

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

October 06, 2022

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager 
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
1) Comments regarding Westchester Park		Referred to General Manager
2) Comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Rides	#9054bvg-9054bvh	Referred to General Manager
3) Jennifer Massey comments regarding Veterans Gardens Nighttime Bocce Lighting and Play	#9102b	Referred to General Manager
4) Debra Huston comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aag	Referred to General Manager
5) Debra Huston comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aah	Referred to General Manager
6) Krishna Thangavelu comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aai	Referred to General Manager
7) Tim Campbell comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aaj	Referred to General Manager
8) John Murdock comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aak	Referred to General Manager
9) Pia Altavilla comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aal	Referred to General Manager
10) Tina Amin comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aam	Referred to General Manager

11) T.C. Maker comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aan	Referred to General Manager
12) Debra Huston comments regarding Westchester Park	#9136aao	Referred to General Manager
13) Debra Huston comments regarding Westchester park	#9136aap	Referred to General Manager
14) Bethy Greenwald comments regarding Oakwood Park	#9150r	Referred to General Manager
15) Laddie Williams comments regarding Oakwood Park	#9150s	Referred to General Manager
16) Andy Hill comments regarding Pacific Palisades Pickleball	#9166h	Referred to General Manager
17) Larry Corsa comments regarding Pacific Palisades Pickleball	#9166i	Referred to General Manager
18) Jennifer Massey comments regarding Pickleball	#9166j	Referred to General Manager
19) Jennifer Massey comments regarding Pickleball	#9166k	Referred to General Manager
20) Eric Drachman comments regarding Glen Alla Dog Park	#9181e	Referred to General Manager
21) Sandy Huse comments regarding Debs Park	#9191a	Referred to General Manager
22) John Baginski comments regarding Penmar, Ocean Front Walk, Westchester, and Centennial Park	#9193	Referred to General Manager
23) Kip Pardue comments regarding Venice	#9193a	Referred to General Manager
24) Athena Chenoweth on behalf of LA City Attorney letter regarding Draft Ordinance to Regulate Mobility Devices near Venice Beach	#9194	Referred to General Manager
25) Rob Drew-Barnes comments regarding Queen Anne Park	#9195	Referred to General Manager

26) Community Impact Statement from South Robertson Neighborhood Council regarding potential sale	#9196	Referred to General Manager
27) Jennifer Liebi Zelazny on behalf of Alta Loma Elementary students regarding Community School Parks	#9197	Referred to General Manager
28) Sarajane Schwartz comments as Safety Chair on behalf of Hollywoodland HOA	#9198	Referred to General Manager
29) Aaron Weisblatt comments regarding Penmar Park	#9199	Referred to General Manager
30) Jason Greenwald comments as Chair on behalf of Griffith Park Advisory Board regarding LA Zoo's Vision Plan EIR	#9200	Referred to General Manager
31) Community Impact Statement from Anastasia Mann as President on behalf of Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council regarding Runyon Canyon Park	#9201	Referred to General Manager
32) Josh Hertz as co-chair on behalf of Atwater Village Neighborhood Council comments regarding Los Angeles Zoo DEIR	#9202	Referred to General Manager
33) Patrick Fedigan comments regarding Griffith Park Drive closure	#9203	Referred to General Manager
34) Elaine Waldman comments regarding LA Times' non-endorsement of ballot measure SP	#9204	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Bonin staff confirms plan to use Westchester Parking lot for 24-hour Safe Parking, and it will be at the expense of children

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:51 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:14 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tim Campbell** < >
Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 8:58 AM
Subject: Re: Bonin staff confirms plan to use Westchester Parking lot for 24-hour Safe Parking, and it will be at the expense of children
To: Debra Huston <d >
Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>, Steven Embrich <30993@lapd.online>, Sophia Castaneda <35080@lapd.online>, Paula Gerez <

, <controller.galperin@lacity.org>

I was a public sector audit program manager for many years, and hold two professional certifications in internal auditing. My training included public ethics and waste and mismanagement. Based on the documentation provided by Ms. Huston, Mr. Bonin's plan for Westchester Park is a clear breach of public trust and quite possibly public law.

Eventually, hiding behind the smokescreen of "emergency ordinances" will have serious consequences, as it has for other cities trying to circumvent environmental and housing laws by using their emergency ordinance powers.

The City's Department of Recreation and Parks' analysis clearly shows using the park as a safe parking site is in direct opposition to its intended purpose. Using a park to provide services to a few dozen campers at the expense of denying its use to thousands of residents is a gross misuse of a public asset. In addition, if state and federal parks funds have been used for any improvements to the park, they most likely come with restrictions requiring its continued use as a park. Saying it can continue as a park with no parking facilities is neither realistic nor ethical, especially since the only other parking is on two busy arterial streets—Lincoln and Manchester.

The parking lot does not have the necessary physical facilities to support a 24-hour campsite: no sewage draining facilities, no showers, and no trash facilities capable of handling the refuse load of a campsite. These assets could be added, but at exorbitant cost, and again, in direct opposition to its intended use. As the recent City Controller's audit of homeless response points out, there are many other sites more suited for use as shelters at a much lower cost.

The lack of physical resources also brings up another issue: environmental hazards. The City has already documented several cases of RV's leaking raw sewage and other hazardous materials into the drainage system. Although some of these hazards have been mitigated after the fact, the purpose of the City's NPDES permit is to prevent illicit discharges, not to clean them up after they occur. Purposely creating a hazard is a violation of NPDES and Clean Water Act regulations.

Using Westchester—or any other park—as a 24/7 campground, when there are other more practical and safer alternatives, is wasteful, unethical, and puts the city at risk of losing funds and incurring significant financial loss. It is more a reflection of Mr. Bonin's personal agenda than what is in the community's best interests.

On Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 6:59 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners and Deputy Mayor Che Ramirez,

One of our Neighborhood Council members received confirmation from CM Bonin's office that they are actively working on getting approval for 24-hour Safe Parking in the parking lot near the ball fields and recreation pool in Westchester Park.

Our community stands in strong opposition to this plan. We have 200 letters signed (wet signatures) by community members opposing Safe Parking in the park, and the Action Network letter opposing Bonin's plans for Safe Parking in the park has been signed by many more. As of today, nearly 14,000 letters have been sent to City officials opposing this plan. <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/save-westchester-park>

In 2018, which CM Boin was trying to get a pilot program in Westchester Park for five or six vehicles in the small lot behind his field office, this "fact sheet" about Safe Parking was provided to the Neighborhood Council: <https://www.ncwpdr.org/sites/default/files/article/safe-parking-pilot-fact-sheet.pdf>

In this "fact sheet" it is represented that the Safe Parking program in that small lot would not pose a danger to children because the people using the Safe Parking would be there only at night when children are not there.

Under CM Bonin's 24-hour Safe Parking proposal, the homeless vehicle dwellers would be in the lot all day and all night. The ball fields and the recreation pool are both adjacent to this lot. Children play on the ball fields until after 9:00 p.m., and in the winter months it is dark shortly after 5:00 pm.

A 24-hour Safe Parking program poses so much danger to children that it is doubtful that parents and coaches would even let their children play on the ball fields next to this lot, that parents would let their children swim at the recreation pool, and that parents would let their children play tennis in the park or engage in any other activities there.

Picture vehicle dwellers from the Wetlands living in this parking lot, and you will get an idea as to what this could look like and the danger it could present.

In the "fact sheet" I have provided, many representations were made that turned out to be completely false. Therefore, despite CM Bonin's representations as to lack of danger to children and other members of the public, we are not persuaded in the least.

We now have about 20 vehicle dwellers in the municipal lot near the senior center and the city library and in just the last two months, we have had incidents by homeless people harassing children in the park and exposing themselves to children in the park.

Specifically, within the last two months, a homeless man walked onto a tennis court, exposed himself and urinated on the tennis court. Another homeless man walked onto a tennis court on two separate days and saying to the five-year-old girls on one court want to have sex with him, and the same thing the next day to 12-year-old girls on another court. Yet another homeless man spent an entire day at the courts, and much of the time he was lying on the sidewalk near the entrance to the courts with his bare buttocks exposed.

Just last week, homeless men accosted a CBS News Team in the municipal lot as they were trying to film a news piece. A vicious dog attacked an LAPD officer. A homeless man assaulted another homeless man with a golf club.

More homeless dwellers in the park would increase the number of incidents, despite any representations to the contrary by CM Bonin and his staff to the contrary.

We are aware that CM Bonin is looking for places to move RVs from the Wetlands because LAWA has confirmed he is asking FAA permission to move 25 RV dwellers from the Wetlands to Northside Parkway, near the Airport Police Department near the park. We can fairly assume he is looking to move Wetlands dwellers to the park.

It seems Bonin is intent on destroying the park, as it seems clear that 24-hour Safe Parking in the park would have that effect. This intent would be consistent with his motion (CF-21-0350) that would have led to further action by Bonin to rezone a portion of the park for homeless housing. We believe that "portion" would have been the ball fields. The CAO determined in a report from August 2021 (attached) that Westchester Park was not feasible for "safe sleep" because of the heavy use of the park by park users. Bonin seems unwilling to move on and find another location for his Safe Parking plans. It seems he wants to take from one group (park users, including children and seniors) and give to another group (homeless) when there are surely city parking lots that are not in or near a park that could be used for Safe Parking for people who are homeless.

If Bonin succeeds in destroying the park, he will be destroying the youth athletic opportunities of thousands of children in the "park poor" communities of Westchester and Playa Del Rey, and Inglewood. Our communities have .8 acres of park space per 1,000 people, and the standard is four acres. Our children, our seniors, and our entire community need safe park space. Here is the information for Westchester and Playa Del Rey from a 2016 LA County Park Needs Assessment:

https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_067.pdf

And here is the info for Inglewood:

https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_116.pdf

Westchester Park serves a high diverse population of children. Most children who use the park are of color, and many are from low-socioeconomic groups.

Our community respectfully asks that you deny CM Bonin's plan for any Safe Parking in the lot near the ball fields and swimming pool so our children will be safe in the park. There are other locations for Safe Parking. A central part of the LA Parks' mission is for children to be safe in parks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra Huston

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Tim C

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Bonin staff confirms plan to use Westchester Parking lot for 24-hour Safe Parking, and it will be at the expense of children

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:24 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

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Date: Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 6:59 AM
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To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>
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Thank you for your consideration.

Debra Huston

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: August 10, 2021

CAO File No. 0220-05734-0029

Council File No. 21-0350

Council Districts: 11

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **Report Back on Evaluation of Site Feasibility and Identification of Funding for Potential Homeless Interventions in Council District 11**

SUMMARY

On May 26, 2021 the City Council adopted recommendations from the Homelessness and Poverty Committee relative to a Motion (Bonin - Ridley-Thomas, C.F. 21-0350) instructing the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to evaluate site feasibility and identify funding for potential homeless interventions at various locations in Council District 11. These sites include: Will Rogers State Beach at 17000 CA-1; Dockweiler State Beach at Lot 3, 11999 Vista Del Mar; Dockweiler State Beach RV Park at 12001 Vista Del Mar; Marina del Rey at Lot 2, 13477 Fiji Way; a Culver City owned site; privately-owned land near 5000 Beethoven Avenue; Westchester Park; Mar Vista Park; Los Angeles World Airports land; and the West Los Angeles Municipal Building at 1645 Corinth Avenue.

The CAO followed its feasibility process as outlined in C.F. 20-1351 to assess the proposed sites. The CAO worked with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), the Department of General Services (GSD), and the public and private owners of the sites to determine feasibility. Based on these assessments, the majority of the sites are not feasible for homeless interventions, mainly due to infrastructure constraints. The Marina del Rey and the Dockweiler State Beach RV Park sites are still under assessment, and the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is communicating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the feasibility of using airport land for homeless interventions. Finally, the City of Culver City has decided to proceed with a homeless intervention on the site it owns in Council District 5, near the border of Council District 11. Discussions regarding partnering on this effort are ongoing.

Council District 11, like Council Districts 1, 5, 7, and 12, lacks City-owned land that can be used for homeless interventions. For these areas, we should continue to identify privately-owned sites that can be leased for homeless interventions and request that the Los Angeles Housing Department pursue properties under the Project Homekey 2 Program. Most of these districts benefited from Round 1 of Project Homekey. In Council District 11, two motels/hotels were purchased, and are now operating as interim housing.

If the sites under assessment are found to be feasible for homeless interventions, the CAO will

include recommendations for the proposed sites' use and funding in upcoming reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council note and file the report as no further action is required at this time.

DISCUSSION

The following sites were assessed and found to be infeasible for the reasons outlined below.

1. State Owned Beach Sites for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

Will Rogers State Beach and Dockweiler State Beach are owned by the State of California and managed by the County of Los Angeles. The BOE assessment determined that these sites are cost prohibitive for the following reasons:

- *Lack of Infrastructure Capacity:* The beach sites were not built for 24/7 residential use, and thus, the sewer infrastructure is not suitable for homeless housing.
- *Lack of Utility Capacity:* The power capacity would have to be increased at both beaches, and the nearest transformer is located 1,000 feet from the sites.
- *Fire Safety:* There are no fire hydrants near these two beaches, and new hydrants would need to be installed as a requirement for residential use.

2. Privately Owned Site near 5000 Beethoven Avenue for Safe Sleep

The site is a peninsula of vacant land located southeast of 5000 Beethoven Avenue and is enclosed by the I-90 Freeway, the Ballona Creek, and the Centinela Creek Channel. The BOE assessment determined this site as infeasible for the following reasons:

- *No Access to Site:* The site has no pedestrian or vehicle access.
- *Lack of Nearby Utilities:* Utilities are situated far from the site, and capacity is uncertain. The closest sewer connection is 500 feet away, the closest water source is 800 feet away, and there is no apparent source for power within 1,000 feet.
- *Expensive to Develop:* The terrain is rough and substantially contoured, which would require considerable grading and soil removal to level the site for access and placement of pallets for administrative purposes, hygiene trailers, and tent spaces.

3. City Owned Westchester and Mar Vista Parks for Safe Sleep

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) assessed the proposed sites, and recommended that these parks not be used for the following reasons:

- *Sites Are Not Underutilized:* Prior to the pandemic, both Westchester and Mar Vista Parks experienced varied and robust recreational usage. Data from both parks show that on average more than 6,000 youth participants attend and utilize the parks and facilities. The parking lots are needed for pick up and drop off for programming and aquatics. Both parks returned to normal operations on June 14, 2021, and

programming is planned through the end of the fiscal year. The RAP sites that are being used for homeless interventions are on underutilized park land.

- *Revenue Generating*: These parks generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue for RAP.

These two parks should be considered for targeted outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and services through “Encampment to Home” or similar models.

4. City Owned West LA Municipal Building for Temporary Shelter

The evaluated site at the West LA Municipal Building is an approximately 5,500 square foot vacant office space with 24 enclosed offices on the second floor of the building. The State Emergency Shelter Declaration allows the City to use non-residentially zoned properties for shelter according to alternative health and safety standards. These standards limit shelter sleeping quarters to the ground floor. This standard has also been codified in the Los Angeles Municipal Code § 91.8605.2, 2.E. The Municipal Building is zoned as public facilities, and thus, not feasible for shelter use. Even if the zoning was changed to accommodate shelter, the available space is too small to make an interim housing project viable. An interim housing facility should be a minimum of 13,000 square feet to provide up to 70 beds, administrative offices, hygiene facilities, common space, and storage, to make it financially and programmatically viable.

The following sites are still under assessment.

1. County Owned Marina del Rey Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed Marina del Rey site, located in Lot 2 at 13477 Fiji Way, is an underutilized parking lot owned by the County of Los Angeles adjacent to a boat launch and commercial buildings.

- *Utility Capacity*: BOE’s final assessment and Rough Order of Magnitude is pending a report from the County Department of Public Works on sewer, water, and power capacity.

2. State Owned Dockweiler Beach RV Park for RV Safe Parking

The proposed site at 12001 Vista Del Mar is still being assessed by BOE.

3. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Owned Site for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

LAWA has identified possible sites for homeless interventions and requested that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) review for approval. The FAA would have to agree to allow the use of airport land for homeless housing and waive the requirement that land purchased with FAA funds be leased at market rate.

Culver City Owned Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed site is a parking lot in the City of Los Angeles but owned by the City of Culver City in Council District 5, near Council District 11. Culver City is not interested in leasing the site to the City. Instead, Culver City plans to develop the site as a homeless intervention and is open to collaborating with Council Districts 5 and 11 regarding the utilization of the intervention. BOE has provided sample layouts for Tiny Home and Safe Sleep Villages.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund at this time.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City Financial Policies.

MWS:YC:AW:16220101



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: City Council has lifted the towing moratorium. We request enforcement of vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:00 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 12:20 PM
Subject: City Council has lifted the towing moratorium. We request enforcement of vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>
Cc: Beth O'Rourke <

Honorable Recreations and Parks Commissioners, General Manager Michael Shull, and Assistant General Manager Jimmy Kim:

Today the City Council passed a motion that will allow LADOT to resume towing of vehicles used as dwellings effective May 15, 2022. The matter is identified as Council File 21-0956.

I am attaching the links you and/or your legal team will need to begin the enforcement process in the lot in Westchester Park that is under the jurisdiction of the General Services Division, and also in the other two lots of the park which are under RAP jurisdiction.

The number of vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lots of that park has increased significantly in the last few months. We understand the Sheriff will be in Venice from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and we fully expect that many RVs will move to Westchester Park.

Park curfew signs are posted in all three parking lots in the park stating vehicles in violation of the park curfew will be towed pursuant to LAMC 63.44. The parking lot under General Services Division jurisdiction is heavily used by park goers. We have been informed by park rangers that towing and enforcement in lots in other parks under GSD jurisdiction is taking place despite the moratorium because LAMC 63.44 "no parking" after curfew signs are posted in the lots in those parks. (See LAMC 86.03.)

Now the City Council has acted, and we request the following:

1. Enforcement in all three parking lots of the park begin no later than May 15, 2022.

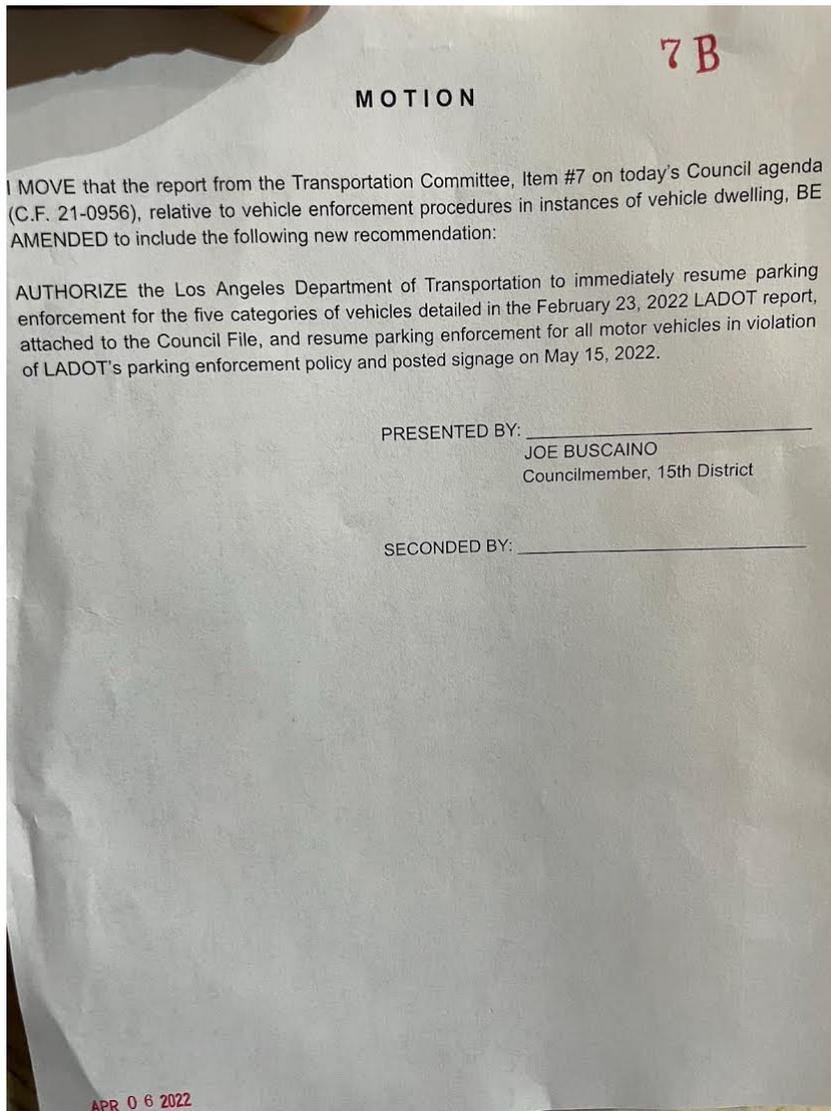
2. The installation of t-bar gates at the entrance and exit of each parking lot so the gates may be closed and locked during park curfew to ensure no vehicle dwellers park in the parking lots of the park in violation of park curfew.

Thank you for all of your work in making the park safe for seniors and youth athletes. Our community is grateful for your efforts.

Debra Huston

https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-0956_rpt_tran_3-1-22.pdf

https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-0956_rpt_DOT_02-23-22.pdf





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: City Council has lifted the towing moratorium. We request enforcement of vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:00 PM

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Date: Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 12:20 PM
Subject: City Council has lifted the towing moratorium. We request enforcement of vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>
Cc: Beth O'Rourke <

>

Honorable Recreations and Parks Commissioners, General Manager Michael Shull, and Assistant General Manager Jimmy Kim:

Today the City Council passed a motion that will allow LADOT to resume towing of vehicles used as dwellings effective May 15, 2022. The matter is identified as Council File 21-0956.

I am attaching the links you and/or your legal team will need to begin the enforcement process in the lot in Westchester Park that is under the jurisdiction of the General Services Division, and also in the other two lots of the park which are under RAP jurisdiction.

The number of vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lots of that park has increased significantly in the last few months. We understand the Sheriff will be in Venice from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and we fully expect that many RVs will move to Westchester Park.

Park curfew signs are posted in all three parking lots in the park stating vehicles in violation of the park curfew will be towed pursuant to LAMC 63.44. The parking lot under General Services Division jurisdiction is heavily used by park goers. We have been informed by park rangers that towing and enforcement in lots in other parks under GSD jurisdiction is taking place despite the moratorium because LAMC 63.44 "no parking" after curfew signs are posted in the lots in those parks. (See LAMC 86.03.)

Now the City Council has acted, and we request the following:

1. Enforcement in all three parking lots of the park begin no later than May 15, 2022.

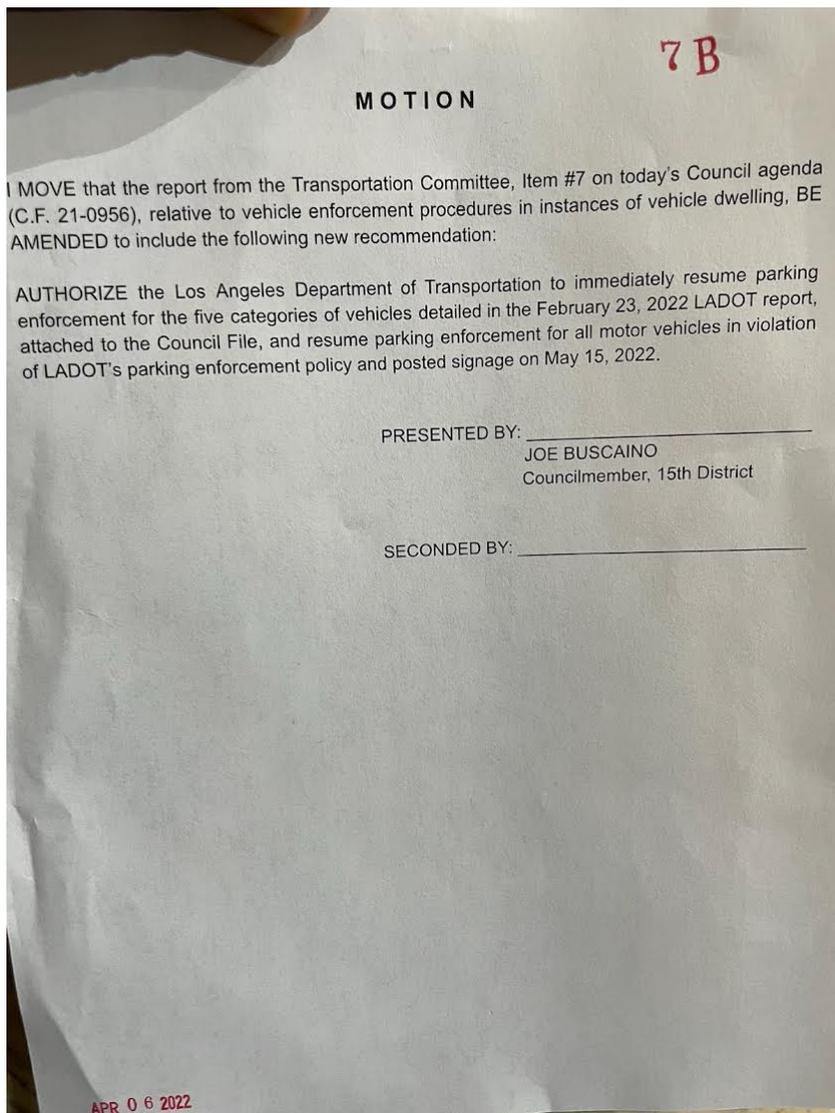
2. The installation of t-bar gates at the entrance and exit of each parking lot so the gates may be closed and locked during park curfew to ensure no vehicle dwellers park in the parking lots of the park in violation of park curfew.

Thank you for all of your work in making the park safe for seniors and youth athletes. Our community is grateful for your efforts.

Debra Huston

https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-0956_rpt_tran_3-1-22.pdf

https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-0956_rpt_DOT_02-23-22.pdf





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: We have witness accounts of people towing vehicles to the muni lot at Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:24 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

Date: Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 8:12 AM

Subject: We have witness accounts of people towing vehicles to the muni lot at Westchester Park

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear RAP Commissioners,

We have witnesses who have seen flatbed trucks with towing equipment towing trailers (fifth wheel, without motors) into the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park. We also have witness accounts of flatbed trucks hauling inoperable vans to that parking lot.

In the beginning of July, there were no more than 10 vehicle dwellings in that parking lot. Mike Bonin's office asked the vehicle dwellers to leave that lot for the day of the Fourth of July parade, because that lot is the staging area for the floats and other vehicles in the parade. The dignitaries and elected officials in the parade saw a clean lot.

The homeless vehicle dwellers informed us that they were asked to leave for the parade and they were told they could return after the parade, which they did.

After the Fourth of July, the towing of trailers and inoperable vans began, and the number of vehicle dwellers has increased from 10 to at least 24.

We believe CM Bonin will claim there is a "need" for Safe Parking in the park to justify his plans for 24-hour Safe Parking in the park.

Homeless vehicle dwellers in the lot have informed members of our coalition that CM Bonin has told them they will never have to leave that lot. One of our members actually saw CM Bonin in that parking lot talking to a homeless vehicle dweller.

Lt. Deedrick of LASD was present at our Neighborhood Council meeting on October 6, and he mentioned that many of the RVs as vans used as dwellings are basically shells. They have no engines, for example. People/organizations buy them from junk yards and tow them to locations, such as the park, and rent them to people who are homeless. We believe the vehicles being towed into the park meet this description, and that this is what is happening at the park. We also believe Bonin's office is well aware of this.

There are homeless advocacy organizations that bring food to the vehicle dwellers every day. Some of the vehicle dwellers hoard this food, which adds to the cockroach and rat problems in that lot.

We know from past experience with CM Bonin that he does set up a situation so that he can claim "we are just making official what is already happening there." This was the basis of his motion to build shelters/tiny home communities in parks and on beaches. (CF 21-0350.) Some groups, organizations, and individuals are making this happen in the muni lot, and it appears to us to be a well orchestrated set-up for a claim that "we are just making this official."

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: 100s of Westchester Park users/supporters have signed this letter to you

1 message

Debra Huston

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:58 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 9:08 PM

Subject: Re: 100s of Westchester Park users/supporters have signed this letter to you

To: Lisa GAINES <

>

Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, <tony.royster@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aquirre <brenda.aquirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>,

Honorable President and Members of the Recreation and Parks Board,

We learned today that our City Council member, Mike Bonin, has hired a security firm to provide ARMED SECURITY for his office in Westchester Park. This came as a complete shock to our community because members of our community have begged and pleaded with Mike Bonin's office for nearly two years to provide security for children and seniors who want to use the park but do not feel safe doing so. They do not feel safe because of physical attacks, harassment, and incidents of indecent exposure by homeless people as they try to enjoy the park.

We know that Mike Bonin voted to defund LAPD, so to learn he has hired armed security for his office in the park strikes us as complete hypocrisy. Members of our community have asked for well over a year for security to protect children and seniors, and our requests have been ignored--hundreds of our requests for security for the kids.

It is clear Mike Bonin knows the park is unsafe, or he would not have armed security for himself and his staff and office in the park.

I walked to Mr. Bonin's office in the park from my home today because I just could not believe he would have hired armed security for himself and his staff. I knocked on the door and personally spoke with the armed guard, who told me he was there because of the homeless people.

Jamie Paige of the Westside Current did some digging and verified what I heard about Mike Bonin hiring private security for himself and his staff. She is updating her news piece to specify the security is ARMED. The information that the security was armed came from LAPD officers, and I saw it for myself when I was at the park today.

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/bonin-hires-private-security-for-westchester-office/article_9ae3074e-e210-11ec-8e08-276e0322d2f8.html?utm_source=westsidecurrent.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnews%2Fbonin-hires-private-security-for-westchester-office%2Farticle-9ae3074e-e210-11ec-8e08-276e0322d2f8.html%3Fmode%3Demail%26-dc%3D1654132622&utm_medium=auto%20alert%20email&utm_content=read%20more

I am attaching some photos I took today while I was at the park. We now have a chop shop in the parking lot outside Bonin's office (which also serves the library and the senior center). We have a homeless encampment set up in the doorway to Bonin's office in the park. The armed security has been there since January, although we did not know about it because the armed guard stays in Bonin's office, apparently. No one in our community knew about the armed security until today.

The people living in this parking lot, and especially the person living just outside the front door to Mike Bonin's office, seem to be more dangerous by the day. Our seniors and youth would like to return to this park. Please do what you can to make this happen. Our league presidents are reluctant to have their leagues play on the ball fields there because of attacks on children in the public restroom in the park. Our community needs to know this park will be safe for children, seniors, and others who want to use the park for park purposes. Our kids have not had access to the ball fields in over two years. When the renovation of the ball fields is completed later this summer, we want the park to be safe for them.

Thank you so much for being the stewards of our public parks. There's no one else for our community to turn to, so we appreciate anything you can do.

Debra Huston



The









On Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 10:16 AM Lisa GAINES <

wrote:

Attachments available until Jul 1, 2022

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

I am a 30-year resident of Westchester. My husband and I raised our three children here. Over the past few years, we have watched Westchester Park become a large homeless encampment with tent and vehicle dwellers and an LAPD crime hotspot. The park became unsafe for seniors and youth, as well as all others, because of the danger presented.

The tent encampments have been removed from the park, but we still have vehicle dwellers in the parking lots of the park, and we have a Safe Parking program that uses less than 25 of the 50 parking spots of the parking lot next to the ball fields and the recreation pool (<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaNzBiYTBjMDMtZjFhMS00OTkxLTlmZTEtYWJmNGNhZjRiNjZlhiwidCI6IjBiYWU1NDliLTUyZDgtNGEzYi1hYTE5LWQ1MDY2MmlzMDg5NyIsImMiOjZ9&pageName=ReportSection>) as is reported by LAHSA. That Safe Parking program is underutilized and has eight or fewer cars in the lot each night.

Our community and surrounding communities need these parking spaces, and they need a park that is safe for them.

Please see the hundreds of letters in the attached google drive (the file is too big for email) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jSSTLXV0AG-Hy-FzOe0qxPrC1lIWkaz0?usp=sharing> . They reflect the concern of our community, who have been waiting for over two years to be able to safely use the park.

We ask that you deny any request by our Council Office to extend or expand the Safe Parking permit, and that you help in any way you can to help clear the parking lots of homeless vehicle dwellers. Our Council Member has had two years to find other locations, and now LAX has 50 Safe Parking spots which can be used by the few who now use the Safe Parking lot in Westchester Park. Our Council Member has the staff and authority to find locations for the vehicle dwellers to park as well.

We have recently been informed by an LAPD officer that Mike Bonin has armed security at his office at the park. Therefore, we believe it is clear he recognizes the danger and seeks his own personal safety. We also ask that RAP arrange for armed security for the ball fields, the senior center, and other facilities within the park, such as the tennis courts and recreation pool for our safety, too.

Our community and surrounding communities need our park. Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Gaines



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Another incident involving homeless person at Westchester Park today/Request of Mr. Royster

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:32 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

Date: Wed, Aug 17, 2022 at 12:42 PM

Subject: Another incident involving homeless person at Westchester Park today/Request of Mr. Royster

To: <

Good afternoon,

We had another incident involving a homeless person on the tennis courts at Westchester Park this morning. A homeless man with his dog walked to the entrance of a court and would not let the tennis pro onto the court to use it. The stand-off lasted for about 15 minutes.

This follows three incidents involving homeless people at the tennis courts last month. In one incident, a homeless man wrapped in a blanket walked onto a court on which a pro was giving lessons to 12-year-old girls and started saying so all could hear, and repeatedly, that "these girls just want to f*** me." The next day he showed up again and jumped a fence onto a court on which a tennis pro was giving lessons to five-year-old girls. He spoke lewdly again. These incidents were frightening to children and tennis pros.

