



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

~ Plato

Sheriff Luna Speaks About Public Safety

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester / Playa was honored to have Sheriff Robert Luna speak at the Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 24. Our area is a culmination of different jurisdictions and the meeting also included LAX PD Chief Cecil Rambo, LAPD Pacific Division Captain Michael Applegate, Councilwoman Traci Park and a large contingent of officers and deputies.

The idea behind the Sheriff's visit was to learn more about his department's role in overseeing the most populous county in the nation with almost 10,000 sworn deputies. His visit was a success!

The Sheriff spoke for almost an hour and had an engaging conversation with the Public Safety Committee as well as the general public. We learned that the Sheriff is passionate about reducing overall crime in LA County, keeping the public safe and letting the various law enforcement entities, such as the LAPD police their own area. He discussed homelessness within our area and our unique geographic footprint that includes LAX, Loyola Marymount, the beach, wetlands and our unique community.

With more than 50% of the incarcerated within the county jails being mentally ill, the Sheriff spoke about building "Care Centers" that would alleviate

the jail population and give those in need services that are not available. This would be a unique approach and possibly the first such program in the country.

Sheriff Luna is a strong advocate for making your voice heard and recommends engaging your civic leaders to let them know where you stand on issues that are important to you.

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa is passionate about being involved. Check out our mission and upcoming meetings at www.ncwpdr.org.



NCWP Moves to Protect Single-Family Neighborhoods, Address Homeless Issue on the Beach

At its September 3 meeting, the Neighborhood Council of Westchester / Playa voted to send a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to the Los Angeles City Council and authorized two letters aimed at addressing the homeless issue on our local beaches.

In issuing the CIS, the NCWP said it "supports excluding single-family zoned properties from the Citywide Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) ordinance. We are not opposed to communities taking on their fair share of density. We are opposed to random density littered throughout our mature single family neighborhoods (1) when there are other viable options; and (2) when other non-CHIP density is already mandated in the single-family zones via state law."

The statement went on to say, "Mature single-family zoned neighborhoods are decades in the making and should be protected as a viable housing alternative until such time as there is nowhere else to

build."

The CHIP ordinance includes amendments to the city's density bonus program to account for recent changes to state law, as well as two new programs intended to promote housing production along commercial corridors, high opportunity neighborhoods, and in areas in close proximity to transit.

The CHIP ordinance also includes a new affordable housing incentive program, which offers unique incentives for fully income-restricted housing projects. The program also expands the type of sites eligible for affordable housing developments to include properties zoned for public facilities and parking, as well as those owned by public agencies and religious institutions.

The NCWP also encouraged the City Council to remove the growing homeless encampments on Dockweiler State Beach and focus more attention and resources

on providing mental health services to the unhoused.

In its letter to Councilmember Traci Park, the NCWP wrote, "As a community, we are concerned the Governor's Executive Order directing state agencies and departments to address encampments on state property is being ignored here locally. In furtherance of this directive, we look forward to your prompt collaboration and assistance in providing resources to resolve encampments on state property, Dockweiler State Beach, between Culver Blvd to Imperial Highway located in your Council district, which pose a substantial risk to public health, safety, welfare and a general quality of life for all."

In a separate letter, the NCWP said it is "deeply concerned and saddened by the ongoing homeless crisis, recognizing that our County could, should and must serve the homeless better. This lack of an executive response is hurting the homeless who suffer from mental illness and

addiction. We are doing the homeless no favor by keeping them on the beaches and streets and we are doing them no favor by asking them if they would like help. We all know too well that when mental illness and/or drug addiction is in play, people are unable to make decisions that are in their own best interest."

The NCWP urged the city to prioritize mental health and drug addiction services.

"There is an urgent need for mental hospitals that offer long-term residential care of those who suffer from chronic mental illness who are not capable of caring for themselves," the letter said, adding, "The City should prioritize the provision of sober living facilities where addiction treatment can be provided, rather than focusing on harm reduction strategies such as needle distribution, which enable continued substance abuse rather than guiding individuals towards sobriety."

Next Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Board Meeting:

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 5, 2024

@ CD11 Community Room | 7166 W. Manchester Ave., in Westchester



www.ncwpdr.org

