has already opposed them. As a resident of Venice I have lost confidence in the Councilman's effectiveness in dealing with the homeless crisis. He has shown a consistent record of mismanaging homeless housing and not providing the proper support in order to make the sites work for both the unhoused in the facility and the surrounding neighborhood. Take Bridge Housing: The public did not believe Councilman Bonin's promise that he would maintain the area around Bridge Housing and keep it from becoming a magnet for encampments and the public safety and health problems that sadly spring from encampments. As soon as the site opened (before covid) the public's fears quickly proved true. The extra LAPD unit dedicated to the bridge housing area was cut and there was a large amount of crime both inside and outside of the facility. This site is one of the top 911 call generators in the area. There are nightly occurrences. The Councilman did not provide the promised security to make it safe for people living in the facility or the people outside who were often subject to crimes committed by bridge housing residents. Few people move on to permanent housing but many are kicked out for fights, assaults etc and then wind up on the streets surrounding the facility. Once covid started the Councilman said CDC guidelines prohibited him from keeping to his commitments about having tents go down during the day around Bridge Housing and on the Venice boardwalk. He claimed there was no other choice. But in promoting this motion the Councilman sent around an article from the LA Times about Santa Rosa starting up safe camping at the beginning of Covid <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-04-08/santa-rosa-neighborhood-went-from-fighting-to-embracing-tent-city-for-homeless> Instead of suspending rules which led to a massive influx of tents and RVs (which unfortunately led to a huge increase in crime and fires) he could have instituted safe camping and safe parking. He did not do that and the crime and fire stats show the consequence. LAPD's Captain Embrich stated on a recent call that having people living in this density is going to lead to conflicts with many arsons caused by disputes, gangs moving into the tent camps and taking over, drug dealers finding safe haven in a sea of tents that no longer have regulation. He explained that they arrest people and have to let them go right away because of covid restrictions. We didn't need to be in this situation as Councilman Bonin points to in the article about Santa Rosa. But now that he has lost the public's confidence, no one believes that he can build homeless housing without it being a magnet for public safety hazards. Councilman Bonin's lack of effectiveness in handling homeless housing also extends to the temporary housing given to the camps moved from Rose/Penmar. 75 people were given motel vouchers and told they had to leave before the area next to the Penmar golf course was fenced off for "tree trimming." That fence has remained up for months. That housing was short lived. The County Supervisor's office told me that is because there was no long term planning put in place to match people with housing. It was done haphazardly, the back end was not set up properly, they didn't even know what to do about feeding people. There were many security incidents and many people were kicked out resulting in them returning to the streets. Some moved into Roomkey but many are now back on the streets. According to the County Supervisor they have no way of knowing how many are still in housing because the program didn't keep track of people. The idea was not fully thought through, in their words: "The way that this one was done was not as effective as it could have been." That is Councilman Bonin's track record. "Not as effective as it could have been." The idea of safe camping and safe parking is great but the sites and the person in charge are what make me oppose this motion.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/14/2021 07:15 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Having homeless encampments or sectioned off space at public parks and beaches is not ok, and if westside real estate is so expensive (which is it), then other parts of the city need be used. I wish I could live blocks from the beach, but I can't afford it so I live in Mar Vista. Just because people want to live on the westside doesn't mean they get to. That is something you have to earn.

Communication from Public

Name: John L

Date Submitted: 05/15/2021 10:48 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: The proposal to move the massive amounts of homeless to Westchester Park, Marina Del Rey, Dockweiler Beach and Pacific Palisades sounds irrational and not a very compelling solution to address the homeless problem. These areas are in areas with high real estate as well as family friendly locations where children play. Turning these locations into what is now Venice Beach will only increase and spread the issue. I have cycled through the homeless encampments on the Venice Beach front multiple times and cannot even remember how many times people have been doing illegal activities such as using hard illegal drugs, robbing people, cussing at people passing by etc. One time I smelled the most putrid scent in my life while cycling and almost threw up. A near by homeless man then started yelling and cussing at me. Another time a person brandished a knife at me. I have also have contracted fleas while passing by and am suffering from numerous flea bites over my body that is very cumbersome. One of the bites has been infected and turned into a bacterial rash that I now need to see a doctor for. This motion will not solve anything. I recently purchased property in one of the areas and am concerned about depreciating real estate after spending so much money. I can already foresee a possible scenario where residents will leave and move else where and the council members failing again to control the problem and then enforcing the relocation yet again to great neighborhoods only to be destroyed again. This solution will only displace hard working people who have earned the ability to live in these areas. Parks and beaches should be a place where families and people can come without having to worry about crime and disease. Stop destroying our beautiful neighborhoods, beaches and parks by just moving the homeless around. Would the lawmakers and politicians like it if this were knocking on their front doors?