A week or two before that, a homeless woman walked onto the court area and grabbed a clipboard from a woman who keeps track of court assignments and yelled at the woman until a tennis pro went to the woman's rescue.

Over the past couple years, we have had hundreds of incidents in the park involving homeless people and children. These incidents have included indecent exposure, meth-infused meltdowns, racial slurs children could hear, following children, trying to engage children in conversation, poking penises through the chain link fence surrounding the tennis

courts and urinating on the courts, attacking children in the restroom, claiming that children belong to them and demanding the children be turned over to them, fires, open drug usage, and more. The danger is well documented, and it continues.

It is not safe to have homeless people living in the park, and we have nearly 30 vehicle dwellers living in the park now. Most of these vehicle dwellers use more than one parking space, and some use up to six parking spaces each. There is already an insufficient amount of parking in the park. Families cannot be expected to cross Lincoln Blvd. or Manchester Ave. to find parking. These are both very busy streets with multiple lanes. The ball fields in the park will be open on October 3 which will increase the need for parking. I am attaching photos taken this week so you can see the state of this parking lot and the number of spaces used by homeless vehicle dwellers.

We ask that the City find another location for these vehicle dwellers so users of the park can be safe and have adequate parking available for users of the park for purposes for which it was intended.

Mr. Royster, we have repeatedly asked you and your office, the General Services Division, for information as to CM Bonin's plans for the lot that is bounded by the senior center, the city library, and CM Bonin's field office. Your department has jurisdiction over that lot.

While your office has provided estimates CM Bonin obtained in January to fence that entire lot, you have provided no further information in response to our questions as to why Mr. Bonin obtained these estimates. We are aware that CM Bonin's office inquired of the CAO in March regarding funding to use that lot for "Safe Parking."

We strongly oppose this, as it is not an appropriate use for a city parking lot that is basically in a park and needed by park, senior center, and library users. That parking lot has been used by park users for 75 years.

We ask you to provide information we have requested by filing Public Records Act requests months ago. We have been excluded from this public process.

Once again, we request a meeting with you, Mr. Royster. Please provide, at your earliest convenience, times you will be available to meet in person or by Zoom.

Debra









Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Can we get the parking lot outside Bonin's office cleaned up for seniors trying to vote?

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:56 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 6:07 PM
Subject: Can we get the parking lot outside Bonin's office cleaned up for seniors trying to vote?
To: Ruben Diaz <30093@lapd.online>, Sophia Castaneda <35080@lapd.online>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Jamie Paige < >, Sue Pascoe < >, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
Cc:

Tomorrow is election day. The local area for our Westcheter and Playa Del Rey seniors to vote in person is the Senior Center at Westchester Park. We have been receiving complaints from community members that seniors do not feel safe voting there. Nearly all of the handicapped parking spots are taken by vehicles used as dwellings and the trash surrounding them. This is a terrifying situation for seniors, who could sustain a life-ending injury by tripping in that parking lot.

Can we get a crew there early in the morning to clean up the parking lot so seniors may exercise their right to vote in person?

It might also make seniors feel safe enough to vote if there were law enforcement presence. The security guard Mike Bonin has stays in Mike Bonin's office behind a locked door and provides no security at all for seniors trying to vote.

Please help us ensure these seniors are not disenfranchised.

I am attaching a photo of a senior couple who went to the park today to try to vote. This was a dangerous and terrifying situation for them, and this photo shows only a small part of the parking lot.

Thank you so much.

Debra Huston



IMG_0426.jpg
4010K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: CAO has determined parking lots at Westchester Park are not feasible for safe parking or safe camping

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:40 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Fri, Apr 29, 2022 at 6:37 AM
Subject: CAO has determined parking lots at Westchester Park are not feasible for safe parking or safe camping
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
Cc: Lisa Gaines Gaines <

Dear RAP Commissioners, Mr. Shull, Mr. Kim, Ms. Aguirre, and Ms. Young-Jimenez:

Yesterday, I had occasion to reread a report by the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Los Angeles that determines Westchester Park is infeasible for "Safe Sleep" homeless interventions requested by Mike Bonin last year because the parking lots are needed for pick up and drop off for programming and aquatics. That report is attached.

By way of background, last spring, Mike Bonin filed a motion in City Council (CF 21-0350) asking for a feasibility study by the CAO to determine if Westchester and Mar Vista Parks are feasible for tiny homes, safe camping, or safe parking for people who are homeless.

Months later, in August 2021, the CAO released his report with feasibility determinations. With respect to Westchester Park and Mar Vista Park, the CAO determined these parks are NOT feasible for the following reason:

Sites Are Not Underutilized: Prior to the pandemic, both Westchester and Mar Vista Parks experienced varied and robust recreational usage. Data from both parks show that on average more than 6,000 youth participants attend and utilize the parks and facilities. The parking lots are needed for pick up and drop off for programming and aquatics.

Despite this determination by the CAO, and despite the fact that Mr. Bonin is well aware of the CAO's determinations, Mr. Bonin seeks a renewal of the permit to extend the Safe Parking program (25 spaces) in the park. As previously discussed, this Safe Parking program is not heavily used and is not "safe parking" at all because the gates are left open all night. (See photos below.) Mr. Bonin has, within the last month, inquired of RAP about expanding the size of the Safe

Parking program in the park. Also, a Safe Parking lot of 50 spaces will be available at LAX within a month or two. (See letter from the FAA, which is attached below.)

In addition, many vehicle campers park in the parking lots of the park, in parking spaces that are not in the fenced "Safe Parking" area, and remain there 24 hours a day, with vehicles surrounded by trash, barbecues, sleeping bags, and other items. (See photos below). Mr. Bonin has resisted any enforcement of park curfews as to these vehicle dwellers.

These parking spots are needed for programming and aquatics, as stated by the CAO in his report after a study of the issue. Westchester Park is not an "underutilized" park, according to the CAO.

In accordance with the determinations by the CAO in the attached report, we ask that RAP deny any request by Mr. Bonin to extend the Safe Parking permit and expand the Safe Parking program in the park. We also ask that enforcement of park curfews commence. Our youth athletes, senior citizens, and all others need to feel safe and be safe in the park.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and for all you do to keep parks safe for all users.

Debra Huston











2 attachments

 **21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf**
139K

 **FAA M.McClardy letter to J.Erbacci regarding LAWA's Safe Parking Proposal 1-27-22.pdf**
190K



U.S Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region
Office of Airports
Los Angeles Airports District Office

777 S. Aviation Blvd., Suite 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

January 27, 2022

Justin Erbacci, CEO
Los Angeles World Airports
1 World Way
Los Angeles, California 90045-5803

Dear Mr. Erbacci:

Re: Potential LAWA Sites for Homeless

Thank you for your December 13, 2021, letter in which you detailed the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) land use plan regarding potential homeless sites on LAWA owned property. You provided specific information on two sites that LAWA feels are most feasible to implement in the near future along, with an action plan to accommodate safe parking for the homeless as requested by the City of Los Angeles. The specific request proposed by LAWA is the use of land designated for temporary airport uses for community purposes, at no cost to LAWA and on a limited basis.

In your letter, LAWA identified the following two parcels for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) consideration:

1. The eastern portion of Lot E at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is located at 5455 W. 111th Street, Los Angeles, CA.
2. The northern portion of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY), Airport FlyAway-Overflow Parking located at 7691 Gloria Ave., Los Angeles, CA.

Concerning current/future use of the proposed land uses around LAX and VNY, we understand the following from your letter:

- LAWA does not have plans to use either of the potential LAX Lot E locations for revenue-generating activities in the next five years, outside of current uses. The northernmost of the two locations (Option A), is currently not in use and generates \$0/year. The southernmost location (Option B), currently earns approximately \$5,270/month or \$63,240 per year. However, the plan is to end the use of this lot for paid parking in 2022, thereafter it will generate \$0.

- LAWA believes the community use of LAX Lot E will not impact the aeronautical use of the airport and will significantly enhance positive community relations in support of the airport. The request is supported by the fact that the property is not needed for aeronautical purposes.
- The recommended location at VNY is currently used only when overflow parking is necessary for the Van Nuys FlyAway parking garage – which is typically only needed during holiday periods. Additionally, film production companies can rent the overflow parking lot for vehicle parking/staging. It is anticipated that if the portion of the lot recommended for Safe Parking was to be used, LAWA could lose up to \$40,000 in revenue per year. There are no plans for any changes to the use of this lot within the next five years.

Finally, concerning LAWA’s action plan for the proposed Safe Parking Program, we understand the following from your letter:

- The Safe Parking Program will be administered by The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The Los Angeles City Council will be responsible for identifying funding for the Safe Parking Program and all cost associated with the program. LAWA will also coordinate with the local Council District Office on setting up the program.
- LAWA plans to enter into a contract with LAHSA, and LAWA will not have any liability or cost associated with the program. The contract will include specific provisions to ensure a safe, secure, hygienic, and well-maintained area under clearly defined hours of operation and guarantee the hours of Safe Parking are strictly enforced. The initial contract term will be one year with the option to extend, and LAWA will have the ability to terminate the contract for any reason within 30-days.
- The Safe Parking Program participants must be enrolled in a full case management program with the goal to provide assistance in finding stable housing. All vehicles under the Safe Parking Program must be working properly and fully registered. No daytime parking will be allowed, and all vehicles must vacate by a set time each morning.
- LAHSA Safe Parking sites prohibit the use of tents, camping equipment, and any type of cooking equipment, and the sites will be staffed at all times of operation with onsite security.

FAA concurs with the temporary use of the two sites proposed by LAWA with the following conditions:

- a. LAWA affords the FAA the ability to review any contract it proposes with an outside party for purposes of implementing the proposed Safe Parking Program before signing the contract(s). FAA’s review of the contract will be limited to ensuring consistency with LAWA’s grant assurances.

- b. LAWA ensures that LAHSA and any Safe Parking Program participants are made aware that the LAX location is within the 65 DNL and the VNY location is less than 2,000 feet from the runway and adjacent to the historically sensitive noise-sensitive area and that these areas are incompatible for residential use. FAA suggests that LAWA consider having the participants sign a disclaimer ensuring that they understand that the land is incompatible for residential uses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark A. McClardy
Director, Airports Division
Office of Airports, Western-Pacific Region

cc: Cathryn Cason, Manager, Los Angeles Airport District Office

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: August 10, 2021

CAO File No. 0220-05734-0029

Council File No. 21-0350

Council Districts: 11

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **Report Back on Evaluation of Site Feasibility and Identification of Funding for Potential Homeless Interventions in Council District 11**

SUMMARY

On May 26, 2021 the City Council adopted recommendations from the Homelessness and Poverty Committee relative to a Motion (Bonin - Ridley-Thomas, C.F. 21-0350) instructing the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to evaluate site feasibility and identify funding for potential homeless interventions at various locations in Council District 11. These sites include: Will Rogers State Beach at 17000 CA-1; Dockweiler State Beach at Lot 3, 11999 Vista Del Mar; Dockweiler State Beach RV Park at 12001 Vista Del Mar; Marina del Rey at Lot 2, 13477 Fiji Way; a Culver City owned site; privately-owned land near 5000 Beethoven Avenue; Westchester Park; Mar Vista Park; Los Angeles World Airports land; and the West Los Angeles Municipal Building at 1645 Corinth Avenue.

The CAO followed its feasibility process as outlined in C.F. 20-1351 to assess the proposed sites. The CAO worked with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), the Department of General Services (GSD), and the public and private owners of the sites to determine feasibility. Based on these assessments, the majority of the sites are not feasible for homeless interventions, mainly due to infrastructure constraints. The Marina del Rey and the Dockweiler State Beach RV Park sites are still under assessment, and the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is communicating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the feasibility of using airport land for homeless interventions. Finally, the City of Culver City has decided to proceed with a homeless intervention on the site it owns in Council District 5, near the border of Council District 11. Discussions regarding partnering on this effort are ongoing.

Council District 11, like Council Districts 1, 5, 7, and 12, lacks City-owned land that can be used for homeless interventions. For these areas, we should continue to identify privately-owned sites that can be leased for homeless interventions and request that the Los Angeles Housing Department pursue properties under the Project Homekey 2 Program. Most of these districts benefited from Round 1 of Project Homekey. In Council District 11, two motels/hotels were purchased, and are now operating as interim housing.

If the sites under assessment are found to be feasible for homeless interventions, the CAO will

include recommendations for the proposed sites' use and funding in upcoming reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council note and file the report as no further action is required at this time.

DISCUSSION

The following sites were assessed and found to be infeasible for the reasons outlined below.

1. State Owned Beach Sites for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

Will Rogers State Beach and Dockweiler State Beach are owned by the State of California and managed by the County of Los Angeles. The BOE assessment determined that these sites are cost prohibitive for the following reasons:

- *Lack of Infrastructure Capacity:* The beach sites were not built for 24/7 residential use, and thus, the sewer infrastructure is not suitable for homeless housing.
- *Lack of Utility Capacity:* The power capacity would have to be increased at both beaches, and the nearest transformer is located 1,000 feet from the sites.
- *Fire Safety:* There are no fire hydrants near these two beaches, and new hydrants would need to be installed as a requirement for residential use.

2. Privately Owned Site near 5000 Beethoven Avenue for Safe Sleep

The site is a peninsula of vacant land located southeast of 5000 Beethoven Avenue and is enclosed by the I-90 Freeway, the Ballona Creek, and the Centinela Creek Channel. The BOE assessment determined this site as infeasible for the following reasons:

- *No Access to Site:* The site has no pedestrian or vehicle access.
- *Lack of Nearby Utilities:* Utilities are situated far from the site, and capacity is uncertain. The closest sewer connection is 500 feet away, the closest water source is 800 feet away, and there is no apparent source for power within 1,000 feet.
- *Expensive to Develop:* The terrain is rough and substantially contoured, which would require considerable grading and soil removal to level the site for access and placement of pallets for administrative purposes, hygiene trailers, and tent spaces.

3. City Owned Westchester and Mar Vista Parks for Safe Sleep

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) assessed the proposed sites, and recommended that these parks not be used for the following reasons:

- *Sites Are Not Underutilized:* Prior to the pandemic, both Westchester and Mar Vista Parks experienced varied and robust recreational usage. Data from both parks show that on average more than 6,000 youth participants attend and utilize the parks and facilities. The parking lots are needed for pick up and drop off for programming and aquatics. Both parks returned to normal operations on June 14, 2021, and

programming is planned through the end of the fiscal year. The RAP sites that are being used for homeless interventions are on underutilized park land.

- *Revenue Generating*: These parks generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue for RAP.

These two parks should be considered for targeted outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and services through “Encampment to Home” or similar models.

4. City Owned West LA Municipal Building for Temporary Shelter

The evaluated site at the West LA Municipal Building is an approximately 5,500 square foot vacant office space with 24 enclosed offices on the second floor of the building. The State Emergency Shelter Declaration allows the City to use non-residentially zoned properties for shelter according to alternative health and safety standards. These standards limit shelter sleeping quarters to the ground floor. This standard has also been codified in the Los Angeles Municipal Code § 91.8605.2, 2.E. The Municipal Building is zoned as public facilities, and thus, not feasible for shelter use. Even if the zoning was changed to accommodate shelter, the available space is too small to make an interim housing project viable. An interim housing facility should be a minimum of 13,000 square feet to provide up to 70 beds, administrative offices, hygiene facilities, common space, and storage, to make it financially and programmatically viable.

The following sites are still under assessment.

1. County Owned Marina del Rey Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed Marina del Rey site, located in Lot 2 at 13477 Fiji Way, is an underutilized parking lot owned by the County of Los Angeles adjacent to a boat launch and commercial buildings.

- *Utility Capacity*: BOE’s final assessment and Rough Order of Magnitude is pending a report from the County Department of Public Works on sewer, water, and power capacity.

2. State Owned Dockweiler Beach RV Park for RV Safe Parking

The proposed site at 12001 Vista Del Mar is still being assessed by BOE.

3. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Owned Site for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

LAWA has identified possible sites for homeless interventions and requested that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) review for approval. The FAA would have to agree to allow the use of airport land for homeless housing and waive the requirement that land purchased with FAA funds be leased at market rate.

Culver City Owned Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed site is a parking lot in the City of Los Angeles but owned by the City of Culver City in Council District 5, near Council District 11. Culver City is not interested in leasing the site to the City. Instead, Culver City plans to develop the site as a homeless intervention and is open to collaborating with Council Districts 5 and 11 regarding the utilization of the intervention. BOE has provided sample layouts for Tiny Home and Safe Sleep Villages.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund at this time.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City Financial Policies.

MWS:YC:AW:16220101



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: CPRA 1054 - Re: Public Records Act request

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Date: Fri, Apr 8, 2022 at 10:08 AM
Subject: Re: CPRA 1054 - Re: Public Records Act request
To: Debra Huston < >

Good morning,

Please see the attached documents deemed responsive to your request for:

"1. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding the use of any parking lot in Westchester Park for "Safe Parking". This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

2. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding extending the existing permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park parking lots. This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

3. All emails regarding to and from RAP regarding increasing the size of the Safe Parking program in any lot in Westchester Park. This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

4. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding moving Safe Parking from the parking lot near the ballfields in Westchester Park to the parking lot that serves the senior center, library, and council office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

5. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding the use of any building or structure in Westchester Park, including but not limited to the Senior Center, the Recreation Center, and the Council office, for any homeless services or interventions, including but not limited to, use as a decompression center or the Circle Team."

We greatly appreciate your courtesy and patience in this matter. You may respond to this email if you have any further questions regarding this matter. Thank you.

On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 10:11 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:
Good morning,

The Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) is in receipt of your CPRA request sent March 30, 2022 for:

"1. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding the use of any parking lot in Westchester Park for "Safe Parking". This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

2. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding extending the existing permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park parking lots. This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

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4. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding moving Safe Parking from the parking lot near the ballfields in Westchester Park to the parking lot that serves the senior center, library, and council office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

5. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding the use of any building or structure in Westchester Park, including but not limited to the Senior Center, the Recreation Center, and the Council office, for any homeless services or interventions, including but not limited to, use as a decompression center or the Circle Team."

You can expect a response to this request on or before **April 12, 2022**. Please reply to this email if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

On Wed, Mar 30, 2022 at 5:53 AM Debra Huston <

> wrote:

I am a Westchester resident and a leader of a coalition of community members who are concerned about the safety of Westchester Park users and their access to the park and the three parking lots in the park. Therefore, I request the following information:

1. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding the use of any parking lot in Westchester Park for "Safe Parking". This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

2. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding extending the existing permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park parking lots. This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

3. All emails regarding to and from RAP regarding increasing the size of the Safe Parking program in any lot in Westchester Park. This includes, but is not limited to, the parking lot that serves the senior center, the library, and the Council Office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

4. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding moving Safe Parking from the parking lot near the ballfields in Westchester Park to the parking lot that serves the senior center, library, and council office. This also includes emails on which RAP was cc'd or bcc'd.

5. All emails to and from RAP and other information regarding the use of any building or structure in Westchester Park, including but not limited to the Senior Center, the Recreation Center, and the Council office, for any homeless services or interventions, including but not limited to, use as a decompression center or the Circle Team.

Thank you very much.

Debra Huston

8 attachments



City of Los Angeles Mail - Safe Parking at Westchester.pdf
349K

-  **Mike Bonin is seeking to move Safe Parking in Westchester Park to the parking lot that serves his field officeRedacted.pdf**
277K

-  **City of Los Angeles Mail - Fwd_ Safe parking in Westchester Park_Redacted.pdf**
410K

-  **City of Los Angeles Mail - Safe Parking at Westchester Park_Redacted.pdf**
732K

-  **City of Los Angeles Mail - Safe Parking ROE.pdf**
354K

-  **City of Los Angeles Mail - Safe Parking at Westchester.pdf**
338K

-  **City of Los Angeles Mail - Re_ IMPORTANT - ROE-Safe Parking LA-Westchester Pool_Redacted.pdf**
529K

-  **City of Los Angeles Mail - Re_ Meeting Westchester Park_Redacted.pdf**
433K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: CPRA No. 1106 - Re: Westchester Park--Misuse of City Assets/PRA Request

1 message

Debra Huston <

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:28 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Date: Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 7:32 AM

Subject: CPRA No. 1106 - Re: Westchester Park--Misuse of City Assets/PRA Request

To: Debra Huston <

>

Good Morning,

The Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) is in receipt of your information request for:

Public Records Act Request

Given the significant continuing risks of allowing the campsite to proliferate, and the absence of any documented plans to close the camp and relocate the vehicles to a more appropriate area, I am making the following public records requests:

1. *"Any and all grant or other outside funding agency documents currently in force for Westchester Park. The documents should include all restrictions to which the City stipulated;*
2. *Any and all documents or correspondence, written and/or electronic that may pertain to:*
 - A. *Notices and reports of leakage of human and other waste from vehicles in the lot and the steps taken to mitigate such leakage for the past 24 months;*
 - B. *Improper use of handicapped parking by inoperable or improperly placarded vehicles and any steps taken to remove such vehicles from those spaces.*
 - C. *Any analysis of the use of the parking lot as a campsite, including any discussion of alternative sites."*

You can expect a response to this request on or before **September 16 , 2022**. Please reply to this email if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

On Wed, Sep 7, 2022 at 11:48 AM Debra Huston <

> wrote:

Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor

City of Los Angeles

Hon. Ron Galperin, City Controller

City of Los Angeles

Hon. Mike Feuer, City Attorney

City of Los Angeles

Honorable Commissioners of the Recreation and Parks Board

City of Los Angeles

Mr. Matthew Szabo, Chief Administrative Officer

City of Los Angeles

Ms. Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst

City of Los Angeles

RE: Westchester Park/Misuse of City Assets

I am a resident of the Westchester neighborhood. As you know, there is a large and growing encampment of inoperable recreational vehicles parked full-time in the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park. The encampment is in addition to and outside of the designated Safe Parking area at the south end of the property. Many of the RV's occupy multiple parking spots and marked disabled spaces. In addition, there is a well-documented history of excessive trash in and around the encampment, as well as human waste and other hazardous materials leaking from some of the vehicles. The encampment's residents have been offered alternative housing but, for the most part, have refused. Many of the neighborhood's residents no longer

use the park's facilities because they can find no safe and clean parking spaces, or have been harassed by the encampment's dwellers. There have been several police calls to the camp, including one reporting a vicious dog that attacked an LAPD officer. A CBS News team was accosted by homeless vehicle dwellers in that parking lot.

Our Council Member, Mike Bonin, had a staff member present at our Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey last evening, and informed the NCWP Board that CM Bonin's office has received money from the County for 24-hour Safe Parking in the lot by the swimming pool and ball fields. CM Bonin's representative said this parking would be used for RVs from the Wetlands. Such a program would basically kill the park. Multiple youth athletic leagues have folded and many youth leagues will not have their children play in the park because of the danger of playing in a park where children are accosted by homeless people. Yet the lighted, multiplex ball fields are THE ONLY such fields for miles around. Children are being left out of sports, and CM Bonin's 24/7 Safe Parking plans for that lot will make matters far worse and deprive many more children of youth athletic opportunities because the lot will be open all day when children are there. The effect on the recreational pool and all other facilities in the park would be the same.

CM Bonin's plan will deprive children of neighboring communities safe access to the park. At least half of the users of this park are from inland communities who rely on this park for field space, picnic space, swimming, the skate park, the tennis courts, and cooler weather. These are our neighboring community members, many of whom are people of color and of low socio-economic means.

The City Council representatives for these nearby communities will not have the opportunity to vote on CM Bonin's plan, as I understand, because CM Bonin has obtained money (\$1 mill) from the county for his plan. Therefore, Bonin's plan bypasses City Council members whose constituents are affected and will not be able to represent their constituents in this matter that involves their constituents.

You are probably aware that the **CAO has determined the park is NOT FEASIBLE for Safe Parking because of the robust usage of the park by thousands**. (See attached memo from CAO.) Our Council Member requested this report, and he is now ignoring it and proceeding as if the feasibility study by the CAO was never conducted.

It makes absolutely no sense that RVs that are being moved from the Wetlands because of the danger they present and environmental damage they cause should be moved to a City park that is heavily used by children and seniors.

Our community has opposed this by having an Action Network letter which has resulted in nearly 18,000 letters being sent to City officials opposing CM Bonin's plans for the park. https://actionnetwork.org/letters/save-westchester-park?clear_id=true. The issue of crime and

lack of safety in the park has been covered by prime time news, as well as by news publications, dozens of times. Here are links to the most recent reports:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/westchester-residents-frustrated-with-growing-homeless-encampment/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/video/cooling-centers-open-throughout-la-county-as-record-breaking-heat-bakes-southland/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

I and other residents have contacted Council Member Bonin's office dozens, maybe hundreds, of times to request a resolution, and have been ignored.

Misuse of Public Assets

Public service officials and employees have an affirmative duty to use public assets to their best and highest use, for the greatest benefit of the community at large. Many Westchester residents, including civil service professionals and attorneys with whom we have conferred, believe the current situation at the park is a gross misuse of public assets.

Our belief is based on:

1. The encampment prevents the use of the park's amenities and facilities for their intended use, including the library, senior center and sports fields. Despite the ongoing heat wave, very few people used the senior center as a cooling center due to conditions in the camp. Allowing inoperable vehicles with no or expired disabled placards to occupy disabled parking places is a violation of ADA regulations.
2. The muni parking lot's current use as a campground is inconsistent with its intended use. It does not have the proper sanitary or services infrastructure to support full-time camping, especially when many of the vehicles pose an environmental hazard to the surrounding area. Putting the proper support facilities in place would also be inconsistent with the park's intended use and would be more costly than the alternatives offered by the City Controller's recent report on homelessness. CM Bonin's plans for the ballfields' parking lot would destroy the intended use of the ballfields and the recreational pool and other facilities in the park, even though CM Bonin has county money to invest in the park, because people would not be able to park close to those facilities and because of the danger presented by 24-hour Safe Parking, which means homeless people from the Wetlands and other locations were be present all day when children and seniors, and other community members and members of nearby communities, are using the park..
3. Regarding the municipal parking lot, using that lot as a campsite puts the City at significant risk for violations of its NPDES permit and other health regulations. The unmitigated leakage of human and other waste from stationary vehicles into nearby storm drains is a violation of the Clean Water Act. The presence of rats and other disease vectors is a public health hazard. Since the City is aware of, and has taken no mitigation action against these violations, it is at risk of fines from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other agencies.

4. If the City has received state, federal or other outside agency funding for park improvements, and that funding restricts its use to community services, its use for something other than recreational or community service purposes may be a violation of grant conditions, requiring the City to pay those amounts back to the funding agencies.

Public Records Act Request

Given the significant continuing risks of allowing the campsite to proliferate, and the absence of any documented plans to close the camp and relocate the vehicles to a more appropriate area, **I am making the following public records requests:**

1. Any and all grant or other outside funding agency documents currently in force for Westchester Park. The documents should include all restrictions to which the City stipulated;
2. Any and all documents or correspondence, written and/or electronic that may pertain to:
 - A. Notices and reports of leakage of human and other waste from vehicles in the lot and the steps taken to mitigate such leakage for the past 24 months;
 - B. Improper use of handicapped parking by inoperable or improperly placarded vehicles and any steps taken to remove such vehicles from those spaces.
 - C. Any analysis of the use of the parking lot as a campsite, including any discussion of alternative sites.

Please respond to my request as promptly as possible and please let me know if you need more information.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
[221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90012](#)

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Demand for security at Westchester Park for children and seniors

1 message

Debra Huston <

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:27 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Tue, Jun 14, 2022 at 7:35 AM

Subject: Demand for security at Westchester Park for children and seniors

To: <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, Abby Austin <abby.austin@lacity.org>

Cc: Julie Ross <

Dear Council Member Bonin,

Two weeks ago, we publicly asked for security for the senior center, ball fields, tennis courts, and recreation pool at Westchester Park. We now make that request formal.

https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/bonin-hires-private-security-for-westchester-office/article_9ae3074e-e210-11ec-8e08-276e0322d2f8.html

Just yesterday, we learned the 70+ year old woman who manages the tennis court usage at the park was attacked by a homeless woman at the courts at about 7:30 in the evening. This woman uses a walker. The homeless woman apparently wanted items the court manager had in her walker, and grabbed some of them. The court manager screamed for help, and the only people nearby to provide help were members of the ladies' tennis league who were playing on a nearby court, and a female tennis coach. Just days later, the female tennis coach's car was damaged by someone who wrote swastikas and other things on the car. We know the attacker was homeless because the next morning, the court manager went to open the courts at about 7:00 a.m. and the homeless woman was sleeping on a bedroll near the courts.

Last week, on election day, many seniors were afraid to vote because of the homeless vehicle dwellers and tent campers in the parking lot outside the senior center, and the accumulated trash and bottles of urine in the parking lot surrounding

the vehicles.

The ball fields will be open soon, and the need for parking and a park that is safe and sanitary will increase exponentially. Our league presidents and coaches are concerned about having their youth players in the parking lots of the park and on the ball fields without security. They are aware of attacks on children, incidents of indecent exposure with children as victims, and harassment of children, all by homeless people in the park and within the last couple years. There are dangerous and aggressive homeless people living in the park now.

You have made the decision that homeless vehicle dwellers may not be moved from the parking lots of the park even though the moratorium has been lifted. You have also allowed homeless people to live around your field office in the park and the senior center. **While you have protection for yourself and your staff by private security funded by the City for your field office in the park, the children and the seniors do not have security. The security officer told me that security was needed "because of the homeless." The children, seniors and other park-goers need protection, too.**

We demand that a security officer be provided during all hours the park is open for each of the tennis courts, the ball fields, the senior center, and the recreation pool, beginning immediately. Members of our community have asked your office for security for the park dozens to hundreds of times, and those requests have been ignored by you and your staff. It is now clear to us that you recognize the danger because you have your own security.

Please see the attached videos shot on Election Day in Westchester Park.

Debra Huston

 **IMG_7462.mov**

 **IMG_7436.mov**
17669K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: HIGH IMPORTANCE--Staff report re: 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park is Deficient

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:20 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 6:52 AM
Subject: HIGH IMPORTANCE--Staff report re: 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park is Deficient
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc: <

Honorable RAP Commissioners:

I am preparing a letter of opposition to Mr. Bonin's request for 24-hour Safe Parking in the southernmost lot of Westchester Park.

However, I have received information that you should know now. NCWP President Paula Gerez and I spoke with Jimmy Kim, GM of RAP, yesterday afternoon. **Mr. Kim informed us that the Senior Center does not have a parking lot because the lot next to the Senior Center is a municipal lot.** He said Recreation and Parks should never have had signs there or enforced there, and that Mr. Bonin is getting different signs.

I asked Mr. Kim if he was suggesting that seniors, library goers, and other park users would not be allowed to park there. I told him park users have been using that parking lot for 70 years. Mr. Kim was very vague in his response.

As you are aware, Mr. Bonin has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot, and that fencing would cut off access to the senior center. We obtained these estimates in response to a Public Records Act request of General Services, which is the agency that has jurisdiction over that lot.

We also obtained through a PRA request an email from a staff member of Mr. Bonin's to the CAO asking for Roadmap (covid) funding for Safe Parking in that muni lot.

The estimates to fence that entire lot and the email from Mr. Bonin's staff member are attached. the estimate to fence the entire muni lot includes a map of where the fence would be.

Please know that if you approve 24-hour Safe Parking in the southernmost lot of the park, Mr. Bonin will then ask General Services and the City to put Safe Parking in the municipal lot. Mr. Kim believes Mr. Bonin will move all the vehicle dwellers from the municipal parking lot to the 24-hour Safe Parking on Park property if it is approved.

This is not possible. There are more than 20 vehicle dwellers in the Safe Parking lot, which will be for 15, if approved. Also, Mr. Kim was unaware of Mr. Bonin's plan to move vehicles and their dwellers from the Ballona Wetlands to Westchester Park. Mr. Bonin's staff member, Noah Fleishman, informed us of this plan. Apparently, Mr. Fleishman did not inform Mr. Kim of the plan.

We informed Mr. Kim during our meeting yesterday that this matter should be taking off the agenda and sent back to Recreation and Parks so the staff report can be revised to include Mr. Bonin's estimate and email to the CAO regarding the municipal lot, input from the following:

- Input from LAPD about all the crime committed by homeless people living in the park and the public safety issues presented

- Input from LAWA regarding the placement of a 24-hour Safe Parking adjacent to and within 200 feet of the First Flight Child Care Center

- input from the Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa who did not receive information about this motion until members received your agenda, and input from the community. The NCWP wrote a letter in July opposing any Safe Parking in the park and giving the reasons why, and that letter was not included in the staff report

- Input from the community about their feelings regarding a possible 24-hour Safe Parking is located in Westchester Park

- Input for nearby businesses, all of whom have been very impacted and affected because of crime committed by homeless vehicle dwellers in their businesses

- Input from neighbors who live close to this proposed project

- Input from stakeholders, such as youth athletic leagues, senior center users, tennis center users, recreation pool users, library users, recreation program users

- Information from Mr. Bonin regarding his plans for the municipal lot so that a written contract between the City and RAP can be entered regarding park access to that lot, removal of the vehicles used as dwellings in that lot, the installation of t-bar gates on the entrances and exits of the lot, and a commitment to ongoing enforcement in that lot once the vehicle dwellings are removed. This contract between the City and RAP should be entered BEFORE 24-hour Safe Parking is approved

- Information from Mr. Bonin about his willingness to file resolutions under LAMC 41.18 to ban camping within 500 feet of the park, and within 1,000 feet of the 24-hour Safe Parking he proposes. Signs as to both must be posted in and around the park. This should be done BEFORE 24-hour Safe Parking is approved

The staff report includes none of the above information, which we believe is a denial of Due Process. Mr. Kim informed Ms. Gerez and me that we could give our input during general comment time. Our response was that Mr. Bonin has had a seat at the table giving input for months and the staff report recommending approval of Mr. Bonin's project reflects only Mr. Bonin's input. And Mr. Bonin has not fully informed Mr. Kim of his plans.

