

Communication from Public

Name: Brentwood Homeowners Association

Date Submitted: 04/22/2021 06:10 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: BHA MOTION to Oppose Council File 21-0350 April 20, 2021
BHA is strongly opposed to the use of all public beaches and parks for homeless housing. The use of shared, public recreational spaces are a benefit and resource for the entire community of Los Angeles. California beaches are a unique and valued place for residents and visitors from throughout the world. The county-owned parking lot at Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific Palisades; the county-owned parking lot #3 at Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey; and the Mar Vista Park and Westchester Park are not suitable for homeless temporary housing. The California Coastal Commission has clearly stated that “protecting public access to the coast for all and recreational opportunities is a core mandate of the Coastal Act.” That is why BHA supports the Pacific Palisades Community Council Straw Poll Motion that “opposes the use of our beaches, parks and any open space dedicated for public recreational use in the City and/or County of Los Angeles, as well as facilities attendant to such spaces, to shelter or house homeless individuals (i.e., for “tiny homes” or “safe camping”), as proposed in the motion by Councilmember Bonin (Motion), including without limitation at the following locations specified in the Motion: • the County-owned parking lot at Will Rogers State Beach, 17000-CA 1 in Pacific Palisades; • the County-owned parking lot #3 at Dockweiler Beach, 11999 Vista del Mar in Playa del Rey; • any portion of Westchester Park and/or Mar Vista Park, unless otherwise approved by clear public consensus. In addition, BHA supports the Brentwood Community Council Motion opposing Council File 21-0350 unless amended to: • Remove all public recreational space from the Motion, including deed restricted City parks; • Instruct the CAO to include the results of Councilmember Raman’s (Council File 21-0063) study of municipal property in the final recommendation report for this Motion; • 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 or who can show a connection to CD11, such as birthplace, prior school, work, or home address, or receipt of any public benefits, or relatives currently living in CD11. The BHA recognizes the severity of the homeless crisis across LA

City and County and the need for services and housing. The pandemic has worsened the situation for the homeless and requires immediate action. BHA strongly supports use of the vacant West LA Civic Center for homeless shelters given its proximity to transportation and services in a safe environment. BHA supports the expansion of Project Roomkey combined with other alternatives. The City and County need to do more to identify government-owned land that is suitable for temporary housing and longer-term construction of low-income housing. We believe there may be opportunities for buying or leasing commercial properties as more employees work from home as well as strip malls where businesses have permanently closed. Another opportunity for land purchase is along the Metro right-of-way and parking lots, some which are now being leased to car dealers for vehicle storage. The City and County must work together to simplify access to services, aligning their laws related to homelessness to be uniform for easier implementation. For example, in the City you cannot camp overnight on City streets but in the County, it is allowed. The bifurcation of responsibilities with Prop H funds under the County and Prop HHH funds under the City call for coordinated oversight and decision making under one leader. 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. These are life threatening illnesses. Would you ask someone suffering a heart attack if they wanted treatment? No. You would take the necessary steps to save their lives. The same must be done with those living on the streets with these illnesses by increasing outreach and eliminating the red tape to get services to those who need it as soon as possible. The City, County and State have failed their constituents, both housed and unhoused. Now is the time for all elected officials to review current laws covering this portion of the homeless population which have proven to be inadequate to humanely deal with this entrenched crisis and balance their medical needs and safety with that of the public. More money needs to be spent on outreach and mental health programs. Respectfully submitted, Brentwood Homeowners Association



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That is why BHA supports the Pacific Palisades Community Council Straw Poll Motion that “opposes the use of our beaches, parks and any open space dedicated for public recreational use in the City and/or County of Los Angeles, as well as facilities attendant to such spaces, to shelter or house homeless individuals (i.e., for “tiny homes” or “safe camping”), as proposed in the motion by Councilmember Bonin (Motion), including without limitation at the following locations specified in the Motion:

- the County-owned parking lot at Will Rogers State Beach, 17000-CA 1 in Pacific Palisades;
- the County-owned parking lot #3 at Dockweiler Beach, 11999 Vista del Mar in Playa del Rey;
- any portion of Westchester Park and/or Mar Vista Park, unless otherwise approved by clear public consensus.

