## **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER / PLAYA**

Working together to improve our communities!

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."

CWP~ Plato





## NCWP Asks Bonin to Step Up City's Homeless Efforts

While the Neighborhood Council lauded Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin for his recently approved Encampment to Home initiative, board members at their November 2 meeting approved a letter urging him to accept help from all corners of the city and beyond to deal with the homeless crisis.

"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," read the letter approved unanimously by the board, adding that the NCWP urges the Councilman to, "restore residents' wellbeing, safety and quality of life, and secure better accommodations, mental health treatment and life opportunities for the homeless."

Last week, the Los Angeles City
Council approved \$1.1 million for an
Encampment to Home program to house
the homeless living in Westchester Park.
The funds will help pay for hotel rooms
for those who have been living in the
park that features a popular children's

play area, tennis courts, a swimming pool and Bonin's district headquarters.

There are about 70 people still living in tents and an additional 10 in cars, according to Haley Fuselier, senior director of Greater Los Angeles Programs for PATH (People Assisting The Homeless), the non-profit tasked with outreach at the park.

Bonin's office said it will soon release a timeline for clearing the park and enforcing anti-camping ordinances.

The NCWP board said it appreciates the latest move, though some were skeptical things at the park would change fast enough, especially since the Councilman has repeatedly said he opposes any assistance from L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

The NCWP letter asked Bonin to take advantage of all available resources, "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 letter read.

## Fire Department Plans for Evacuation Drill, Seeks Volunteers

Planning has already begun for a full-scale evacuation drill the Los Angeles City Fire Department is planning for 2022 in the communities of Westchester and Playa del Rey.

LAFD Battalion Chief Linda Cessor told the board of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa that the drill will simulate a massive evacuation event as the result of a community emergency, earthquake, tsunami, etc., and will be designed to help emergency responders test communications

and strategies. In addition, the drill will enable members of the community understand how best to deal with such a situation.

Cessor said her department is currently seeking community volunteers to "evacuate" during the drill as well as those who will play the role of residents who shelter in place during the emergency event. Residents who may be interested in volunteering should contact Cessor at linda.cessor@lacity.org.



Next Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Monthly Board Meeting:

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 7, 2021

via Zoom