In addition, the staff report does not include much relevant information the RAP Commissioners should have before voting on this proposal.

Mr. Kim seems to take Mr. Bonin's promises at face value. As I am sure you are aware, Mr. Bonin makes promises to the community and others that when one of his projects is completed, it will enhance the neighborhood and there will be no homeless people living near the project. In every case, these representations turn out to be false. A prime example of this is Mr. Bonin's failure to inform the NCWP or the community that the initial pilot of Safe Parking of five spaces in the park was expanded to 25 spaces and moved to the lot next to the ballfields. The NCWP and the community was excluded from these processes.

Another example is A Bridge Home in Venice. So many promises to the community, and now the facility is surrounded by tents--many of whose occupants also have a bed in the facility ("dual residents," as they are called). Crime in the surrounding neighborhoods has nearly doubled. Residents in nearby homes won't leave their homes after dark, and some won't leave their homes at all, because of the danger. Any promise from Mr. Bonin must be in a written and enforceable contract. We advised Mr. Kim of this during our meeting.

Members of our community have filed ethics complaints against Mr. Bonin for his complete lack of transparency with our community regarding these public processes, his complete unwillingness to inform us of his plans, and his complete unwillingness to provide any of the information regarding his plans, for which we have been asking for months. These complaints are pending and have not yet been investigated.

Mr. Kim said he would speak with his General Counsel and would let Ms. Gerez and me know today if he would change his position and receive input from the NCWP, LAPD, and others listed above.

We will let you know what he decides.

Our community held a protest at the park yesterday opposing Mr. Bonin's plan to put 24-hour Safe Parking in the park, asking that the municipal lot be cleared of vehicle dwellers, and asking that Mr. Bonin use all of the City resources of his disposal find one parking lot to move these vehicle dwellers. We suggest that he consider LADOT and LASAN lots.

This event was covered by six news stations and two journalists with print publications. Most of the news channels have already run their news pieces. We will provide a list of these news pieces when compiled.

I am also attaching the CAO report determining Westchester Park is NOT feasible for Safe Sleep because of the heavy usage of that park by thousands and the need for parking.

Debra Huston

[Preview attachment IMG_7653.jpeg](#)

 Image
IMG_7653.jpeg
8.7 MB

[Preview attachment H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf](#)

 PDF
H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf
641 KB

 **CAO report 21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf**
139K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Information received from CAO regarding Safe Parking CM Bonin is requesting at Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston <

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:30 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Sun, Aug 28, 2022 at 8:23 AM

Subject: Information received from CAO regarding Safe Parking CM Bonin is requesting at Westchester Park

To: Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: Cloud, Hamilton <hamilton.cloud@mail.house.gov>, Paula Gerez <paula.ncwpr@gmail.com>

Che, Jimmy, and RAP Commissioners,

We have received information from the CAO that the mayor's office, RAP and CM Bonin's office are meeting regarding Bonin's plans for Safe Parking in two of the parking lots of Westchester Park.

Our Neighborhood Council, whose members are elected officials who represent members of our community, has not been engaged about Mr. Bonin's plans, and neither Mr. Bonin nor anyone from his office has informed the Neighborhood Council of his plans. The City Charter requires that Mr. Bonin engage with the Neighborhood Council regarding plans such as these, and he has refused to do so.

In addition, CM Bonin has not engaged community members regarding his plans, or even informed community members. We have been completely excluded from this process, yet we have a vested interest in this park.

Many from our community were at a recent RAP meeting during which the RAP Commissioners voted to extend the Safe Parking in the lot by the pool through October 2, 2022. RAP Commissioners made it clear that they would not be approving further requests for permits for Safe Parking in that lot because the ball fields will be opening after a year-long renovation on October 3, 2022, in time for the fall sports season, and the parking is needed. RAP Commissioners extended the permit until October 2 to give CM Bonin and LAHSA the opportunity to find other parking for the few people who use the Safe Parking that is now in that lot, and asked that the fence surrounding the Safe Parking lot be taken down before October 3, which will be opening day for youth sports on the ball fields.

However, we need more information from the Mayor's office. Che, our Neighborhood Council President, Paula Gerez, and I would like to meet with you to discuss. Ms. Gerez is very busy with her responsibilities at all times, so I took the liberty of contacting her by email and asking if she would be willing to meet with you. She is very interested in doing that because safety at Westchester Park is one of her top priorities. I know you and I have been in contact for a few weeks about getting information and meeting, and we need to have that meeting this week. Please give us a few times/dates this week

you can meet with us. I included Ms. Gerez on this email and I am sure she will select one of the dates/times you propose for this week.

Che, you mentioned to me when we chatted in the park a few weeks ago that the Mayor's office is looking for another location for the vehicle dwellers in the park, which we support completely. We need to know if that is still the plan, what is being considered, and what is the plan.

This is a matter of urgency for our community given all the crime and other incidents in and around the muni lot (the one over which the City has jurisdiction) involving homeless people living in the park, the one the City has jurisdiction over, very recently (CBS News team being accosted, vicious dog biting LAPD officer, man exposing himself and urinating on tennis court, man walking onto tennis court on two separate days and saying to the 5 YO girls on one court want to have sex with him, and the same thing the next day to 12 YO girls on another court, man assaulting another man with golf club).

An Action Network petition to Save Westchester Park has sent 13,500 letters to officials in just 10 days. Our community is angry, frightened, outraged, and more regarding Mr. Bonin's plans and about the fact that they have been excluded from this process.

We hope to hear from you on Monday, Che, about meeting with Ms. Gerez and me.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Man urinating on tennis court at Westchester Park, and he returns daily

1 message

Debra Huston <

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:31 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

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Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

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Date: Thu, Aug 25, 2022 at 7:00 AM

Subject: Man urinating on tennis court at Westchester Park, and he returns daily

To: <joe.iosorelli@lacity.org>, Sophia Castaneda <35080@lapd.online>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Good morning, all.

Wanted t let you know that I received a call from someone from the tennis courts telling me that on Sunday, 8/21, a man walked on to court 7 while people were playing on that court and urinated, exposing himself. He spent the entire day pacing and lurking around the tennis courts. He has returned two days since, walking on the walkway between the courts, sometimes carrying a beer. It appears he may be mentally ill because of all the pacing he does, aside from the act of urinating on the court. He has shown other forms of aggression by knocking down a sign at the courts. He has been seen walking between the courts with a can of beer.

The man was described to me as follows:

Caucasian, 5' 10" or so. All three days he was at the court he was wearing the same grey or black bermuda shorts. The first day he wore no shirt and the next two days he wore a black t-shirt. He was wearing slippers on his feet most of the time. He is in his late 20s or early 30s. Light brown straight hair that is short. Caucasian but maybe "in between" because his complexion is darker than that of most caucasians.

People using the courts are afraid of him and of what he might do. LAPD was called.

The people at the courts would feel safer if officers, rangers, or private security could be there to keep a watch for this man, as they fear he will be returning and may escalate in his behavior.

Thank you so much.

Debra



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Need more enforcement at Westchester Park now that Venice is being "cleaned up" again

1 message

Debra Huston <

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:00 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 7:13 AM

Subject: Need more enforcement at Westchester Park now that Venice is being "cleaned up" again

To: <30093@lapd.online>, Sophia Castaneda <35080@lapd.online>

Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez

Dear Captain Embrich and SLO Castaneda,

Yesterday a neighbor sent me a Citizen App alert. It said there was a guy with a gun in his waistband at the park at approximately 11:30 a.m. It also happened that there were several school buses at the park at the same time, and a gathering of children with bounce houses and balloons.

The RVs and vehicles with full-time dwellers in the parking lots of the park are scary enough, but the more of them there are, the meaner the group becomes. That is how it has worked in the past with tent campers. Right now, the number of vehicle dwellers in that lot is at an all-time high, and we expect it to increase as enforcement in Venice increases because the mean and aggressive guys on drugs do not want to be placed in housing or shelters.

We know from experience that they would rather take knives, scissors, and steel pipes to PATH, LAHSA, and SHARE! workers in the park to make them go away than to accept housing. We have also seen an increase in the number of people camping on the grass and near the senior center of the park. Here's a news piece about the increased enforcement in Venice:

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/venice-boardwalk-cleanups-set-to-increase/article_a6b75554-9a88-11ec-a772-9b4584a06d10.html

This enforcement in Venice will take place with the help of Rec and Parks, according to this news piece. When Venice is cleared, we see an increase in homeless dwellers in Westchester Park. And the ones from Venice tend to be quite mean, aggressive, and on drugs. It's a very dangerous combination. These people present a threat to users of Westchester

Park, just as they present a threat to people in Venice. The cleanups in Venice that are already underway are the likely cause of the increase in vehicle dwellers in Westchester Park.

Contributing to this problem is the fact that the Safe Parking program in the park attracts more vehicle dwellers to the parking spots outside of Safe Parking, where there are no rules, than inside the fenced Safe Parking area.

Our athletic fields in the park will be ready for use, fully renovated, this summer, and we can't have people there using parking spaces and endangering children. RAP is trying to increase the number of activities for seniors in the senior center, but that has not been successful because of the vehicle dwellers in the parking lot.

Our community is terrified of having the homeless from Venice migrate to the park. We've been through that, and it resulted in so much crime in the park, surrounding the park, and fanning out into our community. We want to avoid going through that again.

We have read that many LAPD officers will be reassigned to the Pacific Division this summer. Will LAPD please assign some of those officers to Westchester Park? Meantime, will you please send officers to the park to enforce the park curfew, both in the parking lots and in the grassy areas. Now that the City Council has lifted the moratorium, we ask that enforcement begin in the parking lots of the park. There are posted signs stating the curfew, that overnight parking is prohibited, and citing LAMC 63.44 in all parking lots of the park.

Children and seniors are at risk when they go to this park, and the more campers that show up, the more this risk will increase. There is a shortage of parks in LA, so children and seniors have very limited options for park space. We need your help. Thank you so much.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Notice to you, CM Bonin and Mr. Fleishman

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:26 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 7:07 AM
Subject: Notice to you, CM Bonin and Mr. Fleishman
To: <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <noah.fleishman@lacity.org>
Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, Alexis Wesson <alexis.wesson@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez <

Council Member Bonin and Mr. Fleishman,

During the NCWP meeting of September 6, Mr. Fleishman you discussed in detail the Council Office plans and work with LAHSA to use the entire parking lot adjacent to the ballfields and the recreation pool at Westchester Park for 24-hour Safe Parking, and you informed us that the Council Office has obtained county money to fund this. Mr. Fleishman also informed the NCWP that the plan would be to move vehicle dwellers from the Ballona Wetlands to the park, and those people will reside there all day and all night when children are using the ballfields and the recreation pool. As you know, the Ballona Wetlands is considered a crime hot spot by LAPD. Having these same people live in the park is unimaginable and dangerous, and it would destroy the park. Ballfield users and recreation pool users would also have nowhere to park. The ADA requires handicapped parking within 100 feet of public facilities.

I assume you were on the RAP Commissioners meeting in July in which the RAP Commissioners reluctantly granted your request for a 90-day extension of the Safe Parking permit for the lot by the swimming pool and the ballfields.

During that meeting, the RAP Commissioners made it very clear that LAHSA has those 90 days to find other Safe Parking arrangements for the people who use that lot because the ballfields will be opening for the winter season on October 3.

RAP Commissioners extended the permit until October 2, and said the fence surrounding the 50 parking spaces that have been used for the Safe Parking program must come down on October 2 so the people using the fields will have parking.

This Safe Parking program has been using 50 parking spaces, fenced in, for a program for 25 cars, which is the maximum number of cars that can use the program. We have information, based on personal observations by many in our community, that there are never more than six to eight cars in that parking lot. Mr. Fleishman, you represented to the NCWP that 22 cars use that parking lot every night. This is false. Perhaps LAHSA or Safe Parking LA represent this to you because they have had 22 people sign contracts for the use of the lot? Never has anyone in our coalition seen anywhere near that number of cars in the parking lot.

I have received information from the CAO that you, Mr. Bonin, are in meetings with RAP and the mayor's office regarding this program. Because of our experience last summer with you getting a permit at the last minute to extend the Safe Parking permit, we have concerns. We have obtained emails from you, Mr. Bonin, in response to PRA requests that show you began a bullying campaign with RAP, and a shaming campaign, to persuade RAP to issue another permit last summer on the eve of the expiration of the permit. By going in at the last minute, you were able to exclude our Neighborhood Council and our community from having any input whatsoever regarding your plans.

We do not want this to happen again. Therefore, while I assume you had staff members listening in on that RAP Commissioners meeting in July, I am making sure you receive notice of what happened at that meeting so you cannot claim you have been taken by surprise and your office received no notice. RAP staff made it clear in the board report for the RAP Commissioners that the recommendation was that the extension was for 90 days--and not for the full year that a permit usually entails. So I assume you are aware that the program will not be extended beyond that time.

Mr. Fleishman, please share this email with LAHSA so they can get to work informing the six to eight people who use the Safe Program in the park that they will need to begin parking at another lot on October 3. The LAHSA website contains a spreadsheet with the Safe Parking programs in the area, and there are plenty of spaces available. In addition the Safe Parking program of 50 spaces at LAX will be open soon.

Please be aware that we are also concerned that because you are obtaining money from the county for 24-hour Safe Parking, the City Council will be excluded from this process. I do not believe City Council approval would be required if you are not asking for an appropriation of money from the City. I assume you are aware of this, and that is the reason you went to the county for money. This 24-hour Safe Parking program you are working on for our park is in a park and within 500 feet of the First Flight Child Care Center. The majority of the City Council respects LAMC 41.18, which designates parks and child care centers as sensitive locations for the safety of children and others in the community. You are now trying to put 24-hour Safe Parking in a park and within 500 feet of a child care center, and move dangerous people and their vehicles from the Wetlands to that parking lot.

Prior to Mr. Fleishman's presentation at the NCWP meeting of this week, our community had no notice of your plans even though we have been asking for information for months. This plan has obviously been in the works for months, and you did not provide notice or allow anyone in our community to be part of this public process.

We have an Action Network letter that has been signed by many and has resulted in 18,000 letters being sent to public officials regarding what we could put together about your plan. Now that the Council Office has confirmed the plan, and it is worse than we could have imagined, our community is more outraged.

We were informed by Geoff Thompson, a high-ranking member of your staff, Mr. Bonin, that you do not share your plans with the community "until they are approved," because there would be community opposition if you shared your plans. It appears that is what is happening here.

Excluding the City Council and the public from your plans is not how the process should work under the law or by ethical or moral standards. The CAO determined last summer that Westchester Park is NOT FEASIBLE for Safe Sleep because it is a heavily used park that serves thousands every year. RAP has received permit requests for the ballfields from 20 organizations so far. Your plans will destroy the athletic opportunities of hundreds of children, even though parks are deemed to be "sensitive" locations under LAMC 41.18. The City Council should be included in this process, as should the public. I am attaching the CAO report.

Thank you.

Debra Huston



CAO report 21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf

139K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Park equity and usage information/Westchester Park/Request for meeting

1 message

Debra Huston

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Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:28 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

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Date: Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 6:56 AM

Subject: Park equity and usage information/Westchester Park/Request for meeting

To: Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez <

>

Che,

I still have received no information from CM Bonin's office regarding his plans for the municipal parking lot. I spoke with Paula Gerez, our Neighborhood Council President, and she has received no information from Bonin's office either.

We look forward to meeting with you in the park to discuss what Bonin has planned for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park, and what we can do to find other parking locations for the vehicle dwellers in the park. I believe I have mentioned I am in close contact with eight youth league presidents who, based on their experience in the park, do not feel safe about having their kids play in the park with homeless people living there full time, and that they need the parking spaces. I am happy to invite those league presidents to meet with us as well. The ball fields are opening October 3, and they would like to have the park safe for their kids, with sufficient parking. We have a group of seniors who are equally concerned and would like to meet with you.

As I have mentioned, Westchester Park is heavily used by people who live in Inglewood and farther east. We have hundreds of pages of Westchester Park usage records that show use of the park by Zip Code for five recent years. These records were obtained from LA City Parks and Recreation pursuant to a Public Records Act request. The use of the park by racial group is about 1/3 African-American, 1/3 Latino, and 1/3 White, according to surveys, and a large percentage of users are from Inglewood.

Here's some information I have collected about park equity and park access in Westchester and Inglewood. According to a report prepared by LA County, both Westchester and Inglewood have .8 acres of park space per 1000 people. The standard is 4 acres/1000 people. Both communities have a severe shortage of park space.

Here's the info for Westchester

https://lacityparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_067.pdf

Here's the info for Inglewood

https://lacityparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_116.pdf

"Of all major metro areas, the LA region has the least amount of accessible park space. And the problem is worse for some communities. For example, the recognized standard is 4 acres of parks for every 1,000 people. But in Los Angeles,

predominately African American neighborhoods have only 1.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 people, Latino communities have just 0.6 acres and Asian American communities just 0 .3*" <https://lacountyparkneeds.org/parkfacts/>

From these two sections of the LA County study (https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_067.pdf, https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_116.pdf) I put together this information from the chart called "AMENITY QUANTITIES AND CONDITIONS":

	Inglewood	Westchester/PDR
Tennis courts	16	8
Basketball courts	8	2
Baseball fields	5	6
Soccer fields	0	4
Multipurpose fields	1	2
Skate parks	3	1
Playgrounds	7	4
Swimming pools	2	1
Splash pads	0	0
Dog parks	0	0
Gymnasiums	3	2
Senior Center	0	1

Population of Inglewood: 109k
 Population of Westchester: 40k
 Population of PDR: 16k

So for this area of LA County and for a population of about 165k, we have a total of 10 basketball courts in parks, 11 baseball fields, 4 soccer fields, 1 senior center, 3 swimming pools, 3 gymnasiums, and 1 senior center.

And a very large percentage of those facilities are concentrated in Westchester Park. There are buses that go from Inglewood straight down Manchester to Westchester Park.

The mayor is working on achieving park equity in the City, which we support:

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2022/03/08/la-aims-to-improve-parks-with-equity-in-mind/>

"The Los Angeles City Council passed two motions Tuesday aimed at improving and expanding park space and furthering the goals outlined in Mayor Eric Garcetti's "Achieving Park Equity" executive directive.:

Here are the council file numbers for the motions by issuing executive directives, but yet we have this situation in Westchester Park, which serves both Westchester and Inglewood:

21-1467 Passive Recreation / Open Space / Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Property Conversion / Park Equity / Executive Directive No. 31 03/09/2022

21-1462 2028 Summer Olympics Venues / Recreation and Parks Facilities / Ballot Measure Consultant / Parks Condition Assessment Report / Executive Directive 31 / Achieving Park Equity / Funding 03/09/2022

We support the Mayor's efforts because park access is a public health issue:

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2005.072447>

(Contribution of Public Parks to Physical Activity)

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chronic/docs/Parks%20Report%202016-rev_051816.pdf

(Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County, A Cities and Communities Report)

As stated in the CAO report of 8/10/21, thousands of people use Westchester Park each year, the park is not underutilized, and the parking in the park is needed for park users.

Thank you so much, and I look forward to hearing from you with information about Bonin's plans and about making arrangements for you to hear from our league presidents and seniors, and also from our Neighborhood Council President.

Debra



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Permit for municipal lot at Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston

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Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:35 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

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Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 6:21 PM

Subject: Fwd: Permit for municipal lot at Westchester Park

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, John Szabo <jszabo@lapl.org>

Cc: <tony.royster@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez <

Dear RAP Commissioners and Mr. Szabo,

I am forwarding an email I just sent to Tony Royster, GM of the General Services Division of the City. Our Westchester/Playa del Rey community needs information as to whether Mike Bonin has applied for, or whether GSD has issued, a permit for any type of homeless intervention in the parking lot of Westchester Park that serves the senior center, the city library, and the council office. We began with filing PRA requests with GSD several months ago, and we have also made informal requests. We still do not know. In addition, our Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa del Rey does not know.

We do know that Mr. Bonin's office obtained estimates to fence that entire lot, and we have provided those to you. We obtained emails by PRA showing that Mr. Bonin's office was making inquiries of another city office about funding for using that lot for Safe Parking (see attachment). Last week, there were surveyors at the parking lot, and also lighting contractors doing a job walk. Within the last month, the RV/van count in the park has doubled.

This is the largest parking lot in Westchester Park, and it makes up about half the parking spaces in the entire park. This is the only parking lot that serves the senior center and the city library branch in the park. If this parking lot is not available, people with disabilities and most senior center users will not be able to use the library or the senior center, and parking in the rest of the park would be insufficient. The CAO determined in his August 10, 2021, report that Westchester Park is not feasible for a Safe Parking program.

We believe the implementation of a Safe Parking (24-hour or just at night) for RVs in that lot is imminent, and we need information as to the plans for that lot.

If there is anything you can do to help us get the information we need, we would appreciate it.

Thank you so much.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 6:04 PM
Subject: Permit for municipal lot at Westchester Park
To: <tony.royster@lacity.org>

Dear Mr. Royster,

We have been making every effort for months to find out from GSD if Mike Bonin has requested a permit for Safe Parking or any other type of homeless intervention in the municipal lot that is contiguous to the senior center, the city library, and Mr. Bonin's field office in Westchester Park.

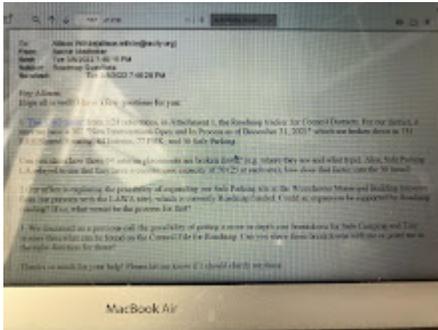
After months of trying to get this information, both by informal request and by PRA request, we still do not know if Mr. Bonin has requested such a permit, or if GSD has issued one.

We ask you to please ask your staff to provide this information to us right away, along with a copy of the request and the permit, if a permit has been issued.

Thank you so much.

Debra Huston

2 attachments



IMG_7653.jpeg
8934K

 **CAO report 21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf**
139K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Please help us get our Westchester ballfields renovated

1 message

Debra Huston <

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:06 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 8:59 AM

Subject: Please help us get our Westchester ballfields renovated

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Beth O'Rourke <

Dear RAP Commissioners,

Our youth athletes in Westchester Park are still without ballfields. The renovation of the fields began in August, and we were told the fields would be ready for permitting in October. October came and went, and little work had been done on the fields.

Then we were told the fields would be ready for permitting in January. That didn't happen. The renovation wasn't completed and fields weren't ready for permitting in January. The fields had not yet been seeded.

Then we were told the fields would be ready in March. We asked for a date of completion in March so our leagues could make plans for their seasons. We still have not received a completion date.

RAP has postponed the reseeding of Penmar ballfields, which helps the Santa Monica Youth Rugby Club. However, our other leagues who have looked into getting permits at Penmar can't get permits because Penmar is fully booked. As we have said before, there is a severe shortage of lighted multiplex fields in the City of Los Angeles. LA Rugby is playing on fields throughout LA because Westchester isn't available. LaCrosse is playing in the private Carl Neilsen fields because Westchester is not available. Pop Warner football league folded because Westchester fields are not available. Del Rey Little League took fewer kids because Westchester fields are not available. LAX youth baseball disappeared and apparently disbanded because Westchester fields are not available. And there are more stories.

Journalist Sue Pascoe of Circling the News is doing a series on the Safe Parking situation at Westchester Park, and that involves the ballfields. As Sue Pascoe points out, other parks have had their fields available for use since last spring.

Westside Current picks up Sue Pascoe news piece about equity in youth athletics

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/westchester-versus-pacific-palisades-field-permits-and-the-safe-parking-program/article_a489d7da-72d7-11ec-a63f-4bf990dbf4c2.html

-
Circling the News piece about Safe Parking and equity in youth athletics

<https://www.circlingthenews.com/westchester-versus-pacific-palisades-field-permits-and-the-safe-parking-program/>

Circling the News piece about Safe Parking and permits

<https://www.circlingthenews.com/westchester-residents-not-consulted-about-safe-parking/>

The renovation is a two-month project, and it has been going on since August. We have been given no reason for the delays, and we do not learn of the delays unless we approach RAP and follow up as many times as are necessary. We have been given no explanation as to why this renovation didn't happen when the fields were closed during the covid shutdown in late 2020 through spring 2021.

Our league leaders have been given little information as to the reasons permits weren't issued for Westchester ballfield use last spring, when other parks in the district were issuing permits for their fields. One reason given was that permits would not be issued because of Safe Parking in the parking lot closest to the ballfields.

We note that our Council Member, Mike Bonin, personally wrote emails basically demanding that the Safe Parking Right of Entry (ROE permit) be extended on a very short timetable, a matter of a couple weeks. RAP complied and put the pedal to the metal and got the permit issued on the timetable Mr. Bonin, and built a fence surrounding the Safe Parking on the same short timetable. Neither the community nor the neighborhood council were given notice of Mr. Bonin's request that the ROE be extended. We learned of this only through documents obtained in Public Records Act requests.

We need a date by which the fields at Westchester Park will be open and issuing permits. This is important to our community. Westchester Park has been the center of the Westchester community for decades. Many of our Westchester youth, and many people who are now adults, grew up playing sports on those fields. Our children will be without their fields for a year in March.

Will you please intervene on behalf of the children and youth of Westchester and ensure the fields are completed in March? If the fields are not completed by then, the spring season will be interrupted--the fifth season to be interrupted (or lost) since other parks opened their fields last spring.

Thank you very much for whatever you can do to expedite the renovation of the fields.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Please vote "no" to the request for permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park, 7/7 meeting

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:33 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Subject: Please vote "no" to the request for permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park, 7/7 meeting
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez < >

Honorable RAP Commissioners:

Last Friday, we learned from RAP that Council Member Mike Bonin requested another permit for Safe Parking in the parking lot of Westchester Park that serves the recreation pool and the four lighted multi-plex fields. This lot includes 50 spaces, and 25 spaces are fenced off for the Safe Parking program.

Our recreation pool is open, and the ballfields will be open within three months after undergoing renovation. People line up in front of the recreation pool beginning early in the morning to sign up for swim lessons. Our ballfields serve thousands of children. The park serves children from Westchester and surrounding communities, including Inglewood. The users of the park are racially mixed, split equally among Latino, African-American, and Caucasian. It is a park of equity and inclusion.

Our youth need all 50 parking spaces in this lot. There is a shortage of parking in the park in general, with a couple hundred parking spaces serving the entire park and all the amenities a recreation center park offers. Our youth and their families cannot safely park across Lincoln (Hwy 1) or Manchester (a main artery) to access the park.

I include the photos below which I took over the past several months showing that the Safe Parking program in Westchester Park is not well used. Most nights, only a fraction of the spaces are used. I took these photos because I was informed by Sonya Young-Jimenez that Safe Park LA told me that the Safe Parking program in the park was successful and well used. That was not consistent with the observations of our community members who drive by the park at all hours while driving people to the airport, etc.

I would not dispute that people are enrolled in that program and that the City is paying for their use of the program, but they are not using it. The program is inefficient and it uses the much needed parking of park users. Those 25 parking spots are fenced all day, and no one else can use them.

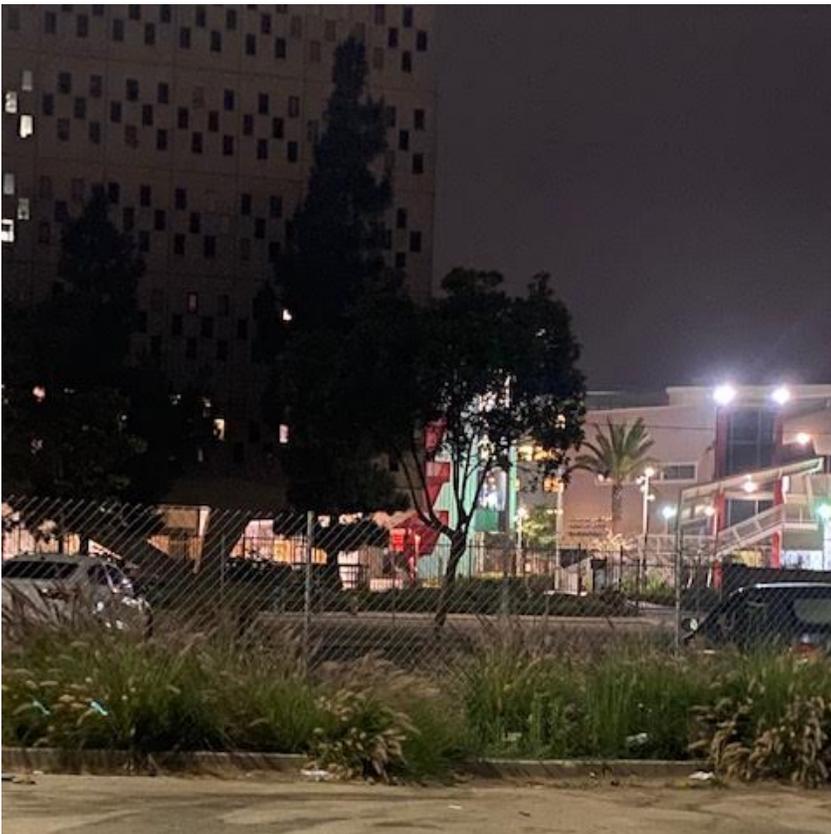
We have a 50-space Safe Parking program opening at LAX this summer, just a mile or two away from the Westchester Park site.

9/14/22, 1:27 PM

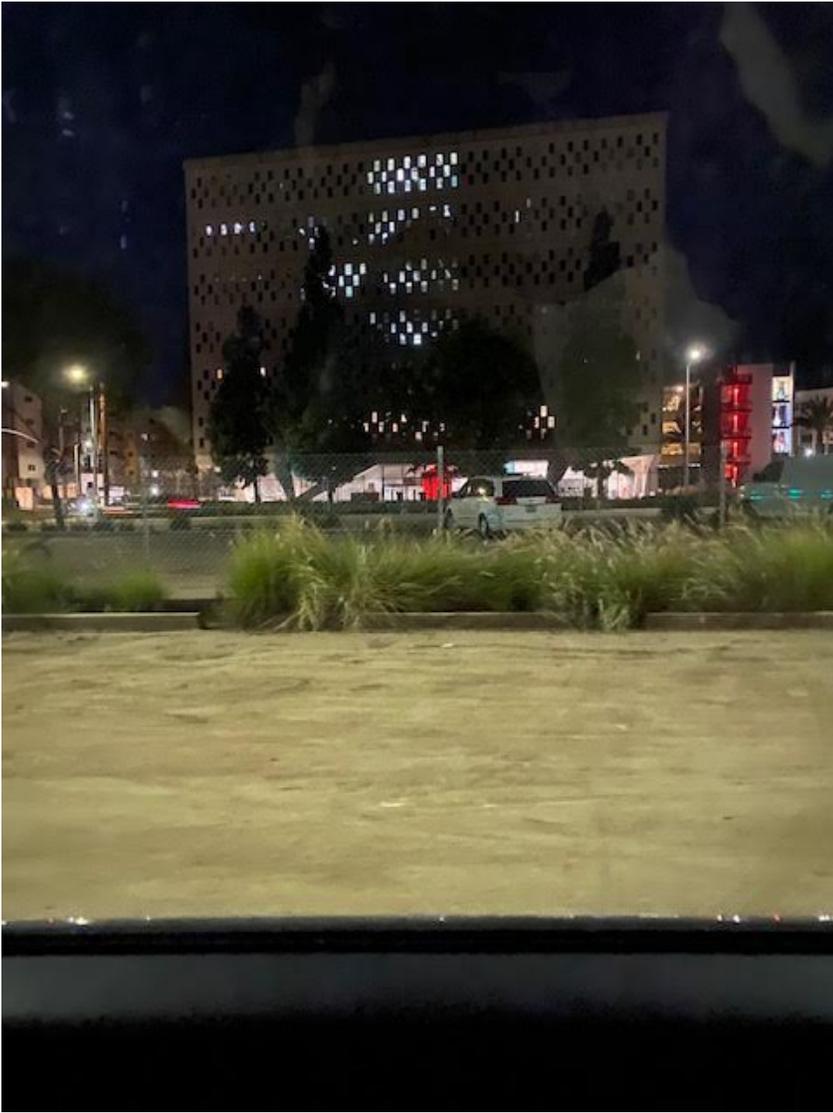
City of Los Angeles Mail - Fwd: Please vote "no" to the request for permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park, 7/7 meeting

Please do not allow the City to take parking from park users who need it. The safety of our youth, from all communities, using the ballfields and the recreation pool depends on the availability of these parking spaces.

Debra Huston





















Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Public Records Act Request

1 message

Debra Huston <

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:16 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

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Date: Mon, Nov 22, 2021 at 12:14 PM

Subject: Public Records Act Request

To: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Krista Kline <Krista.Kline@lacity.org>

Cc: Paula Gerez

I am a resident of Westchester, and a parent and grandparent of recreational athletes. I am a leader of a large coalition of Westchester residents who are working to make Westchester Park safe for athletes of all ages, senior citizens, and all others.

We hereby request all of the following:

-A copy of all emails between anyone from CM Bonin's office, including Mr. Bonin, and RAP, and any other person or agency, regarding the Safe Parking program and the Safe Parking permit for Westchester Park, from June 1, 2021, to present.

-A copy of the most recently issued permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park.

-Because the Safe Parking program permit was to be one year, maximum, and that year-long period expired in June, 2021, I request information as to why the program was extended, and if any further extension has been requested.

This information is requested because the Safe Parking program in Westchester Park is the only Safe Parking program in any park in the City of Los Angeles.

