

Communication from Public

Name: Steve Rivera

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Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Councilmembers, I am writing in reference to the consistently worsening situation of parked RVs and oversized vehicles, and unhoused occupants taking up significant space outside of Westside Neighborhood School (WNS). WNS is a regionally and nationally accredited preschool - 8th grade school serving 580 children aged 2.5 - 14 years old. WNS students travel to the tri-campus location from 50+ zip codes across Los Angeles. Over the past years, there has been an increasing influx of RVs in our campus surroundings, which pose a threat not only to WNS's day-to-day operations, but even more concerningly to the school's collective safety and environmental health. Threats include the accumulation of waste, hazardous materials, unpleasant odors, drug-use, solicitation, and disturbances. In accordance with the school's conditional use permit (CUP), enrolled families must drop students off at school by coming down Alla Road to Coral Tree Place, which is exactly where the RVs are parked. This is exposing the children to the abovementioned activities but also poses a risk to road safety as the vehicles occupy a significant portion of the street exactly where the carline forms. Individuals residing in these RVs have, at times, acted aggressively towards our students and parents as they slowly drive by in the morning and afternoon carline. With the RVs adjacent to an educational institution that is open year-round, there is an ongoing quality of life concern for both the WNS community and the occupants in the RVs, as this current situation is substandard for everyone. We also recognize that the individuals dwelling in the RVs adjacent to the school are not getting the services they need, and we want to explicitly voice our concern and support for their needs. I support the attached motion that offers a sensible solution to have the RVs in designated areas, where the occupants can access the resources and services that they need, while WNS can also provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, faculty, and staff.

Yours sincerely, Steve Rivera

TRANSPORTATION

MOTION

The 2023 point-in-time count from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority revealed that 14,096 individuals are experiencing homelessness in their vehicles in Los Angeles County, representing a 9.5% increase over 2022. Oversized vehicles, specifically recreational vehicles, are the most visible manifestation of this crisis, creating a host of challenges along the residential and commercial corridors where they park, in addition to creating severe habitability issues for the vehicle occupants.

The impacts of oversized vehicles, which are designed for recreational use, not long-term urban dwelling, are felt across our City. They include the illegal discharge of hazardous substances into storm drains and public rights of way, harming our environment; occupying parking spaces in parking scarce neighborhoods; reducing roadway space on narrow streets; impeding line of sight at intersections and driveways; and, in certain instances, contributing to crime and heightened risk of fire.

Recognizing these challenges, the City has explored ways to mitigate these impacts, going back decades. These efforts include restrictions on oversize vehicle parking during certain hours (CF 13-0793); the feasibility of creating a permitting system (14-1057-S6); exploring the approach of other cities relative to oversize vehicle parking (CF 17-0956); assessing the feasibility and cost of waste pumping services (CF 15-1138-S27); enforcing against van-lords, who prey on the vulnerability of unhoused individuals (CF 23-0529); implementing rehousing pilot programs (CF 22-1324); and, in 2023, adopting a Citywide framework to rehouse individuals who are experiencing homelessness in their RVs (CF 22-1313).

In spite of these steps, numerous obstacles have been encountered: space management challenges at Official Police Garages, which provide contractual services for vehicle towing and storage across our City; a zoning code that restricts where salvaged vehicles can be stored; lack of safe parking lots with water and power connections and proper turn radiuses; and a sense among oversized vehicle dwellers that they don't consider themselves to be homeless.

The urgency of this crisis, in addition to the profound neighborhood impacts, demands immediate action. While the City may lack parking lots of its own where RVs can safely park and access services, the City should leverage every public asset within its jurisdiction, leaving no stone unturned. This includes our public rights of way, where a program, with proper restrictions, could provide centralized locations for RVs to park and access services.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the City Attorney, Department of Transportation, LA Sanitation and Environment, Department of City Planning and other relevant departments, to report back with recommendations for a citywide program that would restrict oversize vehicle dwelling in residential areas, commercial corridors and other sensitive uses, while designating streets where oversize vehicle dwellings can park with access to services, including housing

AUG 29 2023

navigation, portable restroom facilities, automotive repair and septic tank waste disposal. Departments should report back on the feasibility of the following:

- Locations in each Council District where oversized vehicle dwellings can park on the public right of way, outside of residential areas, commercial corridors and other sensitive uses
- A permit requirement, free of charge, to participate in the program
- Provision of shower and restroom services, similar to the City's Mobile Pit Stop/Shower Stop program
- Regular sanitation services, including waste disposal and trash collection
- Provision of wrap-around services and safety
- Changes to the Los Angeles Municipal Code that may be required to create said program

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park
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SECONDED BY: Paul Kiekovich

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ORIGINAL