May 25, 2022

Councilmember Mike Bonin

7166 W. Manchester Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90045

Email: councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners:

Email: RAP.SeniorCitizens@lacity.org

RE: Parking lot for Westchester Senior Center

Dear Councilmember Bonin & RAP Commissioner(s) for Westchester Senior Center:

The senior community has been severely impacted by the pandemic and inflation, and is quickly becoming one of the larger demographics in our homeless population. Many of these people are isolated with very little opportunity to connect with their peers. The Westchester Senior Center is an invaluable resource for social connections as well as for obtaining information about the various city and other services available to them through city employees at the center and peers.

The Westchester Playa Neighborhood Council Community Services Committee held a meeting on May 12th with a focus on our senior community, with Cristina Lovett, Recreation Coordinator for the Westchester Senior center presenting, and we heard from some seniors in our public audience during the meeting, expressing their frustration that they do not feel safe attending the Senior Center due to the vehicle encampment that still persists in the parking lot.

The Westchester Playa Neighborhood Council therefore requests that (temporary) housing be offered to those living in their vehicles in the parking lot, if it hasn’t already been offered, and have sanitation clean up the parking lot so it is clean and available for parking so that our seniors feel safe going to the Senior Center. If the vehicle dwellers do not want to accept housing, we ask that you advise them that they will need to use the designated Safe Parking lot which is to the south, and enforce the no overnight parking in that parking lot.

We understand these are sensitive matters on many levels, but there is a designated safe parking lot and the moratorium on the no overnight parking has been lifted. It is time to ensure our seniors have safe access to our only senior center serving our area.

We appreciate your review and look forward to your timely response.

Kind regards,

Westchester Playa Neighborhood Council