Further, the Safe Parking program uses 25 parking spaces out of the 50 spaces adjacent to the four ballfields at the park, which will be renovated and ready for use in March 2022. All 50 parking spots will be needed for people using the four ballfields.

Finally, parents of youth athletes are reluctant to let their children play on the ball fields if the Safe Parking program is in the parking lots of the ballfields, which are open and heavily used late into the evening.

9/14/22, 1:35 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Fwd: Public Records Act Request

Thank you very much.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Public Records Act Request

1 message

Debra Huston <

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Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:17 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 8:37 AM

Subject: Fwd: Public Records Act Request

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Krista Kline <Krista.Kline@lacity.org>, cc: Paula Gerez

Dear RAP Commissioners, Ms. Kline, and Ms. Perez,

We received some documents from RAP in response to the PRA request I am forwarding, but we have received no response from Mr. Bonin's office.

Ms. Kline and Ms. Perez, the statutory timeline for responding to this PRA request elapsed weeks ago, and we await documents from your office in response to the request.

It is a matter of urgency that we receive a response from you so we can participate in the public process regarding Safe Parking in Westchester Park. As you know, the Safe Parking is fenced, and it uses 25 of the 50 spaces next to the ball fields. The ball fields will be open this spring, and kids will be using those fields. Their families need the parking. There are four ball fields, and there will be many players on each field simultaneously, and 25 parking spots is insufficient. In addition, homeless people reside in vehicles in some of those 25 spots that are not fenced.

This parking lot is right next to Lincoln Blvd., which is a seven-lane street coming from the airport, and the street is heavily trafficked and the cars drive at high speeds. It is not safe for families to cross the street, especially after dark. Winter sports are played on the lighted fields after the dark. Also, it exposes families to risk when they arrive at this parking lot only to find no parking available, and they have to get back onto Lincoln to find parking elsewhere.

This parking lot is also next to the rec pool, which will be open within a few months. We have spent time with parents who take their children to swim at the pool, and the parents have expressed concern about the fact that half the parking lot is fenced off and not available for parking.

We need to have the history of how this came to be in order to participate in this public process. Ms. Kline and Ms. Perez, please respond to the PRA I am forwarding, and please do so within a week so we have information about and can be part of this public process.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Mon, Nov 22, 2021 at 12:14 PM
Subject: Public Records Act Request
To: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Krista Kline <Krista.Kline@lacity.org>
Cc: Paula Gerez

I am a resident of Westchester, and a parent and grandparent of recreational athletes. I am a leader of a large coalition of Westchester residents who are working to make Westchester Park safe for athletes of all ages, senior citizens, and all others.

We hereby request all of the following:

-A copy of all emails between anyone from CM Bonin's office, including Mr. Bonin, and RAP, and any other person or agency, regarding the Safe Parking program and the Safe Parking permit for Westchester Park, from June 1, 2021, to present.

-A copy of the most recently issued permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park.

-Because the Safe Parking program permit was to be one year, maximum, and that year-long period expired in June, 2021, I request information as to why the program was extended, and if any further extension has been requested.

This information is requested because the Safe Parking program in Westchester Park is the only Safe Parking program in any park in the City of Los Angeles.

Further, the Safe Parking program uses 25 parking spaces out of the 50 spaces adjacent to the four ballfields at the park, which will be renovated and ready for use in March 2022. All 50 parking spots will be needed for people using the four ballfields.

Finally, parents of youth athletes are reluctant to let their children play on the ball fields if the Safe Parking program is in the parking lots of the ballfields, which are open and heavily used late into the evening.

Thank you very much.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Request from community that Safe Parking permit requests at Westchester Park be denied; 200 letters from community members

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:03 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 11:34 AM
Subject: Request from community that Safe Parking permit requests at Westchester Park be denied; 200 letters from community members
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, <tony.royster@lacity.org>
Cc: Paula Gerez

Dear RAP Commissioners, Mr. Shull (General Manager of Recreation and Parks), and Mr. Royster (General Manager of the General Services Division):

We have included Mr. Royster in this email because we have become aware that CM Mike Bonin may or will be applying for a permit to place Safe Parking in the parking lot of Westchester Park that is near his office. This parking lot is under GSD jurisdiction. This parking lot is also near the senior center, the basketball courts, the public library, and the large picnic area in the park, and it is heavily used by the families of youth athletes who often play until 10:00 p.m. in the evening.

We oppose Safe Parking in any lot in the park, for the reasons explained in previous emails to you, which I have forwarded to Mr. Royster. Several people in our group have responded to my emails to RAP explaining to RAP their reasons for opposing. Below are Dropbox links to all 200 letters signed with wet signatures by community members who oppose Safe Parking in the park.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/qgghu9yzntlsbuy/scan_20220316003252.pdf?dl=0
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sksdmoanfbgp29s/scan.pdf?dl=0>
https://www.dropbox.com/s/0qqpx83s8e5f3mr/scan_20220316153503.pdf?dl=0
https://www.dropbox.com/s/nbsszm57ysor6vn/scan_20220316010237.pdf?dl=0
https://www.dropbox.com/s/lujgpu48p5sxq8f/scan_20220316005309.pdf?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/imygg4svu3wvh28/scan_20220316005129.pdf?dl=0
https://www.dropbox.com/s/63ooc3yiecwmgw/scan_20220316004723.pdf?dl=0
https://www.dropbox.com/s/xmikkhkw6kpk4ur/scan_20220316004416.pdf?dl=0
https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ztxv5dp7hrwo7/scan_20220316004029.pdf?dl=0
https://www.dropbox.com/s/8sq7ixnpopkuzd0/scan_20220316003643.pdf?dl=0

Our opposition is not based on an opposition to Safe Parking in general. We support Safe Parking for people who are homeless. However, we do not believe in should be in a parking lot of a park, based on these reasons:

Westchester Park is a "recreation center park," and has been heavily used since the 1940s by people from Westchester, Inglewood, and Playa del Rey. People from South Central also use the park because LA is a "park poor" city, and people from east of the 405 can drive or take a bus down Manchester to access and enjoy the park.

We are proud to be a park that is racially and socioeconomically diverse, and we are proud to have several youth league leaders who have included diversity as a fundamental part of every aspect of their leagues. We have a youth football league founder, a young LAPD officer, Bernard Robins, who grew up in South Central, who is starting a league, when the ball fields open, that will serve youth from South Central in Westchester Park, where they will play with kids from Westchester and Playa del Rey and get to know each other as human beings, rather than based on stereotypes. This young officer lost two brothers to gun violence, and he wants to do everything he can to change outcomes for kids in his community. Here is a Dropbox link to the video, shot last summer in which he discusses his league and his plans for the league in Westchester Park, using the library for after school study and the ball fields for youth sports. Please take a minute to watch this video. We found it to be both inspirational and impactful.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/tz1bplwt0zgkhr/IMG_2160-3.mov?dl=0

In general, the park is used by large numbers of people of all socioeconomic and racial groups. Our surveys conducted at the park last summer showed the park was equally used by African-American, Latino, and Causasion populations. The ball fields, skate park, tennis courts, senior center, library, recreation pool, and recreation center were all heavily used prior to covid shutdowns. The renovation of the ball fields will be complete in June, or thereabouts, and all other facilities are open, except for the recreation pool, which is closed for the winter and will open soon. People have returned to the park, and more will return as facilities and programs are opened for the summer. The park and all of its programs and amenities have and will be used by many thousands of people. The park provides other and wider community benefits--for example, the senior center has been used as a FEMA cooling station during heat waves to keep seniors safe.

The park users need all of the parking spaces in the park. There is no parking on Lincoln Ave, and the street parking on Manchester is unsafe for family and senior use because of the heavy traffic on that street. It is unsafe for families and seniors to park across Lincoln or Manchester, especially on dark winter evenings, because of the high volume and high speed of traffic on these streets.

We also note that a Safe Parking lot for 50 cars has recently been approved for Lot E at LAX, and that the users of the Safe Parking in Westchester Park could use those spaces. In addition, there are many government building parking lots that could be used for Safe Parking purposes. We have recently heard that either LA Sanitation or LADOT is considering using some of its parking lots for Safe Parking.

Westchester Park is the only park in the City with a Safe Parking program, and we believe that is because this use is inconsistent with the Mission of LA City Parks.

The permit for Safe Parking, which is now in the parking lot near the ballfields, will expire on June 30, 2022. **Our communities, our seniors, and our youth implore you to deny any request for a permit or to extend a permit for Safe Parking in any lot of Westchester Park.**

If there is any process during which such permitting will be considered, we ask that you include our Neighborhood Council. In the past couple years, our Neighborhood Council has not been notified of Mr. Bonin's permit applications or the permit process that followed, and our Neighborhood Council not given the opportunity to give input, as discussed by our Neighborhood Council President, Paula Gerez, as discussed in her letter below. We also ask that you include our communities in general, who are park stakeholders.

Thank you for everything you do every day to fulfill the Mission of LA City Parks, and to achieve park equity and to ensure park access for "park poor" communities. We are happy to live in a city where park equity is a priority, and we applaud the City Council, Mayor, and RAP staff for their recent work that resulted in Council Files 21-1467 and 21-1462 regarding the continuing and priority efforts of achieving park equity in the City.

Debra Huston

October 1, 2020

Councilman Mike Bonin
200 N. Spring Street #475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Councilman:

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa (NCWP) and our community recently learned Safe Parking LA is relocating their program to a lot within Westchester Park and the City's Rec and Parks' jurisdiction. As a duly elected board and in the spirit of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, the NCWP respectfully requests to be included in and have a seat on both the Safe Parking Task Force and the Task Force working to address homelessness issues in the park.

The role of the Neighborhood Council is to serve as the voice of our community and advocate for stakeholders just as you serve your constituents. We all belong to the same family, the City and County of Los Angeles. The Neighborhood Council should be recognized as a trusted and respected voice at the table. Engaging all vested parties and working together in a collaborative fashion, leads to better outcomes and community response to complicated quality of life issues.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your reply to our request.

Respectfully,

Paula Gerez
President, NCWP



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Safe parking in Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston

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Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:08 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
 Date: Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 6:05 PM
 Subject: Re: Safe parking in Westchester Park
 To: Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
 Cc: Paula Gerez <

>

Hi Sonya,

We were not given the opportunity to provide input before RAP and the Council Office decided to extend Safe Parking in Westchester Park through June 2022, and we request the opportunity to be heard on this issue. We request that the permit be revoked and that we be given the opportunity to provide input before a renewal decision is made.

There is more involved besides whether there have been incidents with the people who might use Safe Parking. The first and most important thing that comes to mind is equity in park use. Westchester Park and the pool and ball fields serve kids from PDR to Westchester to Inglewood to South Central and more. We have survey data that establishes this. We spent a substantial amount of time over the summer collecting data for this very purpose--our concern about equity. This is paramount to us.

There are 50 parking spots in the lot that is used for Safe Parking, and 25 of those parking spots are fenced off for the Safe Parking program. This deprives youth athletes and their families and coaches of the ability to use this lot for parking purposes.

You mentioned to the league presidents and me during our phone conversation that you will have ADA compliant walkways around the ball fields. Yet, half of the parking is not available because of Safe Parking.

There are many government building lots in the City of Los Angeles that could be used for Safe Parking without affecting access of youth athletes and their families to parks--youth athletes of all races and socio-economic groups and their families.

This is also a safety issue because families cannot park across Lincoln in the residential neighborhood and safely cross Lincoln at any time, and especially after dark in the winter, to go to the ball fields to play or watch youth athletes playing

winter sports. There is no parking on Lincoln, the street adjacent to the ballfields, and six lanes of cars drive on Lincoln at high speeds at all hours of the day and evening.

Also, we have been informed that Westchester Park is the only park in the entire City of Los Angeles that has a Safe Parking program. The LA City Parks mission is more about providing for youth athletes and public recreation than for providing Safe Parking for people who are homeless at the expense of precious parking spaces, and this is particularly true when there are government building parking lots in which Safe Parking can be provided.

We ask to be heard on this matter. It is important to us. We believe this permit should not have been extended without our input. RAP has known for months that our leagues and teams need the ball fields, and one would assume RAP would have known the leagues and teams needed the parking spaces for the ball fields. We ask that the Safe Parking program at Westchester Park be revoked immediately until community input can be obtained and a decision made based on all facts and information.

We await your response. We hope we can work together on this to find another location for Safe Parking so people who need that service can have a safe place to park, and so that our youth athletes can safely return to the ball fields once the renovation of the ball fields has been completed in February.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

On Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 5:08 PM Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Debra I sent over all the documents I could find on my emails. I was advised by executive management to extend the safe parking permit. The justification was that the program was working well and with the installation of the fence the safe parking participants were following the rules and using the area for its intended purpose. Executive management and the council office (CD 11) are in agreement. At this time community input was not sought out. I spoke with the director, Lizka Mendoza and she has not heard of any incidents occurring in this area. She is in contact with contractors monthly for this area. Hope this clarifies your questions a little.

On Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 8:33 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Good morning, Sonya,

We have received documents pursuant to our recent PRA request regarding the extension of the Safe Parking permit in Westchester Park through June 2022.

The documents we received include no emails, so we do not know the history of how this extension came about.

It is our understanding that Safe Parking in parks had a one-year maximum and that was to end June 30, 2021. An extension of three months was granted, and we have emails we obtained through PRA request showing the discussions surrounding this.

Will you please let us know why the Safe Parking permit was extended until June 30, 2022? What was the justification for that extension? Was community input sought or obtained?

I am copying on this email our league presidents, representatives of seniors, and members of our Neighborhood Council, all of whom are very concerned about the extension of Safe Parking through June 2022. Westchester Park is the only park in the entire City of Los Angeles with Safe Parking. The Safe Parking uses 25 of the 50 parking spaces adjacent to the ball fields, and homeless vehicle dwellers occupy another eight spaces.

We need information because we would like to ask that this permit be revoked, and that another location be found for this safe parking, such as a government building parking lot.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

--

Sonya Young Jimenez

Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Safe parking in Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:09 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 7:32 AM
Subject: Safe parking in Westchester Park
To: Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
Cc: Paula Gerez

Good morning, Sonya,

We have received documents pursuant to our recent PRA request regarding the extension of the Safe Parking permit in Westchester Park through June 2022.

The documents we received include no emails, so we do not know the history of how this extension came about.

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I am copying on this email our league presidents, representatives of seniors, and members of our Neighborhood Council, all of whom are very concerned about the extension of Safe Parking through June 2022. Westchester Park is the only park in the entire City of Los Angeles with Safe Parking. The Safe Parking uses 25 of the 50 parking spaces adjacent to the ball fields, and homeless vehicle dwellers occupy another eight spaces.

We need information because we would like to ask that this permit be revoked, and that another location be found for this safe parking, such as a government building parking lot.

Thank you.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Safe parking in Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:10 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

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Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sonya Young-Jimenez** <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
Date: Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 5:08 PM
Subject: Re: Safe parking in Westchester Park
To: Debra Huston < >
Cc: Paula Gerez

Hello Debra I sent over all the documents I could find on my emails. I was advised by executive management to extend the safe parking permit. The justification was that the program was working well and with the installation of the fence the safe parking participants were following the rules and using the area for its intended purpose. Executive management and the council office (CD 11) are in agreement. At this time community input was not sought out. I spoke with the director, Lizka Mendoza and she has not heard of any incidents occurring in this area. She is in contact with contractors monthly for this area. Hope this clarifies your questions a little.

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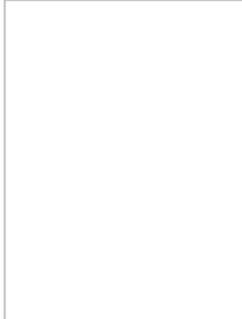
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Thank you.

Debra Huston

--



Sonya Young Jimenez

Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region

City of Los Angeles

Department of Recreation and Parks

[2459 Motor Avenue](#)

[Los Angeles, CA 90064](#)

Cell: (213) 312-7966

Website: laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Third email to you regarding Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:34 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

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Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 10:57 AM
Subject: Third email to you regarding Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park
To: <sachin.medhekar@lacity.org>
Cc: Klemack, John (NBCUniversal) <

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, <tony.royster@lacity.org>, John Szabo <jszabo@lapl.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>

Sachin,

I have emailed you, as a staff member of Mr. Bonin's office, twice in the last couple weeks inquiring about CM Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot in Westchester Park. We have obtained documents and emails in response to Public Records Act requests we have filed. In March of this year, you sent an email on behalf of Mr. Bonin to a staff person of the Chief Administrative Officer, inquiring about getting funding for this lot for "Safe Parking." Mr. Bonin's office has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot.

We oppose this. This is the largest parking lot in the park and it is needed for the families of youth athletes who will be using the ball fields when they open on October 3. It is also needed for senior citizens who use the senior center, and for City Library users. Both the senior center and the library are adjacent to this lot, and many of the users of both the senior center and the library need handicapped parking spaces. This lot is needed for the rest of park users as well. This lot, which includes 112 parking spaces, includes about half the parking in Westchester Park.

As you know, there have been many incidents involving people living in the park attacking, following, and harassing children in the park. Most recently, in July, a homeless man walked onto tennis courts on two separate days. On one day, a tennis pro was teaching 12-year-old girls, and the man approached the girls and began saying the "the girls just want

fuck me." The next day, he jumped a fence onto a court on which 5-year-old girls were taking tennis lessons and said similar things.

Our league presidents begin their winter leagues on October 3, and they need to know if Westchester Park will be a safe place for their players. Our tennis pros at the park are frightened for the safety of the children they teach.

As you are probably aware, Westchester/PDR and Inglewood have a severe shortage of park space. These communities have .8 acre of park space per 1,000 people. The standard is 4 acres, and LA County overall has more than 3 acres of park space per 1,000 people. Westchester Park serves the Inglewood community, and Recreation and Park user records by Zip Code show that. Westchester Park users are approximately 1/3 African-American, 1/3 Latino, and 1/3 White. The mayor has issued executive orders in support of park equity. Our children want to return to this park when the fields are open, and we need to ensure the park is safe for them.

There is a shortage of lighted multi-plex fields in the City. Westchester Park has four of those fields. While these fields were closed for renovation, some leagues had to travel as far as San Diego to play on lighted multi-plex fields. Many families can't do this, and have had to drop out of leagues.

Surely, your office can locate parking lots that are not in parks and move the vehicle dwellers to that location. The CAO, in his report of August 10, 2021, determined Westchester Park is not feasible for use as a homeless shelter or for Safe Sleep, and that the parking in the lot is needed by park users.

I have received no response from you regarding Mr. Bonin's office regarding Mr. Bonin's plan for this parking lot. I have inquired of other staff members of Mr. Bonin's office, and have received no response from them either. This is a public process, and it should not be conducted in the dark. Mr. Bonin's constituents have a right to participate in this public process, and we have been denied that right.

There are now 20 vehicles used as dwellings in the municipal lot. Many seniors are afraid to use the senior center, and families are afraid to use the library. Two of the security guards who guard Mr. Bonin's office in the park have told me they are there because of the danger presented by the homeless people. Mr. Bonin has fortified his office with security, cameras, barbed wire fences, and locked gates. It is clear Mr. Bonin sees the danger to himself and his staff, and we ask that he recognize the danger to children.

We request an immediate response as to Mr. Bonin's plans for the municipal parking lot.

We also request that you find another lot for the vehicle dwellers--one that is not in Westchester Park. We need you to do this before October 3, when the ball fields open.

Debra Huston

 **CAO report 21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf**
139K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Updates on Safe Parking at Westchester Park?

1 message

Debra Huston

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:58 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

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Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Tue, Apr 26, 2022 at 8:41 AM

Subject: Updates on Safe Parking at Westchester Park?

To: Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: Lisa Gaines Gaines <

Good morning, Ms. Young-Jimenez,

We recently received information in response to Public Records Act request that Mike Bonin's office is seeking to increase the number of Safe Parking spaces in Westchester Park. I assume this means that he is also seeking to extend or renew the Safe Parking permit for that location.

As you know, our community opposes this. Westchester Park is the only park in the City of Los Angeles that has a Safe Parking program. Safe Parking is not consistent with park purposes or uses.

Twenty-five of the 50 parking spaces next to the ballfields and recreation pool are fenced off for Safe Parking, depriving youth and their families of this parking. Fifty spaces of Safe Parking will be opened within a month or two in Lot E of LAX, and that is just a short distance from the park. This lot will be able to accommodate the people who use the Safe Parking program at Westchester Park.

In addition, the Safe Parking program is not well used. Members of our community have driven by at various times all night long, over time, going to and from the airport, and there are typically zero to eight cars in the Safe Parking lot. Yet there are people sleeping in their vehicles in the 25 spaces of the same parking lot that are not fenced in. It appears that the Safe Parking attracts to the park homeless people who don't care to abide by Safe Parking rules, but want to be near the porta-potty Safe Parking offers. The gate to the Safe Parking lot is left wide open all night, and is closed and locked during the day, so vehicle dwellers in the entire parking lot have access to any facilities Safe Parking offers.

Most of these vehicles used as dwellings stay in the park all day as well. The effect is that another eight or so of the parking spaces in that lot are not available for youth and their families. Also, youth and their families are reluctant to park

there when vehicle dwellers are parked there. It is apparent to children that something is wrong when there are grills for barbecuing and disassembled bikes outside cars and vans in that lot. Or vehicles with broken windows and filled to the brim with items.

I recall, Ms. Young-Jimenez, that you told me several months ago that the Safe Park LA folks reported to you that the Safe Parking lot is well used and successful. It is neither. Maybe many are signed up to use it, and maybe SPLA is being paid by the spaces used (we don't know). However, the lot is far from full, ever, and we have photos and accounts to document this.

We implore RAP to deny any request by Mr. Bonin's office to extend or expand the Safe Parking program and restore this parking lot to park usage, which is the use for which it was intended. There were four other parks in the City that had Safe Parking during the covid pandemic, but those lots were restored to park usage in the summer of 2021. We ask that you do the same for Westchester Park.

Thank you so much for all that you do to provide access to our City parks to youth in our park-poor City. Westchester has fewer parks than most communities, and it serves youth and adults of all ages from Inglewood and even South Central. The park is equally used by African-American, Latino, and Caucasian youth, and we are very proud of that. We want everyone to feel safe and to be safe in the park.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Vicious dog attacks LAPD officer and homeless accost CBS News Team in Westchester Park Muni Lot

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:21 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

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Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 6:23 AM
Subject: Vicious dog attacks LAPD officer and homeless accost CBS News Team in Westchester Park Muni Lot
To: <tony.royster@lacity.org>, John Szabo <

This week, a vicious dog owned by a homeless person who is living in the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park attacked an LAPD officer and a social worker. This same dog had already attacked others in the same parking lot within the last week. The man was arrested and spent a day or two in custody. He is expected to try to retrieve his dog and return to the park.

Yesterday a CBS News team went to the municipal parking lot to do a story on homeless vehicle dwellers interfering with public access to the library, the senior center, and other facilities in the park, and that news team, which included two women, were accosted by homeless men as they were doing their work in filming footage and interviewing people who were trying to use the library.

The news team left that parking lot rather abruptly out of fear for their safety, and went to another parking lot to continue their interviews.

Here is the news piece: <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/westchester-residents-frustrated-with-growing-homeless-encampment/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

The CBS news team reached out to CM Bonin's office for a statement, and in their news piece quoted Bonin's office as saying they have placed so many people in Westchester Park and they will continue to do that. Basically, that means he is not going to allow anyone or any city agency to move these vehicle dwellers out of the park and to another location.

CM Bonin, in his statement to CBS, also omitted the fact that he is trying to get a permanent Safe Parking program in that. CM Bonin has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot and a member of Bonin's staff has inquired of the CAO by email regarding funding sources to use that entire lot for Safe Parking.

We asked our County Supervisor, Holly Mitchell, to help us get information from Mr. Bonin's office, as he will provide no information at all to our community regarding his plans for this lot. The only information we have received is in response to PRA requests filed over the last five months. Yesterday, we received an email from Sup. Mitchell's staff stating Mr. Bonin's office would reach out to his constituents when he has something to report. We are aware that Bonin reaches out to constituents only after his plans are approved.

We have been doing everything within our power to work with Mr. Bonin's office, but we are met with a brick wall. We have reached out to Mr. Royster, GM of the GSD, many times, and we are met with a brick wall. Because we understand GSD has jurisdiction over this lot and any request for a permit to use this lot for Safe Parking would be issued by GSD. We have requested meetings with Mr. Bonin's office and with Mr. Royster, to no avail.

Community members of Westchester have been entirely excluded from this public process. Meanwhile, people do not feel safe in that parking lot, and they are not safe there. Also, this parking lot is the largest in the park, 112 spaces, and people who use the senior center and the library need this parking. The ball fields, which have undergone renovation, will open October 3 and thousands of youth athletes use those fields. We cannot expect children and their families to find parking across Lincoln Avenue--a seven-lane stretch of Highway 1.

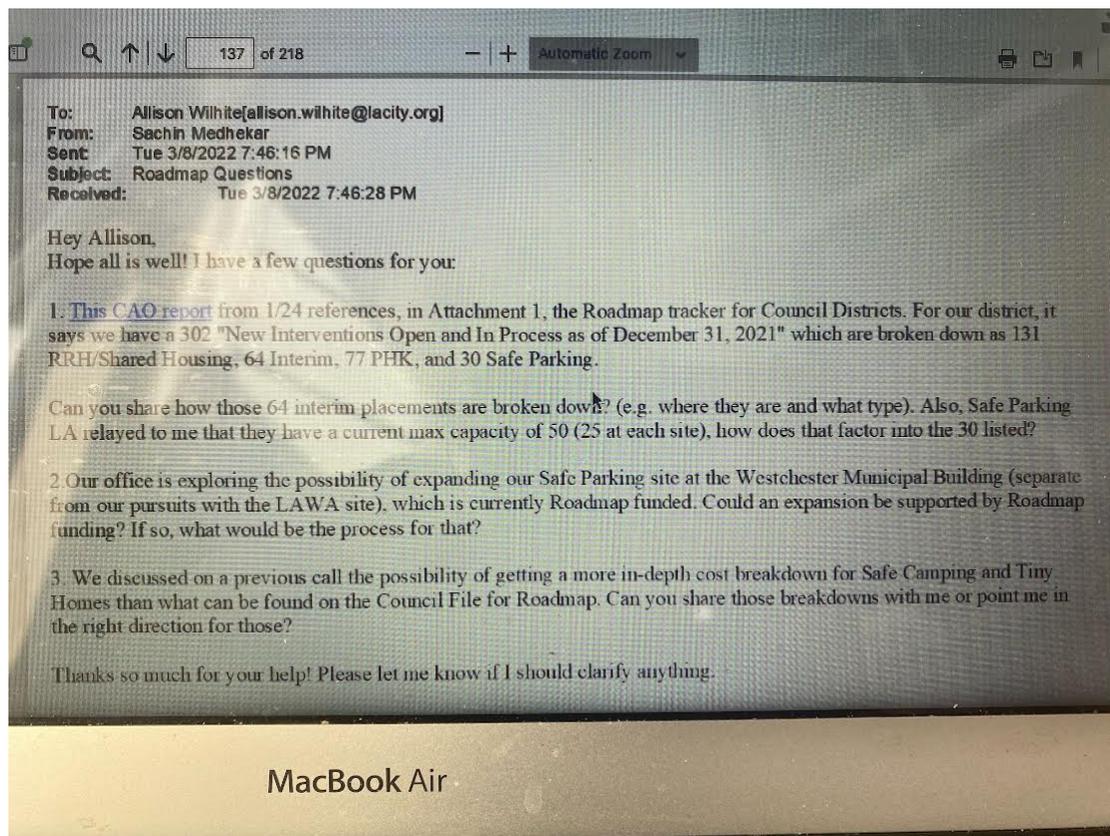
I am attaching one of the estimates CM Bonin obtained to fence the entire lot. I am also attaching an email from Sachin Medhekar of CM Bonin's office inquiring of the CAO about the availability of Roadmap (covid) funding to use that parking lot for Safe Parking.

I noticed in the news piece the man lying next to the entrance to the senior center. This man, who is homeless, has walked onto tennis courts on two separate days. The first day he walked onto the court where several 12-year-old girls were taking tennis lessons from a pro. The man began saying "These girls just want to f*ck me. I tell them I'm just a homeless guy and they still want to f*ck me." The next day, he leapt over a low fence onto a court where five-year-old girls were taking lessons and began the vulgar sex talk again. In each case, the girls and the pros teaching them were terrified.

We plead with our city officials to find another lot for people who reside in their vehicles in Westchester Park. There is no other park in the City, out of 480 parks, that has a Safe Parking program. Using this lot as a Safe Parking program is not consistent with park uses or purposes, and it is not safe for children, seniors, and others.

Please contact me with any questions, and if you would like to visit the park and see this situation for yourself. Our community would like to work with you and be a part of this public process. Thank you.

Debra Huston



[Preview attachment H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf](#)



[H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf](#)
641 KB



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: We have witness accounts of people towing vehicles to the muni lot at Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:24 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

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Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 8:12 AM
Subject: We have witness accounts of people towing vehicles to the muni lot at Westchester Park
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Dear RAP Commissioners,

We have witnesses who have seen flatbed trucks with towing equipment towing trailers (fifth wheel, without motors) into the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park. We also have witness accounts of flatbed trucks hauling inoperable vans to that parking lot.

In the beginning of July, there were no more than 10 vehicle dwellings in that parking lot. Mike Bonin's office asked the vehicle dwellers to leave that lot for the day of the Fourth of July parade, because that lot is the staging area for the floats and other vehicles in the parade. The dignitaries and elected officials in the parade saw a clean lot.

The homeless vehicle dwellers informed us that they were asked to leave for the parade and they were told they could return after the parade, which they did.

After the Fourth of July, the towing of trailers and inoperable vans began, and the number of vehicle dwellers has increased from 10 to at least 24.

We believe CM Bonin will claim there is a "need" for Safe Parking in the park to justify his plans for 24-hour Safe Parking in the park.

Homeless vehicle dwellers in the lot have informed members of our coalition that CM Bonin has told them they will never have to leave that lot. One of our members actually saw CM Bonin in that parking lot talking to a homeless vehicle dweller.

Lt. Deedrick of LASD was present at our Neighborhood Council meeting on October 6, and he mentioned that many of the RVs as vans used as dwellings are basically shells. They have no engines, for example. People/organizations buy them from junk yards and tow them to locations, such as the park, and rent them to people who are homeless. We believe the vehicles being towed into the park meet this description, and that this is what is happening at the park. We also believe Bonin's office is well aware of this.

There are homeless advocacy organizations that bring food to the vehicle dwellers every day. Some of the vehicle dwellers hoard this food, which adds to the cockroach and rat problems in that lot.

We know from past experience with CM Bonin that he does set up a situation so that he can claim "we are just making official what is already happening there." This was the basis of his motion to build shelters/tiny home communities in parks and on beaches. (CF 21-0350.) Some groups, organizations, and individuals are making this happen in the muni lot, and it appears to us to be a well orchestrated set-up for a claim that "we are just making this official."

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*

1 message

Debra Huston <

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Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:04 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

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Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:28 AM

Subject: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*

To: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: Paula Gerez <

>

Dear Mr. Shull and RAP Commissioners:

Last year, the Safe Parking program at Westchester Park was moved to the parking lot that serves the ball fields, and a permit was issued to increase that program from five or six to 25 parking spots. No notice of these permit requests or approvals were given to the community or the Neighborhood Council, and the community was therefore prevented from giving any input into that process or participating in it in any way. (See https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/westchester-residents-not-consulted-about-safe-parking/article_e96728ae-740c-11ec-95b8-a70604d45c25.html.)

We understand the permit for Safe Parking will expire June 30, 2022. We request notice of any requests for extension of that permit and any other Safe Parking requests pertaining to that program relating to Westchester Park.

Westchester Park has not recovered from the homeless occupation of the park for two years during covid shutdowns. We still have many vehicle dwellers, in RVs and cars, living in the parking lots of the park. (See photos below for a few examples--there are many others.) Many Safe Parking users, maybe most of them, simply move from the Safe Parking lot to other parking spots during the daytime. Thus, they are full-time vehicle dwellers in the park.

The ball fields are now being renovated, and we expect the fields will be ready for use in June. Our Senior Center has reopened. However, few seniors are willing to go to the Senior Center because they are frightened and feel unsafe because of the vehicle dwellers in the parking lot outside the Senior Center. Parents, league presidents, coaches, and children are all very concerned about homeless people using Safe Parking in the lot closest to the ball fields because many of the people using the Safe Parking simply move to other parking spaces in the parking lot during the day so they

are there all the time. At least two children have been physically attacked by homeless people in the public restrooms of the park while trying to participate in sports. A recent PRA request of LAPD shows calls to those two parking lots in the past few months--after tent dwellers left the park and only the vehicle dwellers remain.

Also, the Safe Parking program next to the lot closest to the ball fields uses 25 parking spaces. There is no parking on Lincoln Avenue, which runs alongside the park where the ballfields are located. Lincoln Avenue is seven lanes wide and cars drive at freeway speeds. The street is also dark during much of the year when children are playing sports in the park after 5 p.m. It is unsafe for children and families to park on the other side of Lincoln and attempt to cross the street.

LA is a "park poor" city and Westchester Park is used almost equally by children and youth of African-American, Latino, and Caucasian groups. At least two leagues, Westchester Vikings Pop Warner Football and LAX Youth Baseball, provided scholarships, transportation, and other services to children and youth from east of the 405. We have a young LAPD officer who is in the process of starting a football league in the park for boys and girls from South Central and also for youth close to the park, but cannot do so until the park is safe. League presidents and coaches in general do not feel comfortable about having their players, for whom they are responsible, exposed to the risk. The park should be safe and have adequate parking as a matter of racial and social equity. Girls have been the most frequent targets of harassment, incidents of indecent exposure, and attacks by homeless people in the park and are at greater risk by being in the park. Therefore, safety in the park is a matter of gender equity. (See https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/westchester-versus-pacific-palisades-field-permits-and-the-safe-parking-program/article_a489d7da-72d7-11ec-a63f-4bf990dbf4c2.html.)

