

Title: City and County Cooperation Motion	Item No. 2.1
Meeting date: 10.25.2021	
Agendized by: Ad-Hoc Encampment (Homeless) Committee	
Contact person: Paula Gerez	Phone number:
Committee Vote (if appropriate): Yes – 5	
Does this item have a fiscal impact on the Neighborhood Council? NO	
Additional documents attached? YES	

RECOMMENDATION:

City and County work together in good faith.

BACKGROUND:

Historically the City and they County have not always worked together. other. The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa would like to urge We are stronger and better together than when we are alone.

DISCUSSION:

What if the City and the County came together to leverage the considerable resources available to some of the most powerful government entities in the nation, including help from the Los Angeles County Sheriff, to address this growing concern that impacts us all? Both the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles need to come together to leverage the considerable resources available to some of the most powerful government entities in the nation, including help from the Los Angeles County Sheriff, to address this growing concern that impacts us all. All our communities would be stronger and better, working together.

The committee discussed the proposed motion and voted unanimously in favor to send to the NCWP Board.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

None known

ATTACHMENTS:

MOTION in support of working with current City and County employee.

MOTION:

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa to approve letter to Councilmember Mike Bonin asking to use any and every current employee within the City and County of Los Angeles to address the encampment situations in Westchester Park, in and along the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and within five-hundred (500’) feet from schools, and restore residents’ well-being, safety and quality of life, and secure better accommodations, mental health treatment and life opportunities for the homeless.

November 2, 2021

Hon. Mike Bonin Councilmember, 11th District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilman Bonin,

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa are fortunate to be elected by the stakeholders to be an advocate for our communities. We are very concerned about the homeless encampment situations in Westchester Park, in and along the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and all of the current homeless encampment situations within five-hundred (500') feet from schools and parks. The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa would like to urge both the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles to come together to leverage the considerable resources available to some of the most powerful government entities in the nation, including help from the Los Angeles County Sheriff, to address this growing concern that impacts us all. We are stronger and better together than when we are alone.

The homeless situation at Westchester Park is concerning and alarming when it comes to resident and homeless population well-being and safety. Parks are crucial urban landmarks that help create a balance between the built environment and nature, and they are not designed for any type of housing or encampment. It is the responsibility of park visitors, both residents and passersby, to keep them clean and use them with dignity and in a manner that is respectful to all members of the public.

The homeless population deserves better care and accommodation, including mental health and well-being support, and residents like ourselves equally deserve safe neighborhood parks. When our stakeholders must often drive 7+ miles to take our children to parks in other areas to avoid security concerns. This is not good for our stakeholders nor to the wider Los Angeles community and Los Angeles environment as we are having to use the car and contribute to traffic and pollution because we can't walk to our neighborhood park.

It seems that some have forgotten why Neighborhood Councils were created.

Neighborhood Councils are the closest form of government to the people. They are advisory bodies that advocate for their communities with City Hall on important issues like development, public safety, and emergency preparedness. Neighborhood Councils are part of the Los Angeles City government and have annual budgets funded by taxpayer dollars. Neighborhood Council board members are City officials who are elected by the members of their local communities, but they donate their time as volunteers. The Neighborhood Council system, which has grown to 99 Neighborhood Councils since it was established in 1999, was created to ensure that the City government remains responsive to the different needs and lifestyles of Los Angeles' rich variety of communities.

I want to reenforce this, the Neighborhood Council system was established in 1999 as a way of ensuring that the City government remains responsive to the different needs and lifestyles of Los Angeles' rich variety of communities.

We ask Councilman Mike Bonin, to use any and every current employee within the City and County of Los Angeles to address the encampment situations in Westchester Park, in and along the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and within five-hundred (500') feet from schools, and restore residents' well-being, safety and quality of life, and secure better accommodations, mental health treatment and life opportunities for the homeless. We ask this as compassionate elected stakeholder for the whole community and authorize the President to take the appropriate action to promote this position.

Respectfully,

Paula Gerez
President

cc:

Mayor, Eric Garcetti
Councilmember, Gil Cedillo
Councilmember, Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, David R. Ryu
Councilmember, Paul Koretz
Councilmember, Nury Martinez
Councilmember, Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember, Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember, Curren D. Price, Jr.
Councilmember, Herb J Wesson, Jr.
Councilmember, John Lee
Councilmember, Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, Jose Huizar
Councilmember, Joe Buscaino
Supervisor, Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Kathryn Barger
Chief of Police, Michel Moore
Sheriff, Alex Villanueva
City Controller, Ron Galperin
City Attorney, Mike Feuer
Senator, Benjamin Allen
Assemblymember, Autumn R. Burke
U.S. Representative, Maxine Waters
U.S. Representative, Karen Bass
U.S. Senator, Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator, Alex Padilla
Field Deputy Council District 11, Abby Austin,
Homelessness and Housing Director Council District 11, Hannah Levien