

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Over the last 5 years I have watched the encampments grow from a few marginalized people to a society of addicts and criminals. I am alerted multiple times a day via the Citizen app of shootings, stabbings and other criminal activities. I no longer allow my children to bike in this neighborhood alone. It's common right now to have homeless and drug addicts blocking sidewalks, defecating on lawns, confronting residents in aggressive ways and leaving piles of garbage on residents' property. It has become a regular thing for me to dial 9-11 or 3-11 to get assistance with aggressive homeless or refuse issues and rarely is it addressed in a timely or sufficient way. Everyone is understaffed and incapable of addressing every issue. As a result we the residents are left to our own devices to manage and clean up. There isn't nearly the support for residents as is needed and the level of frustration grows by the day. The encampment on 11357 Venice Boulevard and Intersection of Venice Boulevard & McLaughlin Avenue is a constant issue as people there gain access to the LA wash (which is closed to public access with "No Trespassing" signs") and use it to move with impunity at all hours and create chaos. Weekly there will be an incident (like the one on Dec 2) where one of the members of the encampment gained access to the LA wash between Venice Boulevard and Charnock on the east side of the wash. He was loud and disruptive, yelling profanity, kicking in fences and throwing things into the wash. Several neighbors dial 911 and the police responded and asked him to leave. The police did advise us to keep handling it the way we are. They encouraged diligent neighborhood watches, dialing 911 becomes when he becomes disruptive, and filing complaints when he does damage. We need a better solution than "continue to police your community" - it's unrealistic and negligent of the city to expect it's residents to fend for themselves.