



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER/PLAYA

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HOMELESSNESS AND VEHICULAR LIVING COMMITTEE

The mission of the NCWP Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and Vehicular Living is to make policy recommendations to and advise the NCWP board regarding people who are living in vehicles and those who are otherwise homeless in Westchester, Playa del Rey and Playa Vista. The activities include interfacing with other neighborhood councils, government agencies, non-profit organizations and stakeholders, as well as conducting reviews of the current relevant research.

This committee was formed early in 2009 in response to the growing concerns by adjacent neighborhoods regarding homeless individuals living in vehicles on city streets. Another equally important goal is to address the increasing tragedy of homeless individuals and families in our neighborhood. The committee members are Stephen Bentley, Nora Maclellan, Booker Pearson and Rev. J. D. Webster. The committee welcomes all comments which can be sent to inquiries@ncwpdr.org.

The Venice Neighborhood Council has taken a lead role in addressing those who live in vehicles on their streets. These are primarily chronically homeless adults who are resistant to services offered by local non-profits and government agencies. However, many Westchester/Playa residents have expressed

concern with their recommendations to relocate those individuals to parking lots in other parts of the city. Of the 21 suggested locations, only 2 were in Venice.

Even though other neighborhoods are focused on the chronically homeless individual adults, recent studies show that families with minor children make up the fastest growing segment of our homeless population.

According to the 2007 homeless count, over 10,000 children are homeless on any given night in L.A. County with 8,000 of those living in places "unfit for human habitation." In the last six months, those numbers have exploded. In 2008 – 2009 the Culver City Winter Shelter, which services the homeless in Westchester/Playa, provided for 43 families with children as opposed to zero in the prior year. The other winter shelters in L A County experienced similar results. By contrast, the numbers of individuals increased by less than 5%. All other west side agencies that serve the homeless are seeing similar increases in families with children.

The cost of not stabilizing these children is too great in both human and economic terms. Homeless children have twice the rate of emotional disturbances and repeating a grade, four times the rate of becoming



incarcerated and requiring emergency hospitalization. 12% of homeless children are placed in foster care versus 1% of other children. They are also twice as likely to go hungry.

As reported by the L A Times in May, our county supervisors are now debating the high costs associated with addressing the chronically homeless adults. This is especially timely due to the dramatic increase in family homelessness and the fact that local non-profit organizations can and do move homeless families with children into permanent housing at a small fraction of the cost of stabilizing the chronically homeless, service resistant adult population.

NCWP LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa has redesigned its website, making it more user-friendly and enabling local residents to access a wide variety of information. The site – www.ncwpdr.org – also includes an overview of what Neighborhood Councils are and how they operate.

In the "About Us" section, visitors can see how board members are elected and even review the organization's by-laws. This section includes an area map, a list of current board members and downloadable .pdf files of various Neighborhood Council newsletters. This is also the location for those interested in reviewing the organization's minutes, agendas and other supporting documents.

The new site includes a "Calendar" section where Neighborhood Council committee meetings and other events are posted, including times, locations and other pertinent data. The website's Committees section provides a complete rundown of all the Neighborhood Council's committees as well as agendas for their upcoming meetings. Be sure to check here before each board meeting to find out what issues the Neighborhood Council board or its various committees will be discussing at their upcoming meetings.

In addition, the newly designed site includes a Community Links section where local residents can find out more information about local city services, ranging from Los Angeles Police Department contacts and information from the city's Bureau of Street Services to information about local parks and contact information for Councilman Bill Rosendahl's Office.

This area also provides information on signing up to receive regular email from both the Westchester/Playa and Westchester Neighborhood Association's Community List Servers and Message Boards. Both of these message boards are filled with local residents debating the issues of the day, providing up-to-the-minute information about crime in the area and notifying fellow residents about important events in our community.

"We are hopeful that this newly designed website will enable local residents to more effectively access the information they need on a daily basis and communicate their needs and desires with the Neighborhood Council board," said Sibyl Buchanan, chairperson of the Neighborhood Council's Outreach Committee. "We encourage everyone to make regular visits to the site to keep up-to-date on what the Neighborhood Council is doing."

STANDING MEETING SCHEDULE

Airport Relations: 4th Thursday at 6 p.m.
LAX Soundproofing Office, 8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

Board Meeting: 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.

Budget & Finance: As Needed at 5:30 p.m.
Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.

Bylaws: As Needed
Visit www.ncwpdr.org for location

Communications: As Needed
Loyola Village Library, 7714 Manchester Blvd.

Education: 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.

Elections: As Needed
Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.

Governmental Affairs/City Services: 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
8740 La Tijera Blvd.

Membership/Marketing: As Needed
Playa Vista Library, 6400 Playa Vista Dr.

Planning and Land Use: 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Playa Vista Library, 6400 Playa Vista Dr.

Public Safety: 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.
8740 La Tijera Blvd.

Lincoln Streetscape: As Needed
Visit www.ncwpdr.org for location

Sepulveda Streetscape: 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Westchester Community Room, 7166 Manchester Blvd.