Westchester Park will not be safe for children and seniors until the parking lots are safe for them to use and until they have an adequate number of parking spots to safely accommodate them.

While we support Safe Parking, we ask that it be moved to a location other than the park. We are informed that there are 430 City parks in LA, and Westchester Park is the only one of those parks with a Safe Parking program. We believe this is likely a reflection of the fact that Safe Parking programs and park uses by children and youth are not considered to be compatible uses, and the fact that other locations for Safe Parking should be used.

We also note that the Safe Parking lot is not heavily used (see first photo below), yet it is fenced and the 25 spaces cannot be used by park users. (See <https://www.circlingthenews.com/safe-parking-effectiveness/>.) Undoubtedly, there are parking lots of government buildings that can be used for Safe Parking, instead of using a park. For example, we have heard that LADOT is considering the use of their parking lots for Safe Parking.

We also request notice of any requests to extend the Safe Parking program, change the number of parking spots in the program, or have a Safe Parking program in another parking lot of the park, such as the one outside Council Member Bonin's office, because that parking lot is shared by people who use the senior center (see last four photos below taken in the senior center and senior center parking lot). The remaining parking lot in the park is used by adults and children using the Recreation Center, the skate park, and the tennis courts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra Huston









IMG_6302.HEIC
735K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:04 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:28 AM
Subject: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*
To: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc: Paula Gerez <

Dear Mr. Shull and RAP Commissioners:

Last year, the Safe Parking program at Westchester Park was moved to the parking lot that serves the ball fields, and a permit was issued to increase that program from five or six to 25 parking spots. No notice of these permit requests or approvals were given to the community or the Neighborhood Council, and the community was therefore prevented from giving any input into that process or participating in it in any way. (See https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/westchester-residents-not-consulted-about-safe-parking/article_e96728ae-740c-11ec-95b8-a70604d45c25.html.)

We understand the permit for Safe Parking will expire June 30, 2022. We request notice of any requests for extension of that permit and any other Safe Parking requests pertaining to that program relating to Westchester Park.

Westchester Park has not recovered from the homeless occupation of the park for two years during covid shutdowns. We still have many vehicle dwellers, in RVs and cars, living in the parking lots of the park. (See photos below for a few examples--there are many others.) Many Safe Parking users, maybe most of them, simply move from the Safe Parking lot to other parking spots during the daytime. Thus, they are full-time vehicle dwellers in the park.

The ball fields are now being renovated, and we expect the fields will be ready for use in June. Our Senior Center has reopened. However, few seniors are willing to go to the Senior Center because they are frightened and feel unsafe because of the vehicle dwellers in the parking lot outside the Senior Center. Parents, league presidents, coaches, and children are all very concerned about homeless people using Safe Parking in the lot closest to the ball fields because many of the people using the Safe Parking simply move to other parking spaces in the parking lot during the day so they

are there all the time. At least two children have been physically attacked by homeless people in the public restrooms of the park while trying to participate in sports. A recent PRA request of LAPD shows calls to those two parking lots in the past few months--after tent dwellers left the park and only the vehicle dwellers remain.

Also, the Safe Parking program next to the lot closest to the ball fields uses 25 parking spaces. There is no parking on Lincoln Avenue, which runs alongside the park where the ballfields are located. Lincoln Avenue is seven lanes wide and cars drive at freeway speeds. The street is also dark during much of the year when children are playing sports in the park after 5 p.m. It is unsafe for children and families to park on the other side of Lincoln and attempt to cross the street.

LA is a "park poor" city and Westchester Park is used almost equally by children and youth of African-American, Latino, and Caucasian groups. At least two leagues, Westchester Vikings Pop Warner Football and LAX Youth Baseball, provided scholarships, transportation, and other services to children and youth from east of the 405. We have a young LAPD officer who is in the process of starting a football league in the park for boys and girls from South Central and also for youth close to the park, but cannot do so until the park is safe. League presidents and coaches in general do not feel comfortable about having their players, for whom they are responsible, exposed to the risk. The park should be safe and have adequate parking as a matter of racial and social equity. Girls have been the most frequent targets of harassment, incidents of indecent exposure, and attacks by homeless people in the park and are at greater risk by being in the park. Therefore, safety in the park is a matter of gender equity. (See https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/westchester-versus-pacific-palisades-field-permits-and-the-safe-parking-program/article_a489d7da-72d7-11ec-a63f-4bf990dbf4c2.html.)

Westchester Park will not be safe for children and seniors until the parking lots are safe for them to use and until they have an adequate number of parking spots to safely accommodate them.

While we support Safe Parking, we ask that it be moved to a location other than the park. We are informed that there are 430 City parks in LA, and Westchester Park is the only one of those parks with a Safe Parking program. We believe this is likely a reflection of the fact that Safe Parking programs and park uses by children and youth are not considered to be compatible uses, and the fact that other locations for Safe Parking should be used.

We also note that the Safe Parking lot is not heavily used (see first photo below), yet it is fenced and the 25 spaces cannot be used by park users. (See <https://www.circlingthenews.com/safe-parking-effectiveness/>.) Undoubtedly, there are parking lots of government buildings that can be used for Safe Parking, instead of using a park. For example, we have heard that LADOT is considering the use of their parking lots for Safe Parking.

We also request notice of any requests to extend the Safe Parking program, change the number of parking spots in the program, or have a Safe Parking program in another parking lot of the park, such as the one outside Council Member Bonin's office, because that parking lot is shared by people who use the senior center (see last four photos below taken in the senior center and senior center parking lot). The remaining parking lot in the park is used by adults and children using the Recreation Center, the skate park, and the tennis courts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra Huston









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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Westchester Park updates

1 message

Debra Huston <

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:57 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Debra Huston <

>

Date: Wed, May 18, 2022 at 8:56 AM

Subject: Westchester Park updates

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, <tony.royster@lacity.org>

Cc: Alexandra Reynolds

Honorable RAP Commissioners and General Manager Michael Shull,

Last November, when Mr. Bonin conducted his Encampments to Home program in Westchester Park, we learned that vehicles used as dwellings were NOT included in that program. At that time, Bonin staff person Hannah Levien informed us there would be no enforcement as to the vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lots of the park because of a moratorium.

As you know, there was a City Council-imposed moratorium from October 2020 on towing vehicles used as dwellings. The City Council lifted that Moratorium last month (Council File No. 21-0956.) We have all been waiting for that moratorium to be lifted so enforcement could begin as to vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park. (See <https://abc7.com/rv-vehicle-dwelling-towing-parking-enforcement/11722630/>)

Two weeks ago, a member of Mike Bonin's staff appeared at our Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey meeting and informed members of that body and the public in attendance that enforcement of curfew in the parking lot that serves the Senior Center at Westchester Park will not begin in the foreseeable future, despite the City Council's action in lifting the moratorium on enforcement/towing last month (see my previous email). The reason given by this staff person was that outreach to offer housing to the people living in vehicles in the park must now begin, and that the City must provide outreach procedures and no enforcement can begin until the City develops procedures.

This has already been done. Council File 21-0956 contains all the LADOT reports adopted by the City Council that specify outreach procedures and protocols, and specifies five instances in which outreach is not needed. (See

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0956_rpt_DOT_02-23-22.pdf.) Housing has been offered to the vehicle dwellers in the parking lots of the park dozens of times, at minimum, by PATH, LAHSA, and SHARE Housing. Maybe hundreds of times. All offers of housing have been rejected based on a preference of staying in the parking lot of the park. The most recent LADOT report specifies a list of priorities for towing, and that includes vehicles that are not operational, among other things. We, and many elected officials, disagree with Mr. Bonin's interpretation. Bonin is the chair of the Transportation Committee that developed the procedures in coordination with LADOT. The matter was held up in the Transportation Committee by the chair (Mr. Bonin) for a year and a half while procedures were developed.

Mr. Bonin's staff person also said at the NCWP meeting that there is a shortage of storage space for RVs that are towed, and for that additional reason enforcement will not happen in the park.

Mr. Bonin's office has made it clear to RAP that he will not allow any enforcement in the lot that serves the Senior Center and the Library, claiming it is under the jurisdiction of the General Services Division. This is the largest parking lot in the park, yet it has been rendered unusable by most because of the vehicle dwellers in that parking lot that serves the Senior Center. (See photo below.) This one vehicle is using three to four handicapped parking spots directly in front of the Senior Center. There are approximately 20 vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lots of the park, and many use more than one parking spot and handicapped parking spots. The vehicle dwellers near the Senior Center attract homeless campers. A photo below shows a homeless camper who is camped directly in front of the front door of the Senior Center. Both photos were taken this week.

In addition, we have learned through Public Records Act requests that Mr. Bonin's office is inquiring of RAP about increasing the number of parking spots in the Safe Parking program located in the parking lot near the swimming pool. That Safe Parking program is underused and attracts vehicle dwellers to the part of the parking lot that is not included in the Safe Parking program. Between the fenced-in Safe Parking area and vehicle dwellers in the parking lots, over 50 parking spots in the park are unavailable for use by park goers. In addition, park goers do not feel safe parking in two of the three parking lots of the park because of the vehicle dwellers.

Westchester Park is a Rec Center Park with programming year round. There is a skate park, eight tennis courts, a senior center, a swimming pool, four lighted multiplex ball fields, and large areas with tables for gatherings and events in the park. There is also a public library that shares parking with park goers. Because of the robust usage of the park, as shown by usage records maintained by RAP, **the CAO determined the park is not feasible for Safe Parking.** (See attachment.)

The ballfields at the park are under renovation, and when that renovation is completed this summer, hundreds of families will need parking. Our elders need parking spaces to engage in programs and activities in the senior center, and families with children need parking to participate in programs at the library.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that RAP do all of the following:

- **Deny Mr. Bonin's request for an extension of the permit for Safe Parking and for an expansion of that program in Westchester Park.**
- **Begin enforcement in the parking lots of the park under RAP jurisdiction. RAP rangers went to the park one evening after curfew and asked vehicle dwellers in the lot by the ballfields to leave, and they did. Enforcement is authorized by the City Council now, and it works. Also, it does not necessarily include towing.**
- **Install T-Bar gates at all parking lot entrances and exits and close and lock them during park curfew hours.**

Attached is a video of DeAndre Parks, whose Westchester Vikings Pop Warner flag football league folded, despite Mr. Parks efforts to save the league. Westchester Park was the home field for the Vikings. The Vikings served a racially mixed group of children, including many from east of the 405 who could take a bus straight down Manchester to the park. The league provided hot meals for the players and a very positive youth athletic experience. This was a program the community and other communities counted on and needed. After the league folded, many of the players were left without a league because of lack of transportation to other fields. Please note that Mr. Parks' reference to Safe Parking in no way expresses his support for or acceptance of Safe Parking in the park. At the time he was trying to save his league, Safe Parking in the park included five or six parking spaces for women, and was in another parking lot. None of us had any idea Bonin planned to increase it to 25 fenced-off parking spots. Mr. Parks' video demonstrates his struggle to save his league, and all the difficulties and roadblocks he faced. We are still dealing with difficulties and roadblocks, after well over a year, which is how long the ballfields have been closed.

I have included as an addressee Mr. Tony Royster, General Manager of the General Services Division which maintains jurisdiction over the parking lot next to the Senior Center. We believe based on LAMC 86.03 that RAP has enforcement authority in this lot because it serves the park. We understand there is disagreement on this issue. We have reached out to Mr. Royster with our concerns and have asked for his help.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and please help us restore this park to one that is safe and feels safe for all, is consistent with the mission statement of LA City Parks and park equity policies, and is consistent with the CAO determination that Westchester Park is not feasible for a Safe Parking program (see attached CAO report). We remain grateful for your help.

Debra Huston

 DeAndre Parks 480.mov

3 attachments



IMG_7087.jpg
142K



IMG_7090.jpg
151K

 **CAO report 21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf**
139K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Westchester Park/Request for cleanup of parking lots and enforcement in parking lots

1 message

Debra Huston

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:34 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >

Date: Wed, May 18, 2022 at 11:25 AM

Subject: Westchester Park/Request for cleanup of parking lots and enforcement in parking lots

To: Paula Gerez < >, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, <tony.royster@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Abby Austin <abby.austin@lacity.org>Cc: Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Alexandra Reynolds <

Dear Council Member Bonin, NCWP President Paula Gerez, Mr. Shull, Mr. Royster, Mr. Kim, and Ms. Austin,

Members of our community have reached out to me with complaints about the state of the parking lot that serves the Senior Center in Westchester Park. Concerns include the amount of trash and other items in the parking lot, people sleeping in the parking lot (not in vehicles), and the increasing number of vehicles used as dwellings in the lot, which likely results from enforcement in other areas.

I drove through the lot this morning and was shocked at what I saw. I was at the parking lot on Sunday and today, just three days later, it was much worse. The white van that was using several handicapped parking spots in front of the Senior Center is now using five handicapped parking spaces. There was a man sleeping on the asphalt in blankets. And the number of vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lot has increased in just the last few days.

These matters are of great concern to our community because we were told by Hannah Levien of Mr. Bonin's office in November, during the Encampments to Home program, that vehicles used as dwellings could not be removed but that trash and other items around vehicles could be removed. At that time, Mr. Bonin's office scheduled a cleanup of the parking lot. Now the parking lot looks worse than it did back in November, and trash surrounds several vehicles in the parking lot. In addition, we were told back in November that vehicles used as dwellings could not be moved from the park, but campers could. Now we

have people sleeping on the asphalt of the parking lot and using their vehicles as storage space. (See photos below.)

We were also told by Ms. Levien in November that the reason the vehicles could not be towed was because of a moratorium. That moratorium has now been lifted. (CF 21-0956.)

We request the following:

- That Mr. Bonin's office notice and conduct a cleanup of the parking lot that serves the Senior Center on at least a weekly basis.

- Mr. Bonin's office authorize LADOT immediately to begin enforcement and tow vehicles in the parking lots of the park that meet one of the five criteria specified in the LADOT report of February 23, 2022, which was adopted by the City Council. (https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0956_rpt_DOT_02-23-22.pdf) Those criteria, as set forth in this report, include:

1. Vehicles that present a traffic safety hazard. Traffic safety hazard violations include blocked traffic lanes, walkways, fire hydrants, driveways, anti-gridlock/peak hour zones, and stolen vehicles. These vehicles commonly fall within the Community Caretaking Exception as defined in California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 22650, and shall be removed immediately.

2. Vehicles that pose an environmental or public health hazard. Vehicles that create an environmental or public health hazard through the repeated excess accumulation of trash, debris or discharge of biohazard waste as documented by three (3) or more service call responses from the Department of Sanitation to mitigate this hazard may be towed. Similarly, vehicles that have been extensively destroyed, burned, or present a threat to environmentally sensitive habitats may be towed. LADOT will provide sufficient notice of pending enforcement action in those instances when the vehicle's owner is present, and LADOT will initiate and document engagement with homeless services providers prior to removal.

3. Vehicles that interfere with public works projects or special events. LADOT posts Temporary No Parking Tow Away signs to alert motorists of future construction activity, street resurfacing projects, or major public events such as parades, street fairs, marathon, etc., in which vehicles interfere with the ability to complete or safely conduct this activity. LADOT will cite and impound vehicles that remain on the street in violation of posted temporary signs.

4. Inoperable vehicles. Vehicles that cannot be safely or reasonably operated, such as vehicles that are clearly disabled, missing engine, windshield, tires, or other components critical to operating a vehicle will be removed after an officer provides sufficient notice to the owner/occupant.

5. Unregistered vehicles. Vehicles that are not registered may not lawfully operate on City streets and may be subject to tow following sufficient notice to the owner/occupant.

Many vehicles in the parking lot that serves the Senior Center meet one or more of the above criteria. We ask that enforcement begin immediately.

- As for vehicles that do not meet one of the above criteria, we request that outreach begin immediately so enforcement may follow.

Mr. Bonin, we believe you have the staff and authority to find parking lots in the City that do not include parks where people living in vehicles may park. A park is not an appropriate place for this use.

We formally request a meeting with you or your staff, Mr. Bonin, if there is any reason you believe you cannot do what we have asked.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Westchester Park--Misuse of City Assets/PRA Request

1 message

Debra Huston <d >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:24 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Sep 7, 2022 at 11:48 AM
Subject: Westchester Park--Misuse of City Assets/PRA Request
To: <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, Greg Good <greg.good@lacity.org>, <controller.galperin@lacity.org>, <mike.feuer@lacity.org>, <kathleen.kenealy@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, <matt.szabo@lacity.org>, Yolanda Chavez <yolanda.chavez@lacity.org>, <sharon.tso@lacity.org>, <karen.kalfayan@lacity.org>
Cc: Paula Gerez < >, Klemack, John (NBCUniversal) < > Villegas, Catalina <catalina.villegas@charter.com>, Rina Nakano Nakano < >, < >, < >, Tim Campbell < >, Lisa Gaines < >, Alexandra Reynolds < >, < >, kristin ziebarth < >, Sue Pascoe < >, Jamie Paige < >, < >, L Perez < >, Nickee Liang < >, < >, Dennis Gleason <dennis.gleason@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, Alexis Wesson <alexis.wesson@lacity.org>

Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor

City of Los Angeles

Hon. Ron Galperin, City Controller

City of Los Angeles

Hon. Mike Feuer, City Attorney

City of Los Angeles

Honorable Commissioners of the Recreation and Parks Board

City of Los Angeles

Mr. Matthew Szabo, Chief Administrative Officer

City of Los Angeles

Ms. Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst

City of Los Angeles

RE: Westchester Park/Misuse of City Assets

I am a resident of the Westchester neighborhood. As you know, there is a large and growing encampment of inoperable recreational vehicles parked full-time in the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park. The encampment is in addition to and outside of the designated Safe Parking area at the south end of the property. Many of the RV's occupy multiple parking spots and marked disabled spaces. In addition, there is a well-documented history of excessive trash in and around the encampment, as well as human waste and other hazardous materials leaking from some of the vehicles. The encampment's residents have been offered alternative housing but, for the most part, have refused. Many of the neighborhood's residents no longer use the park's facilities because they can find no safe and clean parking spaces, or have been harassed by the encampment's dwellers. There have been several police calls to the camp, including one reporting a vicious dog that attacked an LAPD officer. A CBS News team was accosted by homeless vehicle dwellers in that parking lot.

Our Council Member, Mike Bonin, had a staff member present at our Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey last evening, and informed the NCWP Board that CM Bonin's office has received money from the County for 24-hour Safe Parking in the lot by the swimming pool and ball fields. CM Bonin's representative said this parking would be used for RVs from the Wetlands. Such a program would basically kill the park. Multiple youth athletic leagues have folded and many youth leagues will not have their children play in the park because of the danger of playing in a park where children are accosted by homeless people. Yet the lighted, multiplex ball fields are THE ONLY such fields for miles around. Children are being left out of sports, and CM Bonin's 24/7 Safe Parking plans for that lot will make matters far worse and deprive many more children of youth athletic opportunities because the lot will be open all day when children are there. The effect on the recreational pool and all other facilities in the park would be the same.

CM Bonin's plan will deprive children of neighboring communities safe access to the park. At least half of the users of this park are from inland communities who rely on this park for field space, picnic space, swimming, the skate park, the tennis courts, and cooler weather. These are

our neighboring community members, many of whom are people of color and of low socio-economic means.

The City Council representatives for these nearby communities will not have the opportunity to vote on CM Bonin's plan, as I understand, because CM Bonin has obtained money (\$1 mill) from the county for his plan. Therefore, Bonin's plan bypasses City Council members whose constituents are affected and will not be able to represent their constituents in this matter that involves their constituents.

You are probably aware that the **CAO has determined the park is NOT FEASIBLE for Safe Parking because of the robust usage of the park by thousands**. (See attached memo from CAO.) Our Council Member requested this report, and he is now ignoring it and proceeding as if the feasibility study by the CAO was never conducted.

It makes absolutely no sense that RVs that are being moved from the Wetlands because of the danger they present and environmental damage they cause should be moved to a City park that is heavily used by children and seniors.

Our community has opposed this by having an Action Network letter which has resulted in nearly 18,000 letters being sent to City officials opposing CM Bonin's plans for the park. https://actionnetwork.org/letters/save-westchester-park?clear_id=true. The issue of crime and lack of safety in the park has been covered by prime time news, as well as by news publications, dozens of times. Here are links to the most recent reports:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/westchester-residents-frustrated-with-growing-homeless-encampment/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/video/cooling-centers-open-throughout-la-county-as-record-breaking-heat-bakes-southland/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

I and other residents have contacted Council Member Bonin's office dozens, maybe hundreds, of times to request a resolution, and have been ignored.

Misuse of Public Assets

Public service officials and employees have an affirmative duty to use public assets to their best and highest use, for the greatest benefit of the community at large. Many Westchester residents, including civil service professionals and attorneys with whom we have conferred, believe the current situation at the park is a gross misuse of public assets.

Our belief is based on:

1. The encampment prevents the use of the park's amenities and facilities for their intended use, including the library, senior center and sports fields. Despite the ongoing heat wave, very few people used the senior center as a cooling center due to conditions in the camp. Allowing inoperable vehicles with no or expired disabled placards to occupy disabled parking places is a violation of ADA regulations.
2. The muni parking lot's current use as a campground is inconsistent with its intended use. It does not have the proper sanitary or services infrastructure to support full-time camping, especially when many of the vehicles pose an environmental hazard to the surrounding area. Putting the proper support facilities in place would also be inconsistent with the park's intended use and would be more costly than the alternatives offered by the City Controller's recent report on homelessness. CM Bonin's plans for the ballfields' parking lot would destroy the intended use of the ballfields and the recreational pool and other facilities in the park, even though CM Bonin has county money to invest in the park, because people would not be able to park close to those facilities and because of the danger presented by 24-hour Safe Parking, which means homeless people from the Wetlands and other locations were be present all day when children and seniors, and other community members and members of nearby communities, are using the park..
3. Regarding the municipal parking lot, using that lot as a campsite puts the City at significant risk for violations of its NPDES permit and other health regulations. The unmitigated leakage of human and other waste from stationary vehicles into nearby storm drains is a violation of the Clean Water Act. The presence of rats and other disease vectors is a public health hazard. Since the City is aware of, and has taken no mitigation action against these violations, it is at risk of fines from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other agencies.
4. If the City has received state, federal or other outside agency funding for park improvements, and that funding restricts its use to community services, its use for something other than recreational or community service purposes may be a violation of grant conditions, requiring the City to pay those amounts back to the funding agencies.

Public Records Act Request

Given the significant continuing risks of allowing the campsite to proliferate, and the absence of any documented plans to close the camp and relocate the vehicles to a more appropriate area, **I am making the following public records requests:**

1. Any and all grant or other outside funding agency documents currently in force for Westchester Park. The documents should include all restrictions to which the City stipulated;
2. Any and all documents or correspondence, written and/or electronic that may pertain to:
 - A. Notices and reports of leakage of human and other waste from vehicles in the lot and the steps taken to mitigate such leakage for the past 24 months;
 - B. Improper use of handicapped parking by inoperable or improperly placarded vehicles and any steps taken to remove such vehicles from those spaces.
 - C. Any analysis of the use of the parking lot as a campsite, including any discussion of alternative sites.

Please respond to my request as promptly as possible and please let me know if you need more information.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

 **CAO report 21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf**
139K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Vicious dog attacks LAPD officer and homeless accost CBS News Team in Westchester Park Muni Lot

1 message

Debra Huston <

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:21 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 6:23 AM

Subject: Vicious dog attacks LAPD officer and homeless accost CBS News Team in Westchester Park Muni Lot

To: <tony.royster@lacity.org>, John Szabo <jszabo@lapl.org>, cris b. liban <

< >, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Rap

Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sue Pascoe

This week, a vicious dog owned by a homeless person who is living in the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park attacked an LAPD officer and a social worker. This same dog had already attacked others in the same parking lot within the last week. The man was arrested and spent a day or two in custody. He is expected to try to retrieve his dog and return to the park.

Yesterday a CBS News team went to the municipal parking lot to do a story on homeless vehicle dwellers interfering with public access to the library, the senior center, and other facilities in the park, and that news team, which included two women, were accosted by homeless men as they were doing their work in filming footage and interviewing people who were trying to use the library.

The news team left that parking lot rather abruptly out of fear for their safety, and went to another parking lot to continue their interviews.

Here is the news piece: <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/westchester-residents-frustrated-with-growing-homeless-encampment/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

The CBS news team reached out to CM Bonin's office for a statement, and in their news piece quoted Bonin's office as saying they have placed so many people in Westchester Park and they will continue to do that. Basically, that means he is not going to allow anyone or any city agency to move these vehicle dwellers out of the park and to another location.

CM Bonin, in his statement to CBS, also omitted the fact that he is trying to get a permanent Safe Parking program in that. CM Bonin has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot and a member of Bonin's staff has inquired of the CAO by email regarding funding sources to use that entire lot for Safe Parking.

We asked our County Supervisor, Holly Mitchell, to help us get information from Mr. Bonin's office, as he will provide no information at all to our community regarding his plans for this lot. The only information we have received is in response to PRA requests filed over the last five months. Yesterday, we received an email from Sup. Mitchell's staff stating Mr. Bonin's office would reach out to his constituents when he has something to report. We are aware that Bonin reaches out to constituents only after his plans are approved.

We have been doing everything within our power to work with Mr. Bonin's office, but we are met with a brick wall. We have reached out to Mr. Royster, GM of the GSD, many times, and we are met with a brick wall. Because we understand GSD has jurisdiction over this lot and any request for a permit to use this lot for Safe Parking would be issued by GSD. We have requested meetings with Mr. Bonin's office and with Mr. Royster, to no avail.

Community members of Westchester have been entirely excluded from this public process. Meanwhile, people do not feel safe in that parking lot, and they are not safe there. Also, this parking lot is the largest in the park, 112 spaces, and people who use the senior center and the library need this parking. The ball fields, which have undergone renovation, will open October 3 and thousands of youth athletes use those fields. We cannot expect children and their families to find parking across Lincoln Avenue--a seven-lane stretch of Highway 1.

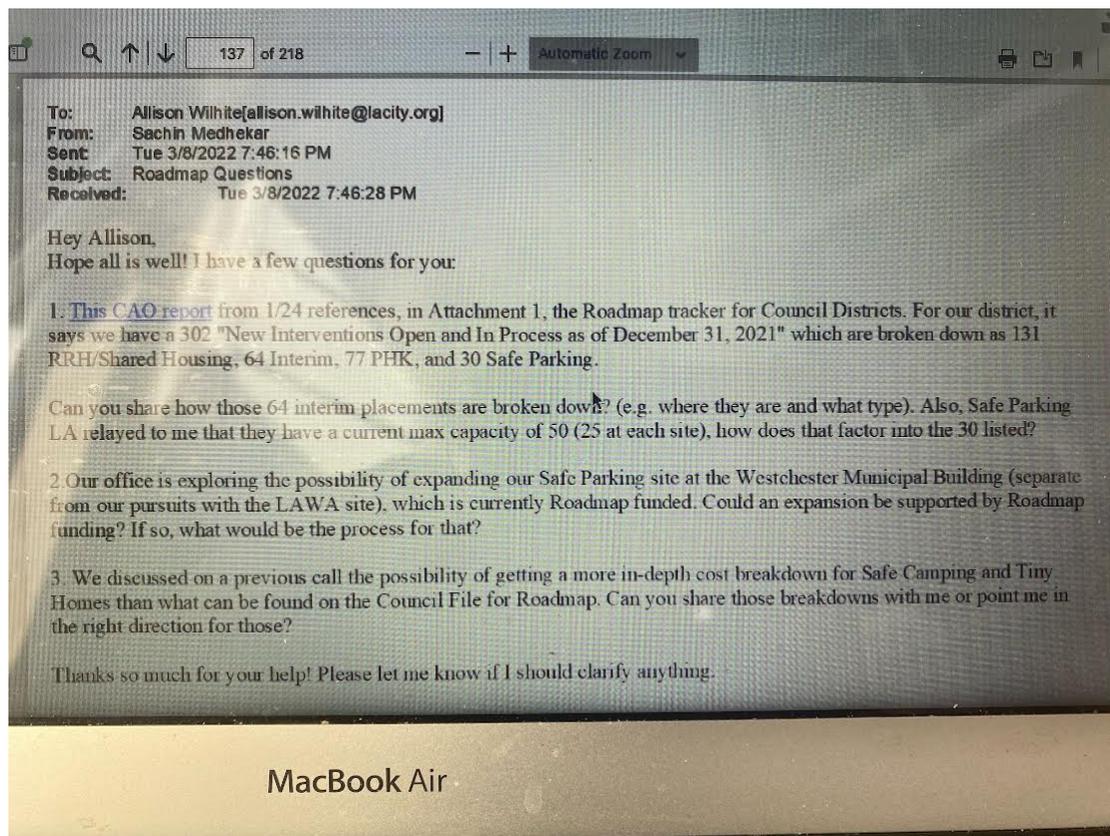
I am attaching one of the estimates CM Bonin obtained to fence the entire lot. I am also attaching an email from Sachin Medhekar of CM Bonin's office inquiring of the CAO about the availability of Roadmap (covid) funding to use that parking lot for Safe Parking.

I noticed in the news piece the man lying next to the entrance to the senior center. This man, who is homeless, has walked onto tennis courts on two separate days. The first day he walked onto the court where several 12-year-old girls were taking tennis lessons from a pro. The man began saying "These girls just want to f*ck me. I tell them I'm just a homeless guy and they still want to f*ck me." The next day, he leapt over a low fence onto a court where five-year-old girls were taking lessons and began the vulgar sex talk again. In each case, the girls and the pros teaching them were terrified.

We plead with our city officials to find another lot for people who reside in their vehicles in Westchester Park. There is no other park in the City, out of 480 parks, that has a Safe Parking program. Using this lot as a Safe Parking program is not consistent with park uses or purposes, and it is not safe for children, seniors, and others.

Please contact me with any questions, and if you would like to visit the park and see this situation for yourself. Our community would like to work with you and be a part of this public process. Thank you.

Debra Huston



[Preview attachment H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf](#)



[H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf](#)
641 KB



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:04 PM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:28 AM
Subject: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*
To: Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Cc: Paula Gerez <

Dear Mr. Shull and RAP Commissioners:

Last year, the Safe Parking program at Westchester Park was moved to the parking lot that serves the ball fields, and a permit was issued to increase that program from five or six to 25 parking spots. No notice of these permit requests or approvals were given to the community or the Neighborhood Council, and the community was therefore prevented from giving any input into that process or participating in it in any way. (See https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/westchester-residents-not-consulted-about-safe-parking/article_e96728ae-740c-11ec-95b8-a70604d45c25.html.)

We understand the permit for Safe Parking will expire June 30, 2022. We request notice of any requests for extension of that permit and any other Safe Parking requests pertaining to that program relating to Westchester Park.

Westchester Park has not recovered from the homeless occupation of the park for two years during covid shutdowns. We still have many vehicle dwellers, in RVs and cars, living in the parking lots of the park. (See photos below for a few examples--there are many others.) Many Safe Parking users, maybe most of them, simply move from the Safe Parking lot to other parking spots during the daytime. Thus, they are full-time vehicle dwellers in the park.

The ball fields are now being renovated, and we expect the fields will be ready for use in June. Our Senior Center has reopened. However, few seniors are willing to go to the Senior Center because they are frightened and feel unsafe because of the vehicle dwellers in the parking lot outside the Senior Center. Parents, league presidents, coaches, and children are all very concerned about homeless people using Safe Parking in the lot closest to the ball fields because many of the people using the Safe Parking simply move to other parking spaces in the parking lot during the day so they

are there all the time. At least two children have been physically attacked by homeless people in the public restrooms of the park while trying to participate in sports. A recent PRA request of LAPD shows calls to those two parking lots in the past few months--after tent dwellers left the park and only the vehicle dwellers remain.

Also, the Safe Parking program next to the lot closest to the ball fields uses 25 parking spaces. There is no parking on Lincoln Avenue, which runs alongside the park where the ballfields are located. Lincoln Avenue is seven lanes wide and cars drive at freeway speeds. The street is also dark during much of the year when children are playing sports in the park after 5 p.m. It is unsafe for children and families to park on the other side of Lincoln and attempt to cross the street.

LA is a "park poor" city and Westchester Park is used almost equally by children and youth of African-American, Latino, and Caucasian groups. At least two leagues, Westchester Vikings Pop Warner Football and LAX Youth Baseball, provided scholarships, transportation, and other services to children and youth from east of the 405. We have a young LAPD officer who is in the process of starting a football league in the park for boys and girls from South Central and also for youth close to the park, but cannot do so until the park is safe. League presidents and coaches in general do not feel comfortable about having their players, for whom they are responsible, exposed to the risk. The park should be safe and have adequate parking as a matter of racial and social equity. Girls have been the most frequent targets of harassment, incidents of indecent exposure, and attacks by homeless people in the park and are at greater risk by being in the park. Therefore, safety in the park is a matter of gender equity. (See https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/westchester-versus-pacific-palisades-field-permits-and-the-safe-parking-program/article_a489d7da-72d7-11ec-a63f-4bf990dbf4c2.html.)

Westchester Park will not be safe for children and seniors until the parking lots are safe for them to use and until they have an adequate number of parking spots to safely accommodate them.

While we support Safe Parking, we ask that it be moved to a location other than the park. We are informed that there are 430 City parks in LA, and Westchester Park is the only one of those parks with a Safe Parking program. We believe this is likely a reflection of the fact that Safe Parking programs and park uses by children and youth are not considered to be compatible uses, and the fact that other locations for Safe Parking should be used.

