

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/02/2021 08:14 AM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Absolutely NOT right to home the homeless using our prime locations. We are trying to recover from COVID and the homeless people will make it dangerous. They create fires, expose themselves, use needles, throw trash. All that goes into the ocean, sand, streets, washes. Relocate then to outskirts of the city or areas that are not close to so many people. Move them to the desert where there is room & not as likely to have access to drugs. They can create their community among themselves without causing danger. Why should we be afraid to go outside our homes which are the most expensive properties & pay highest taxes. This is not our problem but the local government. Your job is to keep our county safe, bring in tourists and a vacation destination. With that tourists and locals will go to restaurants, bars, parking & shopping. We want to support our local communities BUT Having the Homeless around only keeps people away!!! I went to a local restaurant and saw a homeless person drinking old drinks off a buss boys tray. The majority of homeless people are dangerous. Can we sue the government when a homeless person keeps people away from my business, burn my house down...that should be fair since it's your job. I don't make you do my job. Pay taxes, follow the law, take care of people who want help, keep our streets clean, help our neighbors & support our community. There is a commercial on air saying support California... why we are terrified about the homeless. They have taken over Venice beach. I'm afraid to go there & Santa Monica is just as bad. All of West LA is in crises.

Communication from Public

Name: Krista Greenberg

Date Submitted: 05/02/2021 02:29 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: As a proud resident of Mar Vista, I am strongly opposed to Council File 21-0350. Councilmember Bonin and I agree that the current crisis confronting our unhoused residents is deplorable and untenable. But where we fundamentally disagree is the belief that transforming hyper-utilized parks adjacent to homes and schools into safe camping sites is a practical or effective solution to this community crisis. Here are the facts: • Mar Vista Park—one of the proposed feasibility sites in this proposal—is home to an on-site preschool serving children as young as 3. Children's recreation leagues, camps and enrichment programs sponsored by the city of Los Angeles are held in the park throughout every season of the year. A middle/high school (grades 7-12) with 500+ students is directly across the street from Mar Vista Park and utilizes the park's recreation facilities for their physical education programs. • Mar Vista Park shares a physical border with private backyards. Multi- and single-family residences are either adjacent or directly across the street from the park. • Mar Vista has very limited public green spaces or parks, making Mar Vista Park a critical neighborhood oasis in a dense urban area. The next closest City of Los Angeles park is Stoner Park, 2.3 miles away in a separate West LA neighborhood. • A recent legal ruling emphasized the critical quality-of-life function that public parks play for all residents of Los Angeles. In his April 20, 2021 ruling in Alliance for Human Rights v. City of Los Angeles, U.S. District Judge David O. Carter wrote, "The homeless have been left no other place to turn to but our beaches, parks, libraries, and sidewalks, and it is pivotal that they no longer rely on spaces that enhance quality of life for all citizens." Bonin's proposal to explore the feasibility of public parks as safe camping sites carries significant risks to their surrounding communities, but unknown rewards to the unhoused neighbors who will still be living outdoors and without permanent housing. If it is imperative to find usable outdoor space for safe camping, then parking lots, undeveloped public land and industrial areas with proximity to transportation and services exist throughout the city. They offer potential solutions, but with markedly less risk. Parks should be the absolute last possible resort when every other feasible option has been exhausted. They are designed for public use, and their land and function is a zero sum game. If a portion of these parks

is transformed into a safe camping site, that same land—by design—cannot be used for services and programming that serve the entire community. The city’s valuable, scarce public parkland must be protected for its intended purpose—to serve thousands of neighbors, families and children that rely on this public space for community and well-being.