

Title: Westchester Park Investigation of Designated Area	Item No. _____
Meeting date: March 2, 2021	
Agendized by: Naomi Waka, Chair, Community Services Committee	
Contact person: Naomi Waka, Chair, Community Services Committee	
Committee Vote (if appropriate): Unanimous	
Does this item have a fiscal impact on the Neighborhood Council? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Additional documents attached? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

RECOMMENDATION: That NCWP requests the City, Dept. of Rec and Parks, and County investigate the feasibility of creating a specific and defined area within Westchester Park for our unsheltered neighbors and vehicular dwellers to reside (a Safe Camping Zone) with centralized services to include suspending enforcement of LA Municipal Code (LAMC) 63.44 in the designated area and to include enforcement of Municipal Code 63.44 in non-designated areas of the park.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: Since the pandemic, the NCWP board has repeatedly and increasingly heard stakeholder concerns regarding the condition of Westchester Park. At the same time, we recognize and empathize with the plight of our unsheltered neighbors and vehicular dwellers residing in the park.

The Westchester Recreation Center and trailers were utilized to provide safe shelter to the unhoused during COVID. The program began and ended, without clear or transparent communication to the community, increasing frustration.

The golf course re-opened for recreational use; yet, the park remains unavailable to residents to use safely due to trash and other items littered throughout the park as well as the tents scattered throughout the park. Our youth have suffered during Safer at Home, isolating and learning remotely, impacting them academically, developmentally, and psycho-socially.

To better serve our unsheltered neighbors evaluate the feasibility of a designated area with centralized services (Safe Camping Zone) adjacent to the Safe Parking LA program

FISCAL ANALYSIS: More fiscally efficient model with centralized services

ATTACHMENTS: Letter to Councilman Mike Bonin

MOTION:

That the Neighborhood Council of Westchester / Playa approve letter to Councilman Mike Bonin requesting the City, County, and Dept. of Rec and Parks investigate the feasibility of creating a specific and defined area (Safe Camping Zone) within Westchester Park for our unsheltered neighbors and vehicular dwellers to reside with centralized services to include suspending enforcement of LAMC 63.44 in the designated area and to include enforcement of LAMC 63.44 in the park outside the designated areas.