



Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa

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PROPOSED Motion by NCWP on April 29, 2021

Council File 21- 0350 (Bonin) - NCWP Motion to Oppose Unless Amended

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa has long supported the Safe Parking Model since its inception in Westchester. The Neighborhood Council also supported the project's subsequent expansion in 2020 to 25 cars, with the caveat that the city provide enforcement of no overnight parking in surrounding parking lots. While the program has helped some people, the city's continued lack of enforcement of its own parking restrictions in this location and its on-going lack of enforcement of a wide array of restrictions, ordinances and laws related to homeless encampments has led to a significant lack of confidence that the proposed expansion of these encampments will be safe for those living in them as well as the general public. Furthermore, the City Council motion proposed by Councilman Bonin disenfranchises children, families and seniors who should be able to safely use our parks and beaches. Not only that, but the blatant lack of resources and social services to accompany the proposed encampment areas means that those who are unhoused will be unsafe as well with no clear path to getting off the streets, even if they desire to find permanent housing.

Whereas, the Motion proposes a homeless Safe Camping site located in Del Rey on private property, which is supported by the Del Rey Neighborhood Council, thus the NCWP defers to the local council on this issue, and;

Whereas, the use of shared, public recreational spaces are a benefit and resource for the entire community of Los Angeles, and, California beaches, in particular, hold a unique and valued place in the hearts and minds of residents and visitors from throughout the world, and the California Coastal Commission is clear the public should have unfettered access to utilize every portion of these recreational properties, and;

Whereas, California beaches are environmentally sensitive locations and the sites quoted by Councilman Bonin in Redondo Beach and Santa Cruz are not located on beaches but in commercial areas near "big box" stores, and;

Whereas, for the 3rd year in a row, the Los Angeles Department of Public Health reports [the #1 cause of death for people experiencing homelessness is drug overdose](#), and the [Los Angeles Times reports 67%](#) of those living in street encampments suffer from mental illness, substance abuse and other disabilities but there is no mandate to accept housing when offered, and;

Whereas, the City Council has refused to review other options, including the [Industrial Zoning Element of the City Strategic Plan, last reviewed in 2008](#), to create opportunities for the City, County, LAHSA or others to build or Master Lease scalable facilities for high volume housing

connected to extended substance abuse and mental health programs, especially given most industrial areas are now served by new mass transit lines, and;

Whereas, the community of Venice has experienced an existentially negative shift in the quality of life in their community due to the explosive growth of homeless encampments, which have driven up violent crime, arson, and drug related offenses, and present extreme public health and sanitation issues, all of which may be, at minimum, partially attributed to a series of unrealized assurances from CD11 regarding safety, enforcement and cleanliness, and which have caused a substantially degraded public beach area, leading to the Venice Neighborhood Council vote of no confidence in current CD11 homelessness policies as of September, 2020, and;

Whereas, the NCWP supports the [Pacific Palisades Community Council Straw Poll Motion](#).

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

The NCWP Opposes Council File 21-0350 unless amended to:

1. Remove all public recreational space from the Motion, including deed restricted City parks;
2. Instruct the CAO to include a study of the City's Industrial Element and industrial zoned areas for alternative locations *and* include the results of Councilmember De Leon ([Council File 21-0063](#)) study of municipal property in the final recommendation report for this Motion;
3. Request U.S. District Judge David O. Carter to direct that any homeless shelter opened in CD11 be restricted to homeless persons who were registered in the Coordinated Entry System as living within CD11 during the 2019 Annual Homeless Count.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Gerez
President

CC:

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