We also note that the Safe Parking lot is not heavily used (see first photo below), yet it is fenced and the 25 spaces cannot be used by park users. (See <https://www.circlingthenews.com/safe-parking-effectiveness/>.) Undoubtedly, there are parking lots of government buildings that can be used for Safe Parking, instead of using a park. For example, we have heard that LADOT is considering the use of their parking lots for Safe Parking.

We also request notice of any requests to extend the Safe Parking program, change the number of parking spots in the program, or have a Safe Parking program in another parking lot of the park, such as the one outside Council Member Bonin's office, because that parking lot is shared by people who use the senior center (see last four photos below taken in the senior center and senior center parking lot). The remaining parking lot in the park is used by adults and children using the Recreation Center, the skate park, and the tennis courts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra Huston









IMG_6302.HEIC
735K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Westchester Park updates

1 message

Debra Huston

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:57 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

Date: Wed, May 18, 2022 at 8:56 AM

Subject: Westchester Park updates

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, <tony.royster@lacity.org>

Cc: Alexandra Reynolds

Honorable RAP Commissioners and General Manager Michael Shull,

Last November, when Mr. Bonin conducted his Encampments to Home program in Westchester Park, we learned that vehicles used as dwellings were NOT included in that program. At that time, Bonin staff person Hannah Levien informed us there would be no enforcement as to the vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lots of the park because of a moratorium.

As you know, there was a City Council-imposed moratorium from October 2020 on towing vehicles used as dwellings. The City Council lifted that Moratorium last month (Council File No. 21-0956.) We have all been waiting for that moratorium to be lifted so enforcement could begin as to vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park. (See <https://abc7.com/rv-vehicle-dwelling-towing-parking-enforcement/11722630/>)

Two weeks ago, a member of Mike Bonin's staff appeared at our Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey meeting and informed members of that body and the public in attendance that enforcement of curfew in the parking lot that serves the Senior Center at Westchester Park will not begin in the foreseeable future, despite the City Council's action in lifting the moratorium on enforcement/towing last month (see my previous email). The reason given by this staff person was that outreach to offer housing to the people living in vehicles in the park must now begin, and that the City must provide outreach procedures and no enforcement can begin until the City develops procedures.

This has already been done. Council File 21-0956 contains all the LADOT reports adopted by the City Council that specify outreach procedures and protocols, and specifies five instances in which outreach is not needed. (See

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0956_rpt_DOT_02-23-22.pdf.) Housing has been offered to the vehicle dwellers in the parking lots of the park dozens of times, at minimum, by PATH, LAHSA, and SHARE Housing. Maybe hundreds of times. All offers of housing have been rejected based on a preference of staying in the parking lot of the park. The most recent LADOT report specifies a list of priorities for towing, and that includes vehicles that are not operational, among other things. We, and many elected officials, disagree with Mr. Bonin's interpretation. Bonin is the chair of the Transportation Committee that developed the procedures in coordination with LADOT. The matter was held up in the Transportation Committee by the chair (Mr. Bonin) for a year and a half while procedures were developed.

Mr. Bonin's staff person also said at the NCWP meeting that there is a shortage of storage space for RVs that are towed, and for that additional reason enforcement will not happen in the park.

Mr. Bonin's office has made it clear to RAP that he will not allow any enforcement in the lot that serves the Senior Center and the Library, claiming it is under the jurisdiction of the General Services Division. This is the largest parking lot in the park, yet it has been rendered unusable by most because of the vehicle dwellers in that parking lot that serves the Senior Center. (See photo below.) This one vehicle is using three to four handicapped parking spots directly in front of the Senior Center. There are approximately 20 vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lots of the park, and many use more than one parking spot and handicapped parking spots. The vehicle dwellers near the Senior Center attract homeless campers. A photo below shows a homeless camper who is camped directly in front of the front door of the Senior Center. Both photos were taken this week.

In addition, we have learned through Public Records Act requests that Mr. Bonin's office is inquiring of RAP about increasing the number of parking spots in the Safe Parking program located in the parking lot near the swimming pool. That Safe Parking program is underused and attracts vehicle dwellers to the part of the parking lot that is not included in the Safe Parking program. Between the fenced-in Safe Parking area and vehicle dwellers in the parking lots, over 50 parking spots in the park are unavailable for use by park goers. In addition, park goers do not feel safe parking in two of the three parking lots of the park because of the vehicle dwellers.

Westchester Park is a Rec Center Park with programming year round. There is a skate park, eight tennis courts, a senior center, a swimming pool, four lighted multiplex ball fields, and large areas with tables for gatherings and events in the park. There is also a public library that shares parking with park goers. Because of the robust usage of the park, as shown by usage records maintained by RAP, **the CAO determined the park is not feasible for Safe Parking.** (See attachment.)

The ballfields at the park are under renovation, and when that renovation is completed this summer, hundreds of families will need parking. Our elders need parking spaces to engage in programs and activities in the senior center, and families with children need parking to participate in programs at the library.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully request that RAP do all of the following:

- **Deny Mr. Bonin's request for an extension of the permit for Safe Parking and for an expansion of that program in Westchester Park.**
- **Begin enforcement in the parking lots of the park under RAP jurisdiction. RAP rangers went to the park one evening after curfew and asked vehicle dwellers in the lot by the ballfields to leave, and they did. Enforcement is authorized by the City Council now, and it works. Also, it does not necessarily include towing.**
- **Install T-Bar gates at all parking lot entrances and exits and close and lock them during park curfew hours.**

Attached is a video of DeAndre Parks, whose Westchester Vikings Pop Warner flag football league folded, despite Mr. Parks efforts to save the league. Westchester Park was the home field for the Vikings. The Vikings served a racially mixed group of children, including many from east of the 405 who could take a bus straight down Manchester to the park. The league provided hot meals for the players and a very positive youth athletic experience. This was a program the community and other communities counted on and needed. After the league folded, many of the players were left without a league because of lack of transportation to other fields. Please note that Mr. Parks' reference to Safe Parking in no way expresses his support for or acceptance of Safe Parking in the park. At the time he was trying to save his league, Safe Parking in the park included five or six parking spaces for women, and was in another parking lot. None of us had any idea Bonin planned to increase it to 25 fenced-off parking spots. Mr. Parks' video demonstrates his struggle to save his league, and all the difficulties and roadblocks he faced. We are still dealing with difficulties and roadblocks, after well over a year, which is how long the ballfields have been closed.

I have included as an addressee Mr. Tony Royster, General Manager of the General Services Division which maintains jurisdiction over the parking lot next to the Senior Center. We believe based on LAMC 86.03 that RAP has enforcement authority in this lot because it serves the park. We understand there is disagreement on this issue. We have reached out to Mr. Royster with our concerns and have asked for his help.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and please help us restore this park to one that is safe and feels safe for all, is consistent with the mission statement of LA City Parks and park equity policies, and is consistent with the CAO determination that Westchester Park is not feasible for a Safe Parking program (see attached CAO report). We remain grateful for your help.

Debra Huston

 DeAndre Parks 480.mov

3 attachments



IMG_7087.jpg
142K



IMG_7090.jpg
151K

 **CAO report 21-0350_misc_08-10-21.pdf**
139K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please contact the RAP Commissioners regarding this

1 message

Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:05 PM

To: Debra Huston <

>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

+Rap Commissioners

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:52 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Jimmy,

We have obtained information about various crimes committed by and incidents involving homeless people in the Westchester Park that involve children and others.

Unfortunately, as a member of the public, the only information I can get from LAPD and LAFD is service call logs. I am not able to access any 911 call logs, 911 tapes, police reports, or a log of calls that resulted in an arrest.

It is important that the RAP Commissioners have this information in evaluating the impact on public safety that would result from 24-hour Safe Parking in the park.

I believe you would have access to this information, as a public official who would be using it for a board report to the RAP Commissioners to consider in evaluating proposal that may result in crimes against children or others in the park.

Will you please tell the RAP Commissioners that you will investigate this if given additional time? Thank you very much.

This is in addition to the other items in my email of this morning requesting additional time for the reasons stated in that email, such as lack of notice to the NCWP, etc.

Thank you so much.

Debra

--
Jimmy Kim
General Manager

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Dan DesForges <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:41 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 3:58 AM Dan DesForges < > wrote:

Commissioners:

This project is inconsistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Furthermore, I have read the proposed agreement between the city and Community Partners, and while possession of and consumption of alcoholic beverages is explicitly stated in section 5c, nowhere do I find any such prohibition nor possession of other intoxicating substances such as illegal drugs including methamphetamine, opioids, fentanyl, and other popular recreational drugs.

I would urge you to read the proposed agreement carefully and thoroughly and to consider the potential impacts of this proposed program on park goers, youth sports, and the residents in the neighborhood. Thank you.

Dan DesForges

--
City of Los Angeles



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Nicole Sykes <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:37 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:28 PM Nicole Sykes <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I live in Westchester and take my young son to the park.

It is very discouraging to see how much the ballfield has been cleaned up, and sports invited back, and then hear what plans are in store for one of the few greenspaces in our area.

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas.

This is also not the first time that our community has heard that security and fences will be provided, and that has never been followed through.

A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Thank you for your time,

Nicole Sykes

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM

To: Adelle <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:33 AM Adelle <

> wrote:

The parks are for all people!! Did you forget the other 99% of the public that deserve a public park clean well maintained and safe ... Adelle Cantor (a member of the public)

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: A Shannon

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:16 PM A Shannon <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Sincerely,

Anne Shannon

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:29 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:37 AM < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Regards,

Jennifer Solum

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safe parking, Westchester park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:05 AM

To: "

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:23 AM

> wrote:

Inasmuch as your vote will already have been taken, it seems fruitless to mention this, but a reminder:

"MISSION - The Department of Recreation and Parks enhances the quality of life in Los Angeles by providing attractive, safe and well-maintained parks with diverse opportunities to serve and enrich every community.

VISION - The Department of Recreation and Parks envisions an accessible, dynamic and sustainable park system for all Los Angeles residents and visitors to play, enjoy and build community..."

How does this horrible 24-Hour RV park plan comport to your MISSION and your VISION?
I cannot see that it does at all.

Mike Heffernan - CD11

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Edyta Frackiewicz

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:35 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:57 PM Edyta Frackiewicz < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I DO NOT support a legalized encampment program in the parking lot(s) of Westchester Park. I used to very much enjoy going to the Westchester library and park on a regular basis for many years, and after Covid restrictions were lifted, I did not return to my regular library and park visits because the parking lots in Westchester Park are not clean and are not as safe as before when people did not live in the parking lot. Parking spots are taken up by people living in their vehicles and their belongings and trash take up parking spaces. The parking lot and walkway leading up to the library has often smelled like urine which is unsanitary especially in these current times when there is an increased focus and concern for human health and safety.

Thank you for reading my comments and for your consideration.

E. Frackiewicz

--

City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Marion Hogue >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:52 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:16 AM Marion Hogue < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program.

It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall running of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

My husband and I used to attend a Mobility class for Seniors at the park, but because the parking lot has become the home of so many men who have spread their belongings around their vans for cooking and toileting, we no longer feel safe using the parking lot. We were also witnesses to a verbal assault of the instructor of the class inside the Senior Center, and fear for her safety and the safety of all of us who were participants in the class.

Marion and Jeff Hogue

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: TERRENCE HUGHES >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:42 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 5:36 AM TERRENCE HUGHES < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Terrence J Hughes

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Christine Times <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:29 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:29 AM Christine Times <

> wrote:

I grew up in Westchester and spent almost every summer going to the pool and playing tennis and the Fourth of July firework show and watching my kids play soccer and softball in the fields, going to the library and now recently going to the senior center with my mom. It is absolutely disgusting what this Councilman Mike Bonin has allowed with our community and letting people camp there and live there. It smells, it's disgusting, it's violence, it's bad. It's a disgrace that you guys would let this part go to hell when it's all we have in Westchester. Wake up and clean up and send these people somewhere where they can get help and live comfortably but don't do it in our high property tax, high insurance, high cost of living community. You don't see this happening in Beverly Hills, Culver city, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach. Why does it have to happen here? We pay good money for our homes, we try to live good lives here and work hard and this idiot Mike Bonin is here to destroy everything we work for. Get out of here I've had enough of this get these people out of here I can't even take my mom To the senior center to play bingo on Wednesdays. Get a clue clean it up make it nice save our park. Als pop Ralph's grocery stores getting ripped off daily. Save our only park!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

--

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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:14 AM

To: Philip Isles <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:49 AM Philip Isles <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

In regards to the vote on a new contract to begin a legalized encampment program in the parking lot up against the ballfield that is set to start on October 2nd.

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. **The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly.** The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. **This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas.** A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

PHILIP ISLES

--

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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Marilyn >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:57 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:19 AM Marilyn <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

My best regards,

Marilyn Jane Hancock



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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:13 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:40 AM <

wrote:

To Whom it May Concern,

As a life long resident of Westchester, I am deeply concerned about the backhanded decision by Mike Bonin to impose the homeless population upon our park AGAIN. It was made abundantly clear during Covid that the homeless population and our community cannot safely share our park. As taxpaying residents we have the right to utilize our park and our public spaces and feel safe. How is it possible that Mike Bonin is able to swiftly and secretly make such detrimental decisions without the approval of the community? Particularly when he is well aware of how we feel about the homeless being housed on our public park. Mike Bonin has a vendetta against our community and he is on his way out. The overnight parking on Jefferson Blvd. is nothing short of disgusting. The entire environment has been destroyed. It's a hotbed for drugs, crime and FIRES. The area is unusable to anyone but the occupants of the RVs and the environmental impact and the wetlands and the animals are grossly unacceptable. We already have a clear and concise picture of what happens when our views are allowed to park overnight ! Please, PLEASE consider taking the citizens of this community into consideration and DO NOT allow for our park to become a homeless encampment again.

Sincerely,
Whitney Schneider

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: ** NO ** on Safe Parking at Westchester Park!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Joanie Matheson >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 9:37 AM Joanie Matheson <

> wrote:

I sincerely hope you will deny this proposal to further destroy Westchester Park for the benefit of a small number of service-resistant people. A city study already determined that parks are NOT a suitable location for this use.

Your responsibility is to the citizens, not Mike Bonin. Do the right thing and have the guts to stand up to a dishonest politician.

https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/rap-commissioners-postpone-westchester-safe-parking-vote-after-significant-public-pushback/article_8cb38e3c-35d5-11ed-9b4f-5bfc370f510.html

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: 100s of Westchester Park users/supporters have signed this letter to you

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:49 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:11 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lisa GAINES <
Date: Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 10:16 AM
Subject: 100s of Westchester Park users/supporters have signed this letter to you
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, <tony.royster@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
Cc: Frelinger, Amy Nelson < >, Alex Reynolds < > Chip
>, annie Shrake < > Julie Zaller < > Beth
>, DeAndre Parks < > Dan Mohler
>, Eric Beckerman < > erik < >
kristin ziebarth < > Jamie Paige < > Sue Pascoe
<p >, Robert Hansen < > Paula Gerez < >
Tom Brewster < > Debra Huston <

Attachments available until Jul 1, 2022

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

I am a 30-year resident of Westchester. My husband and I raised our three children here. Over the past few years, we have watched Westchester Park become a large homeless encampment with tent and vehicle dwellers and an LAPD crime hotspot. The park became unsafe for seniors and youth, as well as all others, because of the danger presented.

The tent encampments have been removed from the park, but we still have vehicle dwellers in the parking lots of the park, and we have a Safe Parking program that uses less than 25 of the 50 parking spots of the parking lot next to the ball fields and the recreation pool (https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoib2BjYTBjMDMtZjFhMS00OTkxLTlmZTEtYWJmNGNhZjRiNjZlIiwidCI6IjBiYWU1NDliLTUyZDgtNGEzYi1hYTE5LWQ1MDY2MmIzMDg5NyIsImMiOjZ9&pageName=ReportSection) as is reported by LAHSA. That Safe Parking program is underutilized and has eight or fewer cars in the lot each night.

Our community and surrounding communities need these parking spaces, and they need a park that is safe for them.

Please see the hundreds of letters in the attached google drive (the file is too big for email) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jSSTLXV0AG-Hy-FzOe0qxPrC1lIWkaz0?usp=sharing . They reflect the concern of our community, who have been waiting for over two years to be able to safely use the park.

We ask that you deny any request by our Council Office to extend or expand the Safe Parking permit, and that you help in any way you can to help clear the parking lots of homeless vehicle dwellers. Our Council Member has had two years to find other locations, and now LAX has 50 Safe Parking spots which can be used by the few who now use the Safe Parking lot in Westchester Park. Our Council Member has the staff and authority to find locations for the vehicle dwellers to park as well.

We have recently been informed by an LAPD officer that Mike Bonin has armed security at his office at the park. Therefore, we believe it is clear he recognizes the danger and seeks his own personal safety. We also ask that RAP arrange for armed security for the ball fields, the senior center, and other facilities within the park, such as the tennis courts and recreation pool for our safety, too.

Our community and surrounding communities need our park. Thank you for your consideration.

Lisa Gaines

--

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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: A park is a park! Not a home!!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Anita Shah-Desai <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:59 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 10:38 AM Anita Shah-Desai <

> wrote:

You CAN NOT house people in a parking lot that has no water lines to hook their water lines too, no toilets and showers to support all those people, and no security to prevent them from undertaking illegal activities!! Do not repeat this problem again that we residents worked so hard to rid of. You are putting tax paying citizens at a safety risk and turning our town into a junkyard!! PLEASE stop this madness!!!!!! 🙄

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Against rv parking in Westchester park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:52 AM

To: Jacqueline Corsini >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 11:22 PM Jacqueline Corsini < > wrote:

Greetings committee members. I am vehemently against the current "safe parking" proposal which will amount to nothing more than a permanent encampment for westchester park. It took so long for the park to be safe and usable for children again (we didn't use the playground for years) and this proposal is just a giant step backwards. My family has been anxiously awaiting First Flight preschool's reopening only to find that now a permanent encampment will be allowed within feet of the front gate? Our city needs to invest in actual solutions for the insecurely housed... things like tiny house villages, health care, education and job placement programs, are all steps forward that I support. As a local resident, I could not disagree with this current safe parking motion any more. Thank you for your time and consideration and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Corsini
Playa del Rey resident (6 years)
Children at WISH Elementary School and First Flight

--

Jacqueline K.G. Corsini

4th Grade Teacher at the Carlthorp School
MPhil Educational Leadership and School Improvement
University of Cambridge

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Against Westchester Park 24hr RV parking VOTE NO!!!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jacqueline Arias

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:16 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:08 AM Jacqueline Arias < > wrote:

Hello,

I'm a long term resident of Westchester. I have a young daughter with special needs and we can no longer go to our neighborhood park. My daughter would meet her tutor at the library at Westchester park and now we can not go to the park! I've been listening to the ZOOM meeting and you discuss safety is your concern however thats not happening at Westchester Park! The park is a dangerous filthy place...

Best,

Jacqueline Arias

Sent from my iPad

--

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Any info to share about Westchester Park parking lots?/Info for you

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:53 AM

To: Debra Huston <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:23 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** >

Date: Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 6:48 AM

Subject: Any info to share about Westchester Park parking lots?/Info for you

To: Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>

Good morning, Che,

Have you been able to reach anyone in Mike Bonin's office to get info about his plans for the parking lots in Westchester Park?

I have a bit of information for you. One of our community members spoke with the guy who is the contact for the construction that is going on at CM Bonin's field office (electric gate, barbed wire security fences, cameras) and he said that work is almost done, but that the project is far from done and they are looking to squeeze in a lot more work under that same permit.

The notice regarding the work that is posted on the back door to CM Bonin's office leaves blank the section regarding "scope of work."

There has been some ticketing by LADOT, and some vehicles have been moved. We don't know if they were towed. The vehicle dwelling count in that parking lot remains at about 20, which is more than double what it was just a month ago. A couple fifth-wheel trailers (RVs without the motor) have been towed into the lot and people are living there now. Tents are popping up in front of CM Bonin's office at night.

There have been large gatherings at the park on weekends, mostly family reunion and church events, and mostly people from the Inglewood area. I've spoken with several of them. They are quite surprised by the state of the parking lot, and afraid to park anywhere near the vehicle dwellers because of the trash and bikes and propane tanks, etc. So they use the red zones along the curb or they park on Manchester, which really isn't a safe thing for families to do. The people at the tennis courts are still terrified of more incidents happening. And the ball fields will be open October 3 when the winter season begins. Kids play until 9:00 p.m., at least, during the winter, and it is dark at 5 p.m. League presidents are concerned because when the ball field lights are on, they cannot see who is coming toward the kids in the dark. And there have been many instances involving homeless dwellers in the park that justify their fear.

Several of our community members have spoken with Miguel Centeno, who lives part time in his orange van in the park. The city has provided him an apartment, but he still keeps his van in the park. He introduces himself as the "mayor" of the park. He has said to several people, separately, that CM Bonin's staff have told him and others that they will never have to move from that lot. He said LAHSA comes twice a week and offers housing, but the vehicle dwellers prefer to stay in the park.

I think there is already a city program, maybe through LAHSA, to give vouchers for vehicle dwellers to use to park in RV parks? Not sure about that.

Another bit of info. We have heard from a very reliable source that CM Bonin is trying to get FAA approval to move 25 RVs from the Wetlands to Northside Parkway, which is in Westchester, just north of the north runway of LAX. The source said it is highly unlikely any such approval would be granted.

Our community does not want the RVs from the Wetlands moved here, and especially not to Westchester Park, because all the crime, drug use, and the rest would move right along with them. And we really do need the park, as do our surrounding communities. We need the park, safety i the park, and all the parking in the park.

Someone in our community started an Action Network letter writing campaign, which I signed. I noticed the Mayor is a recipient. There are now almost 8,000 signatures in a very short amount of time. So many people in our community are so upset about the situation at the park.

Please give me a jingle when you have a chance. I will be working today and in a meeting. I'll shoot you an email when I'm done for the day. Thank you so much.

Debra

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: BAD, BAD WESTCHESTER PARK PROJECT

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Karen Jones <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:20 PM Karen Jones <

> wrote:

Dear RAP:

Why is anyone still listening to Mike Bonin? He has destroyed Venice, he has destroyed businesses on Venice Blvd. with his Road Diet project, and he is about to destroy Westchester Park with this cockamamie idea! The same kind of criminal activity that went on before the park was cleared of the extensive encampment will be back, but now, apparently, it will be hidden from public view. It will only attract more drug addicts, mentally ill people and people who will prey on them. And the 24/7 security? Is that person supposed to break up fights or save women from being raped? Or prevent drug overdoses? Accepting a few RV/cars will mean more will gravitate to the park, and will undoubtedly start to spill over out the gates.

Mike Bonin quit. He apparently couldn't take the stress of the job (which he wasn't actually doing, as he stopped taking his constituents' calls or answering emails/letters years ago). He's now in over-drive to leave a "legacy". Please do not let his pathetic appeal leave the legacy of another idiotic project, which doesn't protect the homeless or people who want to use the park.

This is an ill-conceived project that hasn't been thought through. Please don't let this happen.

Karen Jones
Venice

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Bonin's plan is to use 24-hour Safe Parking for nonoperational RVs (Westchester Park)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:58 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 7:22 PM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Noah Fleishman, of Mr. Bonin's office, appeared at a Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, just a week prior to the RAP Commissioners meeting of Thursday, September 15, during which Mr. Bonin's office sought approval of 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park.

As we have claimed, we have been excluded from this entire process by Mr. Bonin's office. We have been ignored, and our inquiries have gone unanswered.

To our surprise, Mr. Fleishman appeared at the NCWP meeting on September 6. To the surprise of everyone on that meeting, Mr. Fleishman said RVs from the Ballona Wetlands and the Muni lot at Westchester Park would/could be moved to the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking program at Westchester Park. And he specified "nonoperational vehicles" would/could be moved to that lot.

I noticed during the RAP Commissioners meeting of September 15, 2022, that neither Mr. Fleishman nor Mr. Sachin Medekar mentioned anything about RVs. I noticed the commissioners didn't either, and that they seemed to mention only cars. After the meeting, I realized maybe the commissioners knew nothing about Mr. Bonin's plans to use this proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot for RVs.

I then reviewed the RAP staff report and the contract prepared by RAP which was considered the Board Report for the item (22-244) on the agenda. Neither the staff report nor the contract to be signed by RAP and LAHSA mentions RVs or cars--the only references are to "vehicles." There is no requirement in the contract that the "vehicles" be "operational," although this is a requirement in the other Safe Parking contracts I have seen.

I then emailed Jimmy Kim, and asked if RVs are prohibited, and he responded by email and said it was his understanding that the lot would not allow RVs. I asked him to verify that, and I have not yet heard back from him. It has been more than 24 hours since I emailed him about this, and both today and yesterday were regular business days.

We would like to alert the commissioners that Mr. Bonin plans to move RVs and even non operational RVs into the 24-hour Safe Parking program if the program is approved.

This is of huge concern to our community because people who live in RVs and nonoperational RVs in the Wetlands and in the Muni lot at Westchester Park are highly service resistant and they consider their RVs to be their "homes." They do not aspire to be a LAHSA success story and get services, jobs and housing. I know that one concern of your commission was that people living in the parking lot be working toward independence.

In addition, our community was offended by comments by Mr. Medekar/Fleishman that were were relying on "misinformation" and confusing the Safe Parking lot with the Municipal lot. Neither is true. There are numerous records with LAPD that show the area around the Bridge home in Venice is highly dangerous for homeless and housed people alike because the Bridge facility is surrounded by tents. There is security inside the Bridge Home, so not many crimes are committed there. Yet the residents maintain "dual residences" outside the bridge home and are involved in crime.

If the 24/7 Safe Parking program in Westchester Park has security on site, the people who live there will go out into the park to commit their crimes--just as the vehicle dwellers in the Muni lot do. They will go harass children, and all the other crimes described in the park by people who called in to your meeting. Also, it is well known, and certainly by LAPD, that people living in RVs in the Wetlands commit all manner of crimes in the Wetlands RV/other vehicle encampment and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

I pass this on to you because even though Mr. Medekar and Mr. Fleishman indicated/suggested to you that the people in the 24-hour Safe Parking lot would be the same people in the nighttime-only Safe Parking lot. They will not be.

I also wish to add that nighttime-only Safe Parking does not present anywhere near the same level of danger to children because the lot is closed during the daytime when the children are there. There are definitely people who use that Safe Parking light who simply move outside the fenced in Safe Parking area after Safe Parking hours end in the morning, and some move over to the Muni lot. However, 24-hour Safe Parking takes the danger to park goers to a whole new level. That is why we want the Muni lot cleared before the ballfields open. Children use those fields for up to five hours after dark on winter evenings, and it is not safe to have vehicle dwellers in the park when children are present--and especially after dark.

Mr. Bonin has made only a promise that he will clear the Municipal lot of vehicle dwellers. We have heard that his office is now claiming that they do not have money to buy the signs that would need to be posted before towing could commence. We have been working to get the Municipal lot cleared for a year, and there is always a reason or excuse why it can't be done. We do not expect that to change.

Also, there is no question that these nonoperational RVs would be in violation of zoning ordinances.

I hope the commissioners can clarify this, among many other issues of concern, during the next meeting on this matter.

I believe I know someone who recorded the public proceedings of the NCWP meeting during which Mr. Fleishman made his representations. I would be happy to try to obtain a copy and provide it to you if you so need.

Thank you so much.

Debra Huston

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City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Camping at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Gene Cunningham >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:47 AM Gene Cunningham <

> wrote:

Please say no to another ill conceived plan to destroy the Park put forward by our incompetent Council man and his non profit (for profit) cronies.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: City Council has lifted the towing moratorium. We request enforcement of vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston < >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:52 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:15 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 12:20 PM
Subject: City Council has lifted the towing moratorium. We request enforcement of vehicles used as dwellings in Westchester Park
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Michael Shull <michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>
Cc: Beth O'Rourke < >, Lisa Gaines Gaines < >, Dan Mohler < >, Paula Gerez < >, Alexandra Reynolds < >, DeAndre Parks < >, Eric Beckerman < >

Honorable Recreations and Parks Commissioners, General Manager Michael Shull, and Assistant General Manager Jimmy Kim:

Today the City Council passed a motion that will allow LADOT to resume towing of vehicles used as dwellings effective May 15, 2022. The matter is identified as Council File 21-0956.

I am attaching the links you and/or your legal team will need to begin the enforcement process in the lot in Westchester Park that is under the jurisdiction of the General Services Division, and also in the other two lots of the park which are under RAP jurisdiction.

The number of vehicles used as dwellings in the parking lots of that park has increased significantly in the last few months. We understand the Sheriff will be in Venice from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and we fully expect that many RVs will move to Westchester Park.

Park curfew signs are posted in all three parking lots in the park stating vehicles in violation of the park curfew will be towed pursuant to LAMC 63.44. The parking lot under General Services Division jurisdiction is heavily used by park goers. We have been informed by park rangers that towing and enforcement in lots in other parks under GSD jurisdiction is taking place despite the moratorium because LAMC 63.44 "no parking" after curfew signs are posted in the lots in those parks. (See LAMC 86.03.)

Now the City Council has acted, and we request the following:

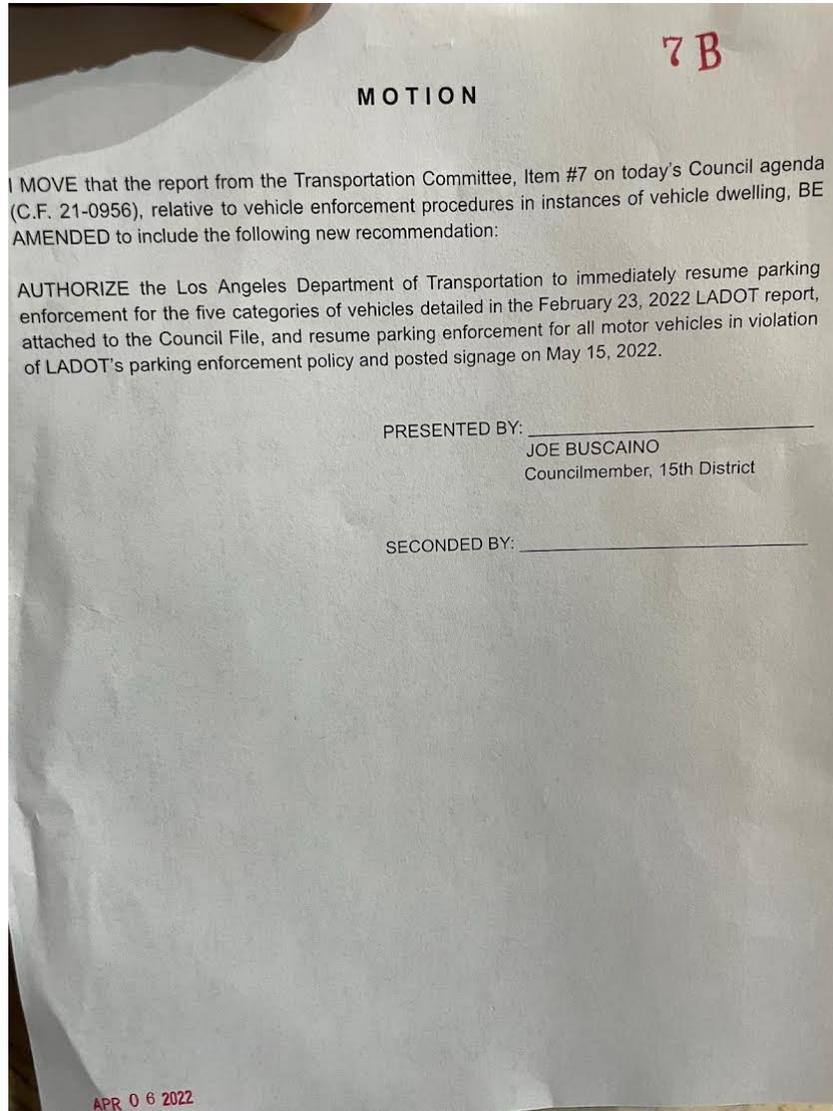
- 1. Enforcement in all three parking lots of the park begin no later than May 15, 2022.**
- 2. The installation of t-bar gates at the entrance and exit of each parking lot so the gates may be closed and locked during park curfew to ensure no vehicle dwellers park in the parking lots of the park in violation of park curfew.**

Thank you for all of your work in making the park safe for seniors and youth athletes. Our community is grateful for your efforts.

Debra Huston

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0956_rpt_tran_3-1-22.pdf

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0956_rpt_DOT_02-23-22.pdf



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 Figueroa Plaza
 221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: COMMISSIONERS MEETING sept 15 22-244- PLEASE READ

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Ligia Lotus >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:01 PM Ligia Lotus wrote:
Hello Commissioners,

I'm a resident of Westchester and I would love it if you can hear our voices as residents, park goers and parents. This project is insane, we already had the experience of having almost a city of homeless people built in our park, our farmers market was a disaster, my kids play tennis, basketball and rid to let them go with me, imagine alone. This is not fair, the park does not sustain this kind of project and will pretty much go back to what was with violence, fear and so unsafe to our families protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive area issues before making any decision to move forward.

Please listen to us!
Thank you for your time.

All the best,
Ligia Soares

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: CPRA No. 1105 - Re: No ADA Compliance for Westchester Senior Center Cooling Center: PRA Request for Information

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:52 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:18 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lisa GAINES < >
Date: Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 9:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: CPRA No. 1105 - Re: No ADA Compliance for Westchester Senior Center Cooling Center: PRA Request for Information
To: Debra Huston < >, Tim Campbell < >

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Date: September 13, 2022 at 11:52:33 PM GMT+3
To: Lisa GAINES < >
Subject: Re: CPRA No. 1105 - Re: No ADA Compliance for Westchester Senior Center Cooling Center: PRA Request for Information

Hi Lisa

Please be advised that the Department of Recreation and Parks has made its determination on your request as required by Government Code section 6253(c). We can confirm that we have a number of non-exempt records that are responsive to this request. While most of the records are expected to be non-exempt, we do know that some of the records will be exempt from production. Some records will be exempt from production under California Government Code section 6254(k) because they are confidential attorney-client communications and/or protected work product. Additionally, some requested records may be withheld under Government Code sections 6254(c) and 6255 because they are either personnel, medical, or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, or they would show the listed officials' deliberative process. As to these latter documents, Government Code section 6255 permits nondisclosure because the public interest served by protecting the deliberative decision-making process clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure. At this time, we estimate that the records will be made available to you for inspection and/or copying by **October 19, 2022**.