In addition, BHA supports the Brentwood Community Council Motion opposing Council File 21-0350 unless amended to:

- Remove all public recreational space from the Motion, including deed restricted City parks;
- Instruct the CAO to include the results of Councilmember Raman’s (Council File 21-0063) study of municipal property in the final recommendation report for this Motion;
- 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 or who can show a connection to CD11, such as birthplace, prior school, work, or home address, or receipt of any public benefits, or relatives currently living in CD11.

The BHA recognizes the severity of the homeless crisis across LA City and County and the need for services and housing. The pandemic has worsened the situation for the homeless and requires immediate action.

BHA strongly supports use of the vacant West LA Civic Center for homeless shelters given its proximity to transportation and services in a safe environment. BHA supports the expansion of Project Roomkey combined with other alternatives. The City and County need to do more to identify government-owned land that is suitable for temporary housing and longer-term construction of low-income housing. We believe there may be opportunities for buying or leasing commercial properties as more employees work from home as well as strip malls where businesses have permanently closed. Another opportunity for land purchase is along the Metro right-of-way and parking lots, some which are now being leased to car dealers for vehicle storage.

The City and County must work together to simplify access to services, aligning their laws related to homelessness to be uniform for easier implementation. For example, in the City you cannot camp overnight on City streets but in the County, it is allowed. The bifurcation of responsibilities with Prop H funds under the County and Prop HHH funds under the City call for coordinated oversight and decision making under one leader.

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. These are life threatening illnesses. Would you ask someone suffering a heart attack if they wanted treatment? No. You would take the necessary steps to save their lives. The same must be done with those living on the streets with these illnesses by increasing outreach and eliminating the red tape to get services to those who need it as soon as possible.

The City, County and State have failed their constituents, both housed and unhoused. Now is the time for all elected officials to review current laws covering this portion of the homeless population which have proven to be inadequate to humanely deal with this entrenched crisis and balance their medical needs and safety with that of the public. More money needs to be spent on outreach and mental health programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Brentwood Homeowners Association

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth and James Reego

Date Submitted: 04/22/2021 04:07 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: We are COMPLETELY OPPOSED to placing homeless people on our beaches in Los Angeles. My own brother was homeless for years and I am well aware of the challenges the homeless face. But he ONLY recovered when, after a crime, he was sent to the Placer County jail and the program there worked. He was given room and board but had to work for the SPCA, pick up trash, remove graffiti and do other public services for 6 months. He got clean and is doing much better. Had we just put him on the beach, he would NEVER have gotten the help he needed. The city needs to offer the homeless simple housing near transportation, city services, minimum wage jobs and hospitals within walking distance. There are none of these at Will Rogers beach. One just has to look at Venice to see how poorly having a homeless population congregating on the beach can be. Tents are similar to small houses so the problems will be the same. Furthermore, so many of the homeless aren't even from LA. To offer beachfront property would only encourage more to come. Finally, we cannot even get the city to deal with the trash thrown on our hillside in the Palisades so how can we expect the city to take care of the trash from all these beach dwellers?

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/22/2021 04:23 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I highly oppose the use of public beaches, parks, and public recreational areas for the use of homeless encampment at any time. These areas are meant to be used by all residents and tourists to the Los Angeles area. This is violating the shared public trust. It's not safe for the homeless...no easy access to transportation, services and needs...nor the public at large. The grave homeless problem needs to be addressed thoughtfully, purposefully, and actively with social service and psychiatric experts, but this is NOT the solution for numerous reasons.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Skiba

Date Submitted: 04/22/2021 10:00 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: This is a reckless and careless act by a representative who is completely disconnected from his community. The rise of homelessness is a tragedy that should not be treated with bandaid solutions or actions, but rather be thoughtful, comprehensive, and create a safe place for all citizens whether homeless or not. By placing down trodden citizens in temporary housing along our coastal areas will create friction and tension that will likely lead to irrational behavior and actions. The beach and the parking lots associated with them are public land that our tax dollars pay for, and should not be used as a temporary housing area. Those who are in this unfortunate situation should be relocated to facilities that have clean drinking water, facilities that are clean (our beach bathrooms are not, which is another failure of our representative) and environments that will help these citizens rebound from their current situation. What is being done with those square feet that are available throughout Los Angeles and will likely go unused for years. Be smarter and actually use intelligence to solve this problem. Seek support from communities programs and citizens who are here like myself that are willing to help solve this crisis. It is time to be responsible and accountable; however, these are words that our representative doesn't understand.