

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Why do we need a feasibility study if you have real life case studies all around us? Is it feasible to do what? Camp in the park? I'd say so. People have been camping in Venice Beach for years. Look how great that is going. Echo Park clean up - nearly 36 tons of trash clean from the park, including feces and other contaminants. If it were feasible to help these people get off the streets and into housing, why is the Bridge Housing in Venice such a train wreck for neighbors? If it is feasible to get them off the street, why didn't that happen in Manchester Square? Venice Beach? Everywhere you look? The only thing that appears to be feasible is to continue to deny the problem that too many homeless people face - demons of drugs and mental illness. The sanctioning of camping in the park, with the same level of services that we've seen for safe housing-which is none, is not a path to housing and getting off the streets. It's just camping in the park. A park that once boasted on wildly successful summer programs, basketball programs, tennis and swimming lessons and tons of other things to the benefit of thousands of people. But not any more. The place is shocking. And if a sanctioned camp ground is carved out, and there are rules that must be followed and curfews kept, you can count on lots of campers in the park, outside of the designated area. Why? Because you can't do anything about it. Until the city council musters up the energy to allow policing and law enforcement to return to our streets and parks, we will continue to see this problem grow. One does not need a feasibility study to see if a portion of the park can be made into a campground. The evidence is overwhelming. If you're not going to enforce the laws, you have a disaster. Please know that when the safe parking was agreed to in Westchester, it came with the assurance that nobody would be allowed to camp within a small perimeter, but it included a good chunk of the park. That never happened. And we were told that the participants in the program would be supported by LAHSA to get them into housing. That never happened. If this couldn't be done with a small group of 6 people, why does one need to study a make believe scenario? The current situation is unacceptable. It is in no way compassionate to the people who are destitute and find themselves unsheltered. It is not helping them nor is it benefiting the surrounding community. Creating a situation where that doesn't

change, and just giving them a place to camp, antique on the streets, without being bothered, and without an exit plan, is maybe worse.