Best Regards,

On Thu, Sep 8, 2022 at 1:15 PM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

The Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) is in receipt of your information request for:

"Information requested: all communications including but not limited to texts, emails, reports, assessments, letters, notes, reports, summaries of meetings or phone calls regarding emergency plan for cooling centers in Los Angeles and any specific to Westchester Senior Center.

Dates: 2008, 2009, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 year to date received"

You can expect a response to this request on or before **September 19, 2022**. Please reply to this email if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

On Thu, Sep 8, 2022 at 9:32 AM Lisa GAINES < > wrote:

PRA: Senior Center and Library City Designated Cooling Center Request for Information

Information requested: all communications including but not limited to texts, emails, reports, assessments, letters, notes, reports, summaries of meetings or phone calls regarding emergency plan for cooling centers in Los Angeles and any specific to Westchester Senior Center.

Dates: 2008, 2009, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 year to date received.

Format: email preferred

Sadly, I am exercising my right as a citizen and caregiver to a disabled family member, Doris Gaines, to demand documents in all communication forms including but not limited to texts, emails, written letters, notes, transcripts, assessments, reports, phone logs, litigation, briefings, policies and procedures regarding the use of Westchester Park and Library for a city cooling center.

As you are well aware of my past emails pleading our city officials to take action to remove the encampments at the park because the homeless block ADA designated spots with trash and personal items reducing access to ramps and entrance, the homeless permanently park in designated ADA spots reducing access to ramps and spots, and pose a real and present danger to the disabled who require more time and effort to load and unload rendering them more vulnerable and easy target by mentally ill homeless illegally living in the park parking lot and in city business doorways preventing access altogether.

Also, in past emails, I have itemized the assaults, sexual assaults, shootings, fires, dog assaults, drug overdose, illegal use of gas generators, accelerant use, drug manufacturing, illegal chop shops, and dispelling human waste down the street drains, to name a few of the crimes that have plague the community by the city's lack of enforcement of No parking and no overnights parking rules. This city park was not designed nor designated as a place for homeless to live. It was not designed for homeless to live with no regard to the disabled and Seniors, let alone young children and the environment.

I asked, pleaded and begged to move the homeless so our community with disabled can access the library, park and senior center. No one responded to my emails. I sat on a dozen or more zoom city meetings and publicly requested to clear the ADA parking spots of homeless and got no response. After 3 dozen no response calls and emails to Bonin and Garcetti, I sent 311 requests for clean up and got no results. I sent emails to transportation and they pointed fingers to parks and rec who pointed right back to transportation. Then I contacted two more agencies water and sanitation and finally they went out to clean it up but were accosted by homeless campers and called the police for back up. What exactly do you do if not helping the community? You are the barrier to access for disabled people AND all community members. Really, the effort to get a response is a reflection on you NOT CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE. And because they are disabled you expect no one will have the energy to go through all these hoops just to get a response. Shame on you.

I surveyed the homeless who were willing to speak to me (7 in total) and the self appointed "mayor" of the parking lot. All received at least 2 apartment placements in the last 3 months that all but one rejected: the other one keeps both apartment and camp at the park. The RV dwellers also were given spots at RV accessible lots for which they turned down because "Mike Bonin told us we don't have to move no matter what anyone else says." There are places for them it is not acceptable to allow them to turn down housing and plague this public space with sewage, trash, crime and violence which prevents the disabled and others from using the cooling center at westchester park.

Shame on all of you for allowing this to happen. No care or consideration for the disabled.
Dispicable.

I want immediate response because the weather is so hot and the cooling center is not safe.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gaines

Sent from my iPhone

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Do not bring more people to live into Westchester Park.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:36 AM

To: araceli perez <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:13 PM araceli perez <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

--
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Figueroa Plaza
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Mail Stop: 625/15
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Do Not Use Westchester Park for Homeless Safe Parking

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:04 AM

To: Myra >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:17 AM Myra < > wrote:

As a 40-year Westchester resident, residential property owner & tax payer, I do not support allowing 24-hour Safe Parking nor homeless encampments in the Westchester Park as proposed by Councilman Bonin, who will no longer be responsible for the state of homeless affairs after 2022.

Please reconsider Bonin's policies on homelessness in the Westchester area before he leaves the significant negative impacts to the Westchester Park & community for another year.

Bonin is not representing the well-being, safety & rightful use of parks & recreation resources for the local residents & stakeholders, including families, seniors &

children. I encourage RAP to vote against legalizing the encampment program in the Westchester Park parking lots starting Oct. 2, 2022. I am concern about the take-over of our precious resource of the only park in our area & lack of enforcement in crime & order. Thank you for hearing our concern.

Myra & Rick Kriwanek

email: Myra@Kriwanek.com

Sent from my iPhone

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Drug Use/lewd acts/Intimidation-Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: kristin ziebarth <>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:00 AM kristin ziebarth <> wrote:

I have personally witnessed drug paraphernalia /needles/alcohol/sexual things (dildo) from the homeless people living at the park. They have yelled incoherent rants at me and my boys when I took them to practice lacrosse at the field by the tennis courts. They made us feel very uncomfortable and intimidated. I am afraid for my safety and my kids and don't understand how RAP could condone this terrorism on our community.

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/westchester-coalition-hires-high-profile-attorney-to-stop-bonins-safe-parking-plan/article_79c7ed4a-34fe-11ed-bdc0-eb5491a72271.html

Kristin Ziebarth

Sent from my iPhone

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City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Extended 24/7 Safe Parking @ Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Theresa Torrance <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:05 AM Theresa Torrance <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am a longtime resident of PLAYA DEL REY and serve on the NCWP and am sending this email to express my family's extreme opposition to the proposed extension of round the clock Safe Parking in the south lot of Westchester Park.

While the NCWP had approved a limited number of spaces for Safe Parking several years back, on a temporary basis, our councilman/city has pushed the community to the limits with continuing to expand use of the park and not restore it to its intended use. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Regards,
Theresa Torrance

--
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Figueroa Plaza
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Great to see you at the park today

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:53 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:24 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 7:59 PM
Subject: Great to see you at the park today
To: Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez < >

Che,

It was great to run into you and Booker at Westchester Park today. I am happy to hear of your plans to find a location to move the vehicle dwellers from the parking lot outside the senior center and the library. Our park goers (seniors, library users, youth athletes and more) need these parking spaces, and they need to both feel and be safe when parking in that lot and when they are in the park or library.

As I mentioned, we have been asking CM Bonin's office for information for months, and we get no response. By filing Public Records Act requests, we learned he had obtained estimates to fence that entire lot and that he was inquiring about getting Roadmap funding to use it for Safe Parking purposes. This was and still is shocking to our Westchester/PDR community, so the sooner we can get confirmation that an alternative location for the people who live in that lot can be found, the better.

I am cc:ing our Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey, Paula Gerez, on this email because she, too, has been trying to get information from CM Bonin's office about his plans for that parking lot. The NCWP constituents are concerned about this and Ms. Gerez has to answer to them.

Booker or you mentioned that the NCWP would be able to meet in the community room once again. That would be great. So many community organizations previously used this room as well but have been reluctant to do so because of the parking lot situation.

There are so many lots in the City, other than in a park, for Safe Parking. Thank you for being at the park today and staying on top of this.

Please keep us informed. We will let you know if we hear from Mr. Bonin's office that there is no plan to use that parking lot for homeless interventions, and that the people living there will be moved so the park can be restored to park use.

We would also want confirmation from him that the park curfew will be enforced. He is aware that we want this. He is also aware that we want gates on all parking lot entrances and exits with the gates being locked at park curfew time.

Debra



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: HIGH IMPORTANCE--Staff report re: 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park is Deficient

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:52 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:17 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tim Campbell** < >
Date: Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: HIGH IMPORTANCE--Staff report re: 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park is Deficient
To: Debra Huston < >, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, <ethics.enforcement@lacity.org>, Lisa Gaines <

Good Morning

I would like to echo Ms. Huston's request to pull the safe parking item from today's agenda. It is clear the Commission has not received complete, accurate information, and for the Commission members to make such an important decision without all the relevant facts would be a dereliction of its duty to the community.

I am a semi-retired public sector manager and I appreciate the paramount importance of our obligation to act in good faith for the public good. I urge the Commission to take its oath seriously and remove this item from the agenda until it receives and has had time to consider all the data related to the safe parking program at Westchester Park.

Thank you

--
Tim C

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figuroa Plaza
221 North Figuroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Homeless at park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Adrienne Christensen <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:42 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:11 AM Adrienne Christensen <

wrote:

Please do not destroy our park in Westchester, this is the park I met my wife in 1966 we have the best memories of the park and don't want to see it turned into a eye sore but a park we can't take our grandkids to play at. The tennis center has started to play pickleball and is getting a large turnout of players, if this passes some of players said that they would go somewhere else to play, many of the players are senior citizens and would not feel safe there anymore. My mother would go to the senior center for their events and a safe place to get together with their friends and stay active even now with the homeless in the parking lot of the center and library everyone is Scared to go to either facility. Please don't take this park away from our Community here in Westchester
Please listen to the people who live here.
Thanks Rich and Adrienne Christensen

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Homeless at Westchester Park and Surrounding Communities

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Laura Batista <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:04 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:20 AM Laura Batista <

> wrote:

Hello:

I'm currently on the Zoom call and was told to send my comment to this email address:

I live at Park West Apartments (La Tijera + Lincoln). I have seen a homeless man smoke his drugs right behind the Park West sign by the gate where I enter to park my car (the side street that leads to the airport police station). We have many RVs now parked on La Tijera. (across from Otis College + Design). During my walk during the daytime, I saw a man come out of his RV and urinate on the tree. In addition, many cars parked on the property have been burglarized. Lastly, the homeless community has expanded along the fence line along the LAX tower/golf course on Lincoln Blvd., near the Westchester Parkway overpass. There was a fire near the tower during the pandemic shutdown (due to the homeless living in that area) and a tower of trash continues to spill down the hill and onto the sidewalk. There used to be a walkway on that side of the street that cannot be used due to the homeless taking over that space.

Thank you,
Laura Batista

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Homeless encampment

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Diane Brahams <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:52 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:18 AM Diane Brahams < > wrote:

Do not put homeless in this area. We have endured fights and shootings from them in the past. There are small children in this area seniors and Westchester High students in that area who will be displaced because of their unfortunate lifestyle. Please consider the other choices you have available.

Diane and Lawrence Brahams

resident for 41 years.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: homeless in Westchester LA

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: penny campagna <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:31 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:53 PM penny campagna < > wrote:

I am so sick of the homeless encampments getting larger and larger. With all the money and fund raisers to help them they have multiplied. Some people don't want to be helped they just want hand outs and not have to follow rules. The ones that want help seek out those shelters.

You know the small percentage of mentally ill who are homeless in comparison to the majority do some research on how many don't want to follow any rules just feel entitled to live where ever they want and be taken care of.

There are days you can't even see the pavement of the parking lot for the library. It's covered with trash and walkways to the library smell like urine. The parking lot for Ralphs in the back also smells of urine. They have no care for picking up after themselves.

You care about their safety. What about the safety of the people paying a premium for rent and mortgages in this area who are afraid of being harassed by them.

They should not be moved to any areas where there are homes and businesses where people care about the area and the environment. They are trashing our property values.

There is plenty of land out towards the desert that is undeveloped maybe that would be a better option.

I was never a heartless person and have given generously to all causes but this seems to have back fired by allowing them beach front property (Venice Beach) and the ability to let them live where ever they want.

It's really out of hand.
Please reconsider where to place them.

Penny Campagna

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Homeless Parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Sheri Weitz

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:38 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:59 PM Sheri Weitz < > wrote:

To whom it may concern:

I believe it is unsafe to allow the homeless to park their vehicles at Westchester park. It is close to where kids are being taken care of, and also it is not fair to the seniors who cannot use the senior center at this point.

I used to volunteer and teach Zumba at the senior center and currently am unable to volunteer due to the homeless situation.

There are places where the homeless can park which are not close to seniors.

I sincerely hope you do not allow this to go forward on October 2.

Thank you so much for reading my email and your attention to this matter.

Sheri Weitz
Westchester resident

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[Sheri Weitz](#)

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: homeless

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: E-mail Service <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:51 AM E-mail Service <

> wrote:

To the commissioners,

As a homeowner in Westchester since 1993, I really don't think the park or any area should be used for the homeless, Westchester is a beautiful area and we really don't need encampments in this area.

--

City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: HOMELESSNESS RAP September 15 meeting, 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:44 AM

To: WJS TENOR <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:29 AM WJS TENOR <

> wrote:

To whom it may concern, and if it concerns, then you have to start thinking about the people of our communities. We The People ARE the 4th branch of government. You, everyone of you, need to start thinking and producing positive results in our communities. I could not make it to the park because of a hearing handicap, so, that's why I am emailing this to you.

to you

My background:

I was born in Cairo Egypt. My family escaped, at the time, from a 3rd world country, laden with crime and homelessness. The Christians were being heavily persecuted, as well. Wealth, businesses were being confiscated by an evil regime.

We escaped, I was 6 years old.

I graduated LMU with a Bioscience degree. I, also, obtained a degree as doctor of dental surgery, but I was also very heavily trained in medicine.

I did not come to this beautiful country to live, once more, in a 3rd world country and city. Homelessness is government failure. It's NOT We The People's failure!

SO!? What else can it be?

An estimated, 47,000 of the homeless, are military veterans. Instead of getting the necessary medical help they needed, they were dishonorably discharged. The military is run by government. It is a government problem and it IS for the government to solve. Unfortunately decades, of dereliction of duty, has lead up to this mess.

Los Angeles, this state and so many other states in the US have reached 3rd, maybe 4th world status!!!!

I don't sugar coat anything. Many of you, not all, in government are not lazy, you are just self serving!

We also have rising crime and a large drug cartel population in our city! You know why!?

I don't have to tell you.

It is not my plan to accuse anyone of anything, but there is corruption among local government. YOU DON'T THINK SO?

Then how did we get here? It's either incompetence or corruption. You take your pick. THIS IS THE USA! There is no other way that we could have reached this point without one of the above.

In a country when a, so called president, calls half his population as "semi fascists" or a threat to the "Republic", it's not life as usual. That's NAZI Germany.

I did not come to this country, to seek beauty and freedom, only to find myself under a dictatorship again.

Wake up please. If this continues, you will not only be losing OUR citizens, our city, our state and our country, you will also be losing yourselves.

Yes! That's how much I trust our government!

I am not a threat to an insect, let alone our Republic. It's amazing that the divider in chief called us a Republic? The USA is not being run as a Republic, let alone a democracy!

I have put myself out there. If any gestapo come after me, this has been forwarded to many people! This includes a sergeant in the police force, a friend and former patient and a very good friend, in the Sherrif's Department. This will go into their personal email.

I am of Arabic origin, but I would defend OUR country and die for OUR USA's future, if I have too and God Forbid. May it never come to that.

Now, you will hate me even more. I am very religious and I do believe in God, very strongly. Whatever happens, remember my words, and I do pray that you will remember my words happily, God Will Be The Final Judge.

My Arabic, Christian name

Dr. Wadid Youseff Saidi

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: I Oppose The Westchester Park 24-hour safe parking motion

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Madison Weber >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:38 AM Madison Weber <

> wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong concerns regrading the Westchester Park 24-hour safe parking motion. I am a Westchester resident with three kids, ages 10 months to 6 years old. We used to frequent the Westchester park and Library, but now limit our trips as the homeless and RV parking situation is so very unsanitary and makes us feel so uneasy. On our last visit, we were not able to park in a parking spot close to the Library entrance so had to park across the parking lot due to the large amount of RVs parked there. They are dirty, with garbage all around them, with many of the campers loitering and hanging around. I am concerned that making Westchester Park a 24 hour safe parking zone will further spiral the park into demise and not safe for families to enjoy the library and recreational facilities. This is Westchester's ONLY public park and it is sad we cannot use it without being surrounded by unsanitary conditions.

Thank you,

Madison Weber

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Madison Weber

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Item 24-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Robert Hansen <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:42 AM Robert Hansen < > wrote:

Dear commissioners

I would like to be heard. I live across from Westchester Park

I have personally witnessed a mass shooting where one died and 2 others were wounded in my park.

I have witnessed physical assaults on doz and of occasions at this park

Currently we have 2 white supremacists living in the lot. One is a convicted murderer out on parole, the other I am not familiar with his arrest and conviction history

I have witnessed drug injections in view of everyone, out in the open.

I am aware of 4 rapes and 2 women meth addicts working as prostitutes to support their drug use, and two additional females that are selling meth and other drugs for their boyfriends in the park.

I am aware of individuals maintaining multiple residences one with an apartment currently who has both the apartment and his camper and car at the park which he prefers to stay in.

It's time we stopped this craziness. These people need help not parking. The agencies responsible for this craziness should re look at this and end it once and for all.

If you allow this, you will be responsible for the deaths from violence and the drug overdoses that will occur in the park.

This unsafe parking will again result in rapes and beatings, a possible murder or two and the blood will be on your hands.

There are 1200 vacant county buildings and parking areas identified by the county, where not only would there be a place for these vehicles and people, but a central place for wraparound services in one location.

No other park in the city is contemplating this.

This council member will be replaced in a general election in two months. His unveiled attempt to burn down and punish this community on his way out is outrageous and this makes you all complicit in his plan

I and my neighbors implore you to rethink this, do not grant this permit at this time.

Let us all be involved in our community, we work hard everyday to help solve this issue, this solves nothing, it's not even a bandaid on an open and festering open sore.

Respectfully

Robert Hansen



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Lawless Infraction in Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Virginia Smith-Rader <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:07 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 8:19 PM Virginia Smith-Rader <

> wrote:

I, among many other Westchester residents, witness that Mike Bonin cares little about the Parks and Recreation Commission's decision to further review Bonin's 24 hour "safe parking" proposal in lieu of making a decision on this matter. Chain link is being built; large campers have already moved into Bonin's 24-hour homeless camping area. Mike Bonin will no longer be CD-11's Councilman in a few weeks. Westchester asks 'why' Parks and Rec has no meaningful influence on what occurs in our City's parks. This is happening now.....Mandates from Park & Rec indicate ineffectiveness as outgoing Mike Bonin ignores stipulations from your Committee. What's your recourse; what's your next step. Must we again have more news coverage about the clear power shift from outgoing Bonin over our city's Parks & Rec involvement? Please advise. Virginia Smith-Rader

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Letter to the Commissioners of Recreation and Parks

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Patrick Reynolds <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:39 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:14 PM Patrick Reynolds < > wrote:

Mike Bonin's homeless policies been a failure. How? Mr. Bonin allowed over 100 tents in Westchester Park, where the unhoused were living in squalor with truly Kafkaesque scenes by night. Later, Mr. Bonin moved many of the unhoused to motel rooms rented by the City at exorbitant prices.

Now he is asking the commissioners of Recreation and Parks to allow 24-7 parking for 15 RV's in two parking lots at Westchester Park. His allies claim the RV's will be moved if their owners violate the "rules," but do not be persuaded by this. The history of the unhoused in the park includes used needles scattered in the grass, along with other drug paraphernalia and garbage. Many are unwilling to be housed, are mentally ill or drug-addicted.

It is not likely, given this history, that those camping in the RV's will follow the rules for very long.

Chris Lively is an intelligent 21-year-old unhoused person who was living on the sidewalk a few blocks from Westchester Park. When I asked him why he wasn't camping in the park with the other unhoused, he replied emphatically, with fear in his voice, "I feel safer here. At night, Westchester Park is much too dangerous -- there are drugs, screaming, mental illness and violence. It gets really crazy at night."

My wife and I live a few steps from Westchester Park, and we have a 12 year old son. Hundreds of other families in our neighborhood have kids, too.

On October 3, Westchester Park will open for all youth sports -- yet Mr. Bonin has requested that you approve turning the two main parking lots of Westchester Park into safe parking areas for 15 RV's!

They will be able to park there, perhaps indefinitely, for 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

What about the children living in our neighborhood -- the kids who come to play sports in the park, like Little League and AYSO? What about them?

Allowing the unhoused to camp in the parking lots of Westchester Park will bring fear and anxiety to our kids and seniors, and may put them in danger.

Please do not approve Mike Bonin's request. Please ask Mr. Bonin to go back to the drawing board and find another solution. Perhaps the new Mayor of LA will appoint someone with better ideas.

There is a large tract of unoccupied land a few blocks South of the Park, along the north border of LAX. Why cant the RV's be put there?

And why did Mr. Bonin select Westchester Park, and not the parks of Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Bel Air? Why Westchester?

Our community is well organized and mobilized to fight this. I respectfully urge you to ask Mike Bonin to find an alternative solution.

I respectfully ask RAP to make the responsible decision today and not add this new burden on our kids and seniors. They are the ones who will suffer -- and they have rights, too.

Patrick Reynolds

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Municipal parking lot at Westchester Library

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Deborah Konitsney <
>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:16 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:15 AM Deborah Konitsney <

> wrote:

Who has responsibility over the municipal parking lot at Westchester Library? The conditions are deplorable. There is filth and trash everywhere. The place reeks of urine smells. It is deplorable and needs to be cleaned up. The homeless need to be removed. There cannot be people allowed to live there. The park needs to be made safe and usable. You all need to do your job for the community and the people that pay your salaries.

Thank you,
Deborah Konitsney

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: No 24 Safe Parking at Westchester Park !!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM

To: Peter >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:46 AM Peter < > wrote:

Good Morning RAP Commission,

I have lived in Westchester for over 30 years . My 3 boys all played baseball , soccer and Footbal at the park . That has become impossible for my grandchildren. In the last 90 days I have personally witnessed drug paraphernalia /needles/alcohol/sexual things (dildoes, condoms) from the homeless people living at the park. They do not have ample bathroom facilities so there is feces covering parts of the park and parking lot . Why have over \$ 2 million of our tax dollars go to renovations of the park with new fields and 4 new baseball diamonds when we can't use them because our parking lot has now again become a homeless encampment ? That we just managed to clean up . It is not safe for anyone. They have yelled incoherent rants at me and my boys when I took them to soccer and baseball practice at the field by the basketball courts - one individual even exposing himself to us. They made us feel very uncomfortable and intimidated and not safe . I am afraid for my safety and my kids, grandkids and don't understand how RAP could condone this terrorism on our community once again .

This is our community our park that should be used as a park not as a long term storage facility for the homeless .

Please do not condemn our newly renovated fields to be held hostage by this same type of takeover that we had during the pandemic . "Parking" individuals most who need mental assistance makes no sense for the mandate of what the park should and has been used for in the past . We want a safe park for all families in Los Angele - such a rare resource in our community cannot become a homeless Alcatraz . Councilman Bonin's, who is a lame duck Councilman , should not have his personal agenda be completely the opposite from the constituents he represents . We live here . We pay taxes and deserve a safe park for our families and children to play in!

Thank you and save the park for families and youth sports in our community!

Regards .
Peter Novakovic

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: NO Encampments

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:41 AM

To: ron lei <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 3:45 AM ron lei <ron.lei@lacity.org> wrote:

Heard you were having a meeting today to approve encampments at our neighborhood park in Westchester.

My vote would be a resounding NO.

Why don't you commissioners look at the more important issues of CORRUPTION within our county.

Leigh Family

Westchester

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: NO on using Westchester Park for housing!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Joanie Matheson

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:19 PM Joanie Matheson <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Westchester has only ONE public park, library and senior center. Community use of these taxpayer-funded facilities has been severely impacted by the horrendous conditions that have been allowed to fester. How can anyone look around at the filth and countless violations of city ordinances and think bringing in more vehicles and service-resistant park dwellers is a best use of public space?

Bonin has persistently lied, ignored constituents, and fortified his own office area while letting kids, seniors, and other park users fend for themselves. Why should we have to be dumped on like this?

Studies have already determined the park is NOT a suitable "Safe Parking" site. Why has this stupid plan not already been scrapped completely?

V*O*T*E. N*O!!!!!!

Joan Matheson

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: NO on Westchester Park Safe Parking Proposal

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: J Matheson <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:51 PM J Matheson < > wrote:

I listened to your Zoom meeting this morning and was extremely disappointed in what I heard.

First of all, the staff report was out of date on a number of items, such as still listing limited Safe Parking hours, instead of the now proposed 24/7 hours. Questions on screening of potential users was not adequately answered, in particular whether they'd be checked for criminal records or sex offenses. I felt the inaccurate staff report and RAP's seeming lack of preparation was very disrespectful and dismissive of community input.

The constant effort to portray the opposition to the proposed plan as "misinformed" was galling. In light of the lies, secrecy, and backroom deals by/with Bonin & a refusal to acknowledge the park is NOT a campground is infuriating. It was very apparent from remarks made by certain RAP members that this plan is just about approved, public be damned. One RAP person let that slip when he said "when we approve it", not "if we approve it" or "when we vote on it".

Westchester Park is the only public park in the community. Why on earth would anyone think it's OK to make it unsafe and unusable for thousands to accommodate a handful of people who can and should be housed on city property away from parks, libraries, senior centers and childcare centers?

This plan should absolutely be rejected, despite massive pressure/extortion from Bonin.

J. Matheson

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

--
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: No RVs or Encampments in Parks or Residential Neighborhoods

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:34 AM

To: Tom Cox <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:35 PM Tom Cox <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Public parks are no place for homeless encampments or live-in RV parking. This has been tried before and turned into a squalid mess. The city and county have plenty of places where homeless people could live and get the help and support they need rather than being scattered around residential communities in small groups where they can't get the help they need.

There are a half dozen agencies with some responsibility to help the poor homeless population and yet the problem and associated bureaucracy just get bigger each year. Let's just designate a few places away from schools, children and residential areas and insist that the homeless live there until they can transition to something more appropriate and permanent depending on their individual needs.

The voters of Los Angeles are getting quite suspicious of all the political talk and money spent while the problem grows. Please no RV parking, no homeless encampments in parks or any residential area. This has been tried and failed miserably. Please try something new.

The voters are watching what you do.

Good luck,
Tom Cox

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: NO to a legalized encampment program in Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Vickie Man >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:36 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:10 PM Vickie Man <

wrote:

I am strongly opposed to a legalized encampment program in Westchester Park. For too long we lost the park, ball fields, basketball courts, swimming pool and senior center to tent encampments in the park and RV parking in the parking lots and Westchester streets. And this was well before the pandemic-2016. This madness has to stop. This is a very family oriented community, and I, as a resident of 45 years, are glad my kids and grandkids were able to enjoy the park and everything it had to offer. I am responding for myself and every family and senior that now lives in Westchester. It is a sorry state of affairs when you look at the trash that has been allowed to accumulate, and the destruction to the wetlands, along Jefferson Boulevard-wetlands that are supposed to be protected. And now you want to bring it to our park, adjacent to the ball fields where children will be participating. I am beyond mortified, it seems like common sense has gone by the wayside. I implore you not to allow this to happen, our children, our neighbors and our elderly deserve so much better.

Sent from my iPhone

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: No to RV Parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Marie Elena Rigo

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:04 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:16 AM Marie Elena Rigo <

> wrote:

Please vote NO on allowing RV parking at Westchester Park.

Thank you,
Marie Elena Rigo

Marie Elena Rigo

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: No to Westchester Safe Parking

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Brenda Kleidosty Torres >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:36 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:03 PM Brenda Kleidosty Torres < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I attended today's Zoom meeting. I was impressed at the care you all took to discuss park permits, moon bounce requirements, fence damage at the new Sylmar park, and other matters. Please give the residents of Westchester the same consideration and OPPOSE the proposed safe parking plan at Westchester Park.

My reasons are:

—My neighborhood is park-poor and this is our only park. I am not within walking distance of the park, nor are many other residents of 90045. We need these parking spaces to actually use our park, library, pool and senior center.

—My neighbors and I do not use any portion of the park currently near the homeless presence due to their abusive outbursts and visible drug use. I am a proud LA County Library member but drive to Playa Vista due to the threats I have received from the homeless people at Westchester Park. I play tennis weekly at Westchester Park — which is quite a distance from the current residents — and often hear obscenities screamed out. It is frankly shocking to me that a space used primarily by families and seniors would be considered for a homeless housing plan. Don't we deserve a dedicated recreational space, particularly since this park also draws families from surrounding areas like Baldwin Hills and Windsor Hills?

—Safe parking implies that the vehicles are operational. If this is the case, there is no justification for why they need to park in a resident-dense recreational space in West LA. It seems lazy to me to allow this just because this is where some have already chosen to park. There has to be another area in LA County other than our beautiful park.

—Parks are meant to be places for imagination, play, exploration and quiet contemplation. Converting a portion of a park into a residential space, particularly for the homeless, runs contrary to these purposes.

—I heard reports that one of the justifications for this plan is that there have not yet been many safety issues. This is because our neighborhood has just started returning to the park after the widespread encampments were cleared and the fields refurbished. Give us a chance to FINALLY enjoy our park, rather than turning it over to a small group of unhoused people who will once again scare away local families.

With your vote on this key issue, you are deciding whether or not to prioritize the needs of local, tax-paying families. Decisions like this are what cause good families to leave Los Angeles for cities that actually care about hardworking people. Please care as much about us as you did the other residents you kindly spoke of during today's meeting. A park is meant to be a park, plain and simple.

Thank you,
Brenda Torres
(805) 208-4566

--
City of Los Angeles
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Noah's representations at last evening's NCWP meeting [External]

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:54 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:27 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Parks, DeAndre** < >
Date: Wed, Sep 7, 2022 at 11:56 AM
Subject: RE: Noah's representations at last evening's NCWP meeting [External]
To: Gracian, Isela <IGracian@bos.lacounty.gov>, Debra Huston < >, Sofiani, Lily <LSofiani@bos.lacounty.gov>, Paula Gerez < > Cloud, Hamilton
<
Cc:

Ms. Gracian:

The city Councilmember's office, the Mayor's office, Parks & Rec, Department of Transportation, Congress Person, LAPD and the Board of Sup all seem to have no jurisdiction power, authority or say so. Does LAHSA has the authority to make things happen versus the citizens who live here and the aforementioned elected/appointed offices?

The taxpaying citizens of this community have lost youth sports leagues, its senior center, and sense of peace to the homeless.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/westchester-residents-frustrated-with-growing-homeless-encampment/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/video/cooling-centers-open-throughout-la-county-as-record-breaking-heat-bakes-southland/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

From: Gracian, Isela <IGracian@bos.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:34 AM
To: Debra Huston <Debra.Huston@bos.lacounty.gov>; Sofiani, Lily <LSofiani@bos.lacounty.gov>; Paula Gerez <Paula.Gerez@bos.lacounty.gov>; Parks, DeAndre <DeAndre.Parks@bos.lacounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Noah's representations at last evening's NCWP meeting [External]

Good morning,

Let me restate, Westchester Park is within the City of LA which is not Supervisor Mitchell's jurisdiction. She does not have authority to direct what takes place in the park. If Councilmember Bonin's staff is stating differently, I cannot control that.

Yes, the County Board of Supervisors approved funding for Safe Parking sites as part of the tools for our housing and homelessness system. Supervisor Mitchell supports Safe Parking sites and this is a tool which our office is specifically looking at for the RV encampments.

Supervisor Mitchell voted in support of the budget allocation. The funding goes through LAHSA and they provide guidelines for use of the funds. LAHSA is a joint powers authority between the County and the City of LA and they service the entire region.

I have spoken with Councilmember Bonin's team members and stated your concerns. The decision of Safe Parking at Westchester Park is at the City of LA jurisdiction.

I do not have any additional information to provide to you on this matter.

Isela Gracian
Senior Deputy, Homelessness and Housing
 Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
 Chair, Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
igracian@bos.lacounty.gov | P: 213.447.3067
 pronouns: she/her/hers/ella



Resources for American Rescue Plan Act:

Grant opportunities: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/recovery/grant-opportunities/>

Contracting opportunities: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/recovery/contract-opportunities/>

From: Debra Huston

Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:19 AM

To: Gracian, Isela <IGracian@bos.lacounty.gov>; Sofiani, Lily <LSofiani@bos.lacounty.gov>; Paula Gerez <
>; DeAndre Parks <

Subject: Noah's representations at last evening's NCWP meeting

Good morning,

Here's what happened at last evening's Neighborhood Council meeting.

Noah Fleishman of Bonin's office confirmed they are working on expanding Safe Parking in the lot by the pool--the one under RAP jurisdiction. He said it would be 24-hour Safe Parking, and that RVs from the Wetlands would be moved there, among others.

He said they have \$1 mill from the county to fund this, which Holly Mitchell's office arranged, and that they are working with LAHSA.

Jessalyn spoke after Noah paused and said Holly's office has nothing to do with this. Abby Austin jumped in and corrected by saying something like they are working with other county supervisors, or something to that effect.

Noah said there is no other location in CD-11 where they can have Safe Parking for RVs.

This lot is adjacent to the recreation pool and 100 feet from the ball fields. Imagine people from the Wetlands living there full time--with their weapons, drugs, fights, blow torches, chop shops, and more, branching out into the neighborhood and committing crimes. We've had dozens of children victimized by homeless people in that park, and this type of incident would increase. This plan will basically kill the park because no one will let their children play there.

The ball fields were just renovated and will be opened to the public for use on October 3. The City went to great expense to make these fields ADA compliant. And now Bonin wants to use the entire parking lot that serves the fields for 24/7 Safe Parking.

LAHSA is involved in this, as is County money. County officials are involved as well, according to Abby's representations.

Will the Supervisor help us now that it seems the County does have jurisdiction? May we meet about this? Thank you so much.

Debra



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: OPPOSE 24 hour parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:17 PM Joni Williamson < > wrote:

To the RAP commissioners

Green space for children is really important. Westchester and the surrounding community is in dire need of a safe park. This is not a location for Safe Parking for RVs etc. As we saw in the past at the Bridge Home in Venice, there is no security or safety provided for the community.

The children of this community must have a safe place to play and must be a priority.

Vote No on 24 hour Safe Parking at Westchester Park.

Thank you!

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Opposition to sanctioned parking/camping in Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Heather Hart-Smith <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:59 AM Heather Hart-Smith <

> wrote:

Hello,

I oppose the continued use of Westchester Park as sanctioned homeless parking/camping of any kind.

I am a resident of Westchester, who used to use the Westchester Park library branch and other recreational facilities around it. I no longer feel safe there. The area is a sanitation nightmare, not to mention the threat of unleashed dogs and mentally unstable individuals making verbal and physical threats.

Vital public services and public use facilities are in this park. When you allow parking and space to be used as living space for a population of which 30-50% have substance problems and 25% have SEVERE mental illness (via the LA Housing Authorities own 2019 study), this space is no longer a safe public space, especially for children and the elderly.

Drug use is not allowed within a certain number of feet within schools- how is it sanctioned near little league and multiple preschool facilities?

In addition, by removing one of the few public green spaces in LA as a safe space for the majority of residents, there is a mental and emotional toll on the residents of the area. Access to safe green spaces have been proven to be key for mental health. The National Parks and Rec Association ranks Los Angeles 74th out of 100 cities on park access.

Solving homelessness is NOT going to happen by taking away safe green spaces for the residents and children of this community. In addition to multiple previous allocations of money to develop logical solutions to the homeless issues, Los Angeles has been gifted \$533 million for this fiscal year to fight homelessness- let's try using those funds instead of punishing the people who are funding it.

--Heather Hart-Smith

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Park equity and usage information/Westchester Park/Request for meeting

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:46 AM

To: Debra Huston <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:05 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Please include this email as part of the official record for Item 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston**

Date: Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 6:56 AM

Subject: Park equity and usage information/Westchester Park/Request for meeting

To: Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez <

Che,

I still have received no information from CM Bonin's office regarding his plans for the municipal parking lot. I spoke with Paula Gerez, our Neighborhood Council President, and she has received no information from Bonin's office either.

We look forward to meeting with you in the park to discuss what Bonin has planned for the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park, and what we can do to find other parking locations for the vehicle dwellers in the park. I believe I have mentioned I am in close contact with eight youth league presidents who, based on their experience in the park, do not feel safe about having their kids play in the park with homeless people living there full time, and that they need the parking spaces. I am happy to invite those league presidents to meet with us as well. The ball fields are opening October 3, and they would like to have the park safe for their kids, with sufficient parking. We have a group of seniors who are equally concerned and would like to meet with you.

As I have mentioned, Westchester Park is heavily used by people who live in Inglewood and farther east. We have hundreds of pages of Westchester Park usage records that show use of the park by Zip Code for five recent years. These records were obtained from LA City Parks and Recreation pursuant to a Public Records Act request. The use of the park by racial group is about 1/3 African-American, 1/3 Latino, and 1/3 White, according to surveys, and a large percentage of users are from Inglewood.

Here's some information I have collected about park equity and park access in Westchester and Inglewood. According to a report prepared by LA County, both Westchester and Inglewood have .8 acres of park space per 1000 people. The standard is 4 acres/1000 people. Both communities have a severe shortage of park space.

Here's the info for Westchester

https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_067.pdf

Here's the info for Inglewood

https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_116.pdf

"Of all major metro areas, the LA region has the least amount of accessible park space. And the problem is worse for some communities. For example, the recognized standard is 4 acres of parks for every 1,000 people. But in Los Angeles, predominately African American neighborhoods have only 1.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 people, Latino communities have just 0.6 acres and Asian American communities just 0 .3*" <https://lacountyparkneeds.org/parkfacts/>

From these two sections of the LA County study (https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_067.pdf, https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_116.pdf) I put together this information from the chart called "AMENITY QUANTITIES AND CONDITIONS":

	Inglewood	Westchester/PDR
Tennis courts	16	8
Basketball courts	8	2
Baseball fields	5	6
Soccer fields	0	4
Multipurpose fields	1	2
Skate parks	3	1
Playgrounds	7	4
Swimming pools	2	1
Splash pads	0	0
Dog parks	0	0
Gymnasiums	3	2
Senior Center	0	1

Population of Inglewood: 109k
 Population of Westchester: 40k
 Population of PDR: 16k

So for this area of LA County and for a population of about 165k, we have a total of 10 basketball courts in parks, 11 baseball fields, 4 soccer fields, 1 senior center, 3 swimming pools, 3 gymnasiums, and 1 senior center.

And a very large percentage of those facilities are concentrated in Westchester Park. There are buses that go from Inglewood straight down Manchester to Westchester Park.

The mayor is working on achieving park equity in the City, which we support:

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2022/03/08/la-aims-to-improve-parks-with-equity-in-mind/>

"The Los Angeles City Council passed two motions Tuesday aimed at improving and expanding park space and furthering the goals outlined in Mayor Eric Garcetti's "Achieving Park Equity" executive directive.:

Here are the council file numbers for the motions by issuing executive directives, but yet we have this situation in Westchester Park, which serves both Westchester and Inglewood:

21-1467 Passive Recreation / Open Space / Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Property Conversion / Park Equity / Executive Directive No. 31 03/09/2022

21-1462 2028 Summer Olympics Venues / Recreation and Parks Facilities / Ballot Measure Consultant / Parks Condition Assessment Report / Executive Directive 31 / Achieving Park Equity / Funding 03/09/2022

We support the Mayor's efforts because park access is a public health issue:

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2005.072447>

(Contribution of Public Parks to Physical Activity)

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chronic/docs/Parks%20Report%202016-rev_051816.pdf

(Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County, A Cities and Communities Report)

As stated in the CAO report of 8/10/21, thousands of people use Westchester Park each year, the park is not underutilized, and the parking in the park is needed for park users.

Thank you so much, and I look forward to hearing from you with information about Bonin's plans and about making arrangements for you to hear from our league presidents and seniors, and also from our Neighborhood Council President.

Debra

--

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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Park homeless camp use

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:43 AM

To: Kevin Dretzka <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:23 AM Kevin Dretzka <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Silvia and Kevin Dretzka

--

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Park project

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Vanessa West >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:35 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:56 PM Vanessa West <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Thank you

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM

To: Adelle <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:33 AM Adelle <

> wrote:

The parks are for all people!! Did you forget the other 99% of the public that deserve a public park clean well maintained and safe ... Adelle Cantor (a member of the public)

Sent from my iPhone

--

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Mail Stop: 625/15
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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Parking at park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:56 AM

To: ashley sumen <a >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:08 AM ashley sumen < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Please reconsider your support of the safe parking program. The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. Residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract.

I have personally witnessed lewd acts, individuals defecating on the property, and been yelled at by the individuals living at or near the park and in the parking lot at the library. There have also been numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. Allowing this in an area intended to be used for recreational purposes creates an unsafe environment for the children and adults that wish to use the park for its intended purpose. The project is also very close to a preschool.

Please consider all of these issues and the safety and security of the community.

Best regards,

Ashley Sumen

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figuroa Plaza
221 North Figuroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please contact the RAP Commissioners regarding this

1 message

Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:05 PM

To: Debra Huston <

>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

[+Rap Commissioners](#)

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:52 AM Debra Huston <

> wrote:

Jimmy,

We have obtained information about various crimes committed by and incidents involving homeless people in the Westchester Park that involve children and others.

Unfortunately, as a member of the public, the only information I can get from LAPD and LAFD is service call logs. I am not able to access any 911 call logs, 911 tapes, police reports, or a log of calls that resulted in an arrest.

It is important that the RAP Commissioners have this information in evaluating the impact on public safety that would result from 24-hour Safe Parking in the park.

I believe you would have access to this information, as a public official who would be using it for a board report to the RAP Commissioners to consider in evaluating proposal that may result in crimes against children or others in the park.

Will you please tell the RAP Commissioners that you will investigate this if given additional time? Thank you very much.

This is in addition to the other items in my email of this morning requesting additional time for the reasons stated in that email, such as lack of notice to the NCWP, etc.

Thank you so much.

Debra

--
Jimmy Kim
General Manager

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please contact the RAP Commissioners regarding this

1 message

Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 12:05 PM

To: Debra Huston <

>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

+Rap Commissioners

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:52 AM Debra Huston <

Jimmy,

We have obtained information about various crimes committed by and incidents involving homeless people in the Westchester Park that involve children and others.

Unfortunately, as a member of the public, the only information I can get from LAPD and LAFD is service call logs. I am not able to access any 911 call logs, 911 tapes, police reports, or a log of calls that resulted in an arrest.

It is important that the RAP Commissioners have this information in evaluating the impact on public safety that would result from 24-hour Safe Parking in the park.

I believe you would have access to this information, as a public official who would be using it for a board report to the RAP Commissioners to consider in evaluating proposal that may result in crimes against children or others in the park.

Will you please tell the RAP Commissioners that you will investigate this if given additional time? Thank you very much.

This is in addition to the other items in my email of this morning requesting additional time for the reasons stated in that email, such as lack of notice to the NCWP, etc.

Thank you so much.

Debra

--
Jimmy Kim
General Manager

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please contact the RAP Commissioners regarding this

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:06 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:52 AM
Subject: Please contact the RAP Commissioners regarding this
To: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Jimmy,

We have obtained information about various crimes committed by and incidents involving homeless people in the Westchester Park that involve children and others.

Unfortunately, as a member of the public, the only information I can get from LAPD and LAFD is service call logs. I am not able to access any 911 call logs, 911 tapes, police reports, or a log of calls that resulted in an arrest.

It is important that the RAP Commissioners have this information in evaluating the impact on public safety that would result from 24-hour Safe Parking in the park.

I believe you would have access to this information, as a public official who would be using it for a board report to the RAP Commissioners to consider in evaluating proposal that may result in crimes against children or others in the park.

Will you please tell the RAP Commissioners that you will investigate this if given additional time? Thank you very much.

This is in addition to the other items in my email of this morning requesting additional time for the reasons stated in that email, such as lack of notice to the NCWP, etc.

Thank you so much.

Debra

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please vote NO on 22-234

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Beth K. Harvey" <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:15 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:06 AM Beth K. Harvey < > wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to PLEASE VOTE NO on 22-234. I am completely against the 24 hour safe parking for RV dwellers. I wish we were only talking about a fence or boulders to block out some noise, but at Westchester Park we are talking about current drug deals, safety risks for all community members etc etc. It is a completely unusable park as it is already and we would like more cleanup and more security. The entire community and taxpayers would suffer greatly with this.

Thank you and as a community we will continue to address this.

Sincerely,
Beth Margallo

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please vote NO on 22-244 9/15/22 meeting

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Beth K. Harvey" >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:58 AM Beth K. Harvey <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Regarding 22-244, it seems the people accepted in the safe parking program are going to be safer than the residents of the community who visit the Westchester Park. Westchester is not a safe place for your project to continue if there are children involved, which you said there were. If you are going to choose a park for this kind of project, you should choose a park that is much safer, a park that doesn't routinely have homeless defecating, littering, and dealing drugs on the same/adjacent property. It needs to be a park that is useable to the residents. Westchester Park is NOT a safe or clean park right now. Westchester Park needs much attention and cleanup before we can continue and expand this kind of program. If you were able to make it a much safer and clean park with less homeless, the Westchester community might not feel this would be exacerbating an already existing problem.

Thank you and please, for this reason, vote NO.

Sincerely,

Beth Margallo

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Proposed 'safe parking' Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Nicole Papadopoulos <
>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:29 AM Nicole Papadopoulos <

> wrote:

Hello,

I am writing in hopes that any and every email regarding this issue is read and heard.

This safe parking plan at our local Westchester Park is beyond a horrible idea and we all blame Bonin for even the suggestion.

During the pandemic we were surprised that our only local park would house the unhoused. It was a horrible mess. Drugs, violence, trash and general mayhem was the norm. It was shocking to see this in our neighborhood on full display with no regard to the families and neighbors who use the park. My kids could not go, I could not play tennis any longer for fear of who knows what..

Thankfully with a load of community support and pressure, the park was cleared up.

Here we go again.

John Murdock states all on behalf of the community.

There is not one good thing that can come out of using the parking lot to move vehicles to sleep and live in.

Beyond crazy to think that this is a great idea.

Senior citizen center, pre school, park and library within 500 yards. All vulnerable targets.

We, as citizens are disgusted with Mike Bonin. Putting that aside he has shown that whatever his own interests are in this trump any rights of the district he over sees (thankfully that's almost over!!) He doesn't care about us and has kept us in the dark every step of the way.

I just witnessed a fire started by a man either cooking drugs or food who knows and saw it becoming out of his control.

This was at 9:45pm, in which I called 911 to report. This was Monday evening, call log to prove.

We certainly didn't need a brush fire bc of some drug addict who could care less about the community.

I've witnessed in no order:

Multiple people defecating on the corner and in a trash can.

Drugs being sold and shot up.

Urinating countless times.

Manic episodes so disturbing I quickly try to avert my kids from seeing.

Exposure of breasts and genitals

What else do you need to hear?

And worse are the things people have dealt with that we're physical.

EVERYONE I know has had these experiences.

Our city is a damn mess with the unhoused. We are getting used to tents everywhere, stepping over a homeless person passed out in front of our banks, coffee houses, bus stops etc.

Passing tent cities all over is the norm.

We have lost control.

I don't have the answer but I know this isn't it.
The folks that are hired and elected can do better.
Find an unincorporated area and fence it in. Hire security and have bathrooms.
Figure it out bc we are running out of time.

If I parked my car in a handicap spot, I guarantee I would not only have a ticket, but would need to pay hundreds of dollars to get it out of impound.
If I sat naked on a curb drunk, I'd likely get arrested.
However rules of life don't seem to apply to the unhoused.
I HAVE to pay my taxes. I HAVE to have insurance on my car. There are things as a citizen that I HAVE to do. We all have to do our part.
But it's somehow ok for the unhoused to live in squalor on the streets I pay to keep up?
It's more humane to allow this than to designate an area away from the thriving city for them to 'live'?
Who are we kidding here with this?

Those who are truly down on their luck, pandemic job loss etc
These are not the ones we are speaking of. And I'm certain that makes up a very small percentage. Those people are likely the ones accepting the offers of housing and shelter.
The others are just using our streets to live like animals with no regard.
If there are mental health issues, which I assume is majority of the unhoused, they certainly don't belong roaming the streets. Possibly it's saving them by getting them in a designated area, with a little structure. I don't know..

Bottom line, people just can't live in the streets and destroy communities. Period. Extreme measures are in order. Look to NYC in the 70's or how other states are handling similar issues in their communities. It's a crisis.
There are lots of things I can't do either. That's the way it goes in a modern society... am I wrong?

Please help with this. We are so tired.
Mike Bonin is the worst. He needs to leave the area because he clearly has no respect for any of us and it's mutual.

Thank you so much for reading this.

Regards,

Nicole Papadopoulos ✨

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment 9/15 - Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:15 AM

To: Allison Lynch <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:06 AM Allison Lynch <

> wrote:

Westchester Park is public space and its use as 24 hour RV parking lot for homelessness. The park should be kept as a public amenity space which currently unusable due to the lack of enforcement and cleanliness and security. I urge you to not vote in favor of converting the park area to a parking lot for homelessness.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Records Act Request

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:48 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:08 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Mon, Nov 22, 2021 at 12:14 PM
Subject: Public Records Act Request
To: Michael Shull < michael.a.shull@lacity.org >, Jimmy Kim < jimmy.kim@lacity.org >, Brenda Aguirre < brenda.aguirre@lacity.org >, Rap Commissioners < rap.commissioners@lacity.org >, Krista Kline < Krista.Kline@lacity.org >
Cc: Paula Gerez < >, Julie Zaller < >, Julie Ross < >, Theresa Torrance < >, Beth O'Rourke < >, Rory Kaclik < >
< >, Lucy Han < >, dan thomason < >, Dan Mohler < >
< >, < >, Bernard Robins < >

I am a resident of Westchester, and a parent and grandparent of recreational athletes. I am a leader of a large coalition of Westchester residents who are working to make Westchester Park safe for athletes of all ages, senior citizens, and all others.

We hereby request all of the following:

-A copy of all emails between anyone from CM Bonin's office, including Mr. Bonin, and RAP, and any other person or agency, regarding the Safe Parking program and the Safe Parking permit for Westchester Park, from June 1, 2021, to present.

-A copy of the most recently issued permit for Safe Parking in Westchester Park.

-Because the Safe Parking program permit was to be one year, maximum, and that year-long period expired in June, 2021, I request information as to why the program was extended, and if any further extension has been requested.

This information is requested because the Safe Parking program in Westchester Park is the only Safe Parking program in any park in the City of Los Angeles.

Further, the Safe Parking program uses 25 parking spaces out of the 50 spaces adjacent to the four ballfields at the park, which will be renovated and ready for use in March 2022. All 50 parking spots will be needed for people using the four ballfields.

Finally, parents of youth athletes are reluctant to let their children play on the ball fields if the Safe Parking program is in the parking lots of the ballfields, which are open and heavily used late into the evening.

Thank you very much.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Com Mtg sept 15 URGENT

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:40 AM

To: Alex

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:51 PM Alex < > wrote:

Below you will see the standard email, however I am FED UP with these unhousted ruining our tax paying life experiences. I can't walk my puppy within two blocks of my home bc my vet says she could DIE of leptospirosis due to the germs caused by parasites caused often by human waste and ground water.

I will not be silent and plan to make a HUGE FUSS over this if not fixed.

Thank you for protecting us and YOURSELF.

Best,
AZ

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Here are the instructions for calling in:

Dial (669) 900-6833, AND WHEN PROMPTED ENTER MEETING ID 880 4750 5603 AND THEN PRESS # WHEN PROMPTED. YOU WILL THEN BE ASKED TO PRESS *9 IF YOU WISH TO COMMENT. WHEN THE LAST THREE DIGITS OF YOUR PHONE NUMBER ARE CALLED PRESS #6 TO UNMUTE YOURSELF.

Thank you! Let's do this together!

Protect L.A. Parks Team



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-24

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:34 AM

To: Don Jemison

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:44 PM Don Jemison

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I do not understand how anyone who cares about the welfare of our communities could support this proposal. All communities deserve clean and safe parks, period!

And then, there's more:

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Don Jemison, ASA, FLMI, Broker

--

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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244 - Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM

To: Cori Gafni

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 12:02 PM Cori Gafni <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Cori Gafni

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Amy Andreini >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:53 AM Amy Andreini < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Amy Andreini
REALTOR®

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Daniela Calderon <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:32 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:04 PM Daniela Calderon < > wrote:

Hello.

I am writing because I feel that we should figure out a parking lot FAR from schools, parks, and neighborhoods to have all the rvs people to go.

Not westchester or areas around. not ballona creek, not del rey neighborhood.

there is plenty of industrial parking lots and land somewhere else.

a lot of these people are thieves! i myself had to go and have an encounter with them for stolen my bike.

we want them far from places they can do harm

and for those that are actually good people. sorry for them but there is multiple housing farther east they could afford but they just dont even try.

we are fed up with bonin and how the west side has become a trash can for homeless!

daniela

--

MSc. Daniela Calderon

--
City of Los Angeles
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP commissioners meeting Sept. 15 items 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: DIANNE LANDIS <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:53 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:22 AM DIANNE LANDIS <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

As a long time resident of Westchester, I am very disturbed by the change of purpose for Westchester Park. The residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper time to respond and voice our opinions on the contract.

There are many accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, and other illegal activities that occurred because of the safe parking program.

The Safe Parking Program has a negative impact on the community.

I am a Senior but our Senior Center is not safe or serving the Senior Community members.

Have you forgotten about us? The Senior Community as well as all residents of Westchester/Playa Del Rey deserve better than the non-use of our park for OUR Community.

The agreement in the current contract protects the city but does not protect us, the residents of Westchester.

Ordinance 41.18 restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas.

Please consider the needs and safety of our community before making any decision to move forward.

You need to hear OUR voices and concerns.

We need your support, for us, the permanent residents of our Community.

The park will be inaccessible to us and is a major safety concern for our safety and welfare.

Thank you for your time.

Dianne Landis

Sent from my iPad

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting-9/15/22-Item22-24

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Tim Pico <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:37 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:16 PM Tim Pico < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners-

The proposed project is illogical and not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have learned of the numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity, filth and rampant illegal garbage dumping/lack of sanitation, and many other nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. Further, the deplorable conditions in the park lead to a documented increase in crime in the surrounding areas in Westchester.

Please understand. Please listen. It simply is outrageous and wholly unfair that the interests of a comparatively few are being supported over the vast majority of affected individuals who are actual Westchester residents and local business owners -who pay taxes and endeavor to elevate and positively support the community- and those visitors who seek to use the park and its facilities for the recreational purposes for which it was designed. Moreover, there are thousands of children, senior citizens, and families that will be deprived of park use IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY directly or constructively as a result of this myopic and ill conceived plan.

It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The certain-to-occur results of this proposed project have already been illustrated. One only need to see the easily accessible footage of the lamentable condition of the park from 2020-2021 to witness the disastrous effects of again allowing igo homeless encampments. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The Park suffered and was damaged as a result.

Further; the agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Please seriously consider the above and the concerns of other similarly affected Westchester residents before signing off on this project.

TIM PICO

Sent from my iPad

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP MEETING SEPT 15 - Item 22-224

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:32 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:11 PM <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

PLEASE HOLD OFF ON MAKING A VOTE ON THIS ITEM. YOU NEED FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Angelenos need you to stand with them and fight for what the well being of parks in the City of Los Angeles. We also need you to keep all Angelenos in consideration, especially the most vulnerable, the children and elderly of Los Angeles. Parks are essential to a thriving city and we count of you to assure that our parks are well maintained and safe for everyone to enjoy.

With my greatest respect for your service,

Jessica Rogers



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Re SAVE Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: ASHLEIGH GHOZALI <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:37 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:17 PM ASHLEIGH GHOZALI <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Ashleigh Sandy Ghozali and I'm writing to you all on behalf of my family. We reside in Westchester.

Re the plan to move the RVs and encampments from the Library and Senior Center lot (Municipal Parking Lot) over to the lot that is directly in between the Ballfield Lot and the First Flight Child Development Center lot.

This project is NOT consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were Not Made Aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract.

Commissioners, If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program.

It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the NEGATIVE IMPACTS of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park.

The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly.

The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city BUT IT DOES NOT PROTECT RESIDENTS and PARK USERS or PARK GOERS .

. This contract also blatantly Neglect / 41.18 ordonnance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. Commissioners, a fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues that we have been raising before making any decision to move forward.

Thank you and we look forward to participating in the meeting via zoom tomorrow morning.

Regards

Ashleigh Ghozali

--

Ashleigh S. Ghozali



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Removing encampment from Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: H Range Hutson >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:31 AM H Range Hutson <

> wrote:

Please remove all vehicles and tents so all of us can enjoy the parks we all pay for- it's time for leadership to step up and return all parks to the community

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Report No. 22-244 Westchester Recreation Center 24-hour safe parking for 20 vehicles and their occupants

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Paula Gerez >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 11:09 AM Paula Gerez <

wrote:

Good morning Commissioners,

I was on the call yesterday, early prepared to speak to you, patiently waiting my turn to ask that you vote against No. 22-244 Westchester Recreation Center 24-hour safe parking for ~~15~~ 20 vehicles and their occupants. RAP was excluded in Executive Directive 24 and has been a good partner, but it is time to return Westchester Park back to the communities that use the facilities, fields, parking lots, and open spaces.

July 7, 2022, I spoke to you at your RAP Meeting. I used that time pleading on the community's behalf to not approve the Safe Parking Permit, and to not extend the Safe Parking program past October 2, 2022. I left that meeting knowing my community had been heard. That your explicit direction was to the Safe Parking Program, the Councilman's Office and LAHSA it should be used as notice to move and conclude the Safe Parking program in Westchester Park by October 2, 2022. That gave them close to ninety 90 days to plan. Why are we having to battle a GROWTH of a Safe Parking Program into housing in the parking lot after your clear instructions?

Since July, I haven't stopped advocating for my community and their wishes. I have had two separate meetings in the Mayor's office with Greg Good, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor pleading and asking that the community's voice be heard. Asking that the communities have safe access to the Senior Center, the Pool and the Open Spaces. I won't bore you with the ADA violations in the Municipal Lot since you have no jurisdiction. I ask as President of the NCWP to be included and have a seat at the table when making decisions that directly affect our Stakeholders.

Let's talk about the ~~15~~ 20 vehicles AND THEIR OCCUPANTS, that could mean ~~60~~ 80 people, maybe more that you are being asked to house in Westchester Park! Per this agreement, there is no limit on the occupants. The program addresses the need for a drivers license, registration, and insurance for the vehicle. However, there is no screening of occupants or policy included in the agreement. If a program is going to take place near children, screening to include a background check, fingerprinting, INCLUDING the ability for the community to check Megan's Law on the proposed participant, AND including any occupants. There is no mention of screening for occupants, only registered owners of the vehicles. For me to volunteer with children I must complete a background check, fingerprinting, and training on when coaching and training. I must complete such safety programs in the transparent interest of safety for the children. Any adult volunteering must undergo background checks, this is not a requirement of Safe Campers. This agreement is missing language to EXCLUDE RV's.

Rec and Parks has sent out registration information for 10 programs for children at Westchester Park, how can you in good faith allow Safe Camping so close to the City's children? Westchester Park is a park that is used by the greater Los Angeles County residents, not just our 90045 residents.

Let's talk about Safety and Enforcement: Our City has let our stakeholders down, they don't believe for one moment that there will be any enforcement in surrounding parking lots, specifically the Municipal Lot, of which you have no say. I found Sachin Mdehekar, to be condescending and confrontational to presume the Community doesn't know the difference in the lots. We have been living this nightmare since 2020 when our Recreation Parking Lot was taken over for RV's for COVID. What the community didn't realize then and now do, is how many entities are involved and how that provides the perfect cover for departments to say that it's not my jurisdiction. It is short-sided to presume that because "inside" the current safe parking lot (hours of use 8:30pm - 6:30am) there is not increased crime when there is no enforcement around all the parking lots 24/7. The community residents in the parks (homeless on homeless, we had a person burned alive in front of the Senior Center) and the residents in our neighborhoods have seen increased crime and violence since Safe Parking has been moved from behind the Councilman's office. Why isn't anyone talking about the business' who have experienced theft and intimidation, threats of rape and retaliation for cooperating with the Police.

What exactly is the enforcement for up to 80+ campers if they leave the perimeter of the fence?
Who enforces after hour park use?

Outreach has been in Safe Parking since 2019, however encampments in the municipal lot (yes, I do understand the differences of the lots, as do many of our constituents) and sadly it continues to grow, there are rented vehicles towing in campers, detaching, and leaving them inside the municipal lot. Outreach has been extensive in the Municipal lot and 9100 Lincoln, in addition to the campers inside the park. Mr. Bonin has been quoted touting his "...success in CD 11...", Outreach isn't the issue, refusal of services is the issue, then this turns into a question of mental health or lifestyle choice? The park is not a place for that to play out. In fact, at the request of Mr. Bonin, August 10, 2021, Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer issued CAO File No. 0220-05734-0029 on Council File 21-0350 reported in the feasibility study "Regarding City Owned Westchester Park for Safe Sleep" it was determined not consistent with park purposes.

RAP was excluded in Executive Directive 24 and has been a good partner, but it is time to return Westchester Park back to the communities that use the facilities, fields, parking lots, and open spaces. I again, respectfully ask for a no vote against No. 22-244 Westchester Recreation Center 24-hour safe parking for 15 20 vehicles and their occupants. It is time to end Safe Parking in the Park.

Thank you kindly, Paula Gerez
President, NCWP

Paula Gerez
President, Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa
Block Captain, Neighborhood Watch

Disclaimer and Privacy Statement: While I am a member of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa, the foregoing may not represent the ratified position or views of the NCWP.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request a meeting at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:29 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

I received no response to this email

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 7:20 AM
Subject: Request a meeting at Westchester Park
To: <connie.llanos@lacity.org>, Brian Hale <brian.hale@lacity.org>, <brian.gallagher@lacity.org>, <barbara.romero@lacity.org>, Steven Embrich <30993@lapd.online>, Sophia Castaneda <35080@lapd.online>, Paula Gerez < >, cris b. liban < >

Good morning,

I work with a large and growing coalition of community members in Westchester who are concerned about the vehicle dwellings in the park, and also about CM Bonin's plans to use two of the parking lots in the park for Safe Parking. We get no response to our inquiries of Mr. Bonin's office, and I heard on an Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Del Rey Public Safety Committee meeting last evening that the NCWP gets no response from Mr. Bonin's office regarding their inquiries. I request a meeting with you at the park at your earliest convenience. Paula Gerez, our NCWP President, has informed me she would like to be in attendance.

Bonin's plans: CM Bonin has obtained estimates to fence the entire lot between the Senior Center, the Library and his office, and his staff has inquired about funding for using this lot (112 spaces) as Safe Parking. In the last month, the number of vehicle dwellers in the park has doubled. We have also received information from a high ranking Recreation and Parks person that CM Bonin is working with LAHSA to get approval for all 50 spaces of that lot to be used as 24-hour Safe Parking. We have received information from LAWA that Bonin is trying to get FAA approval to move 25 RVs from the Wetlands to Northside Parkway, which is immediately north of the north Runway of LAX, near Westchester Park. We believe Bonin wants to move RVs and vehicles from the Wetlands to the park.

The situation in the parking lot near Bonin's office: We now have at least 20 vehicle dwellers in the parking lot. Community members are afraid of these vehicle dwellers, and that fear is not without basis. We have had hundreds of incidents over the last two years involving homeless people victimizing children in the park.

These incidents include following children, harassing children, talking vulgar sex talk with children, exposing themselves to children, having meth-induced meltdowns in front of children. Some of these incidents have been very recent, long after the tent campers were removed from the park. We have a vicious dog in the parking lot that has attacked several people recently.

Seniors are afraid to use the senior center and library goers are afraid to go to the library. Parents of youth athletes are afraid to have their kids play sports in the park, and there is insufficient parking for them.

There is a vicious dog living in that parking lot with a homeless person. That dog has recently attacked seniors.

Westchester Park serves thousands of kids and adults from Inglewood, our neighboring City. Youth leagues from Inglewood would like to be able to play at the park, because they need the park space. There is a severe shortage of lighted multiplex ball fields in the City, and Westchester Park is one of the few parks anywhere nearby that has lighted multiplex ball fields. Westchester, Playa Del Rey, and Inglewood are all "park poor," having .8 acre of park space per 1,000 people. The standard is 4 acres/1000 people, and LA as a whole has over 3 acres/1,000 people. Our Inglewood neighbors are also afraid to use the park, even though they are desperate for field space.

At least one RV is leaking something onto the surface of the parking lot below the RV. That RV never moves, so we know tanks are not being dumped.

The lot is unsanitary and there is trash and other items, surrounding many of the vehicle dwellings, including the following: rotting food, containers of urine, propane tanks, bed rolls, and much more. This has resulted in a cockroach infestation in the parking lot and has attracted rats. Rats carry infectious and deadly diseases.

Purpose of meeting request:

We would like to discuss towing of vehicles in the parking lot, getting a comprehensive cleaning of the parking lot, and finding other locations to move the vehicle dwellers in the parking lot, as using a park for vehicle dwelling purposes is, for many reasons, not consistent with park purposes.

Please propose days/times you are available and I will set up the meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: ReseResending: UPDATE: THERE ARE SPACES FOR RV PARKING IN THE PROPOSED 24-HOUR SAFE PARKING LOT IN WESTCHESTER PARK

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:06 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 2:49 PM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Honorable Commissioners,

Another community member and I just went to Westchester Park to take a look at the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot.

There are 17 regular parking spaces and five RV parking spaces in that lot. The regular parking spaces face the back fence in the attached photos. You can see the First Flight Child Care Center beyond the fence and not far beyond the fence. Mr. Bonin's staff represented at your commission meeting of September 15 that this child care center is 280 feet away from the parking lot. That is false. This child care center is well within 200 feet of the Safe Parking lot, if that.

While there, we noticed five RV parking spaces along the curb, next to the median that separates this lot from a driveway that leads to the LAWA land on which the child care center is located. These RV parking spaces have been marked with spray paint with the letters "USA" and markings for each spot. These RV parking spaces are stacked, so there is no way these RVs could be backed out of the lot once they are moved into the lot and stacked.

The letters "USA" indicates a "dig alert," and that the Council Office has called "dig alert" to get the ground marked where they plan to put fence poles.

One parking space will be needed for the security guard and one space for the porta potties. So this leaves 15 regular parking spaces and 5 RV parking spaces.

This explains why Mr. Bonin increased his request from 15 Safe Parking spaces to 20 at your commission meeting on September 15.

It also demonstrates that these RVs may not be operational, because they certainly can't be backed out once in the lot. The 15 spaces could also be occupied by non-operational vehicles. This is consistent with what Bonin staff Noah Fleishman said at our NCWP meeting.

There is nothing in the RAP staff report to the board that says this lot cannot be used for non-operational vehicles or RVs or campers. I don't think that omission was accidental on the part of Mr. Bonin.

It appears that Mr. Bonin's office is withholding information from the commissioners, and Mr. Bonin's information has withheld information from the public for months. Our community is outraged by his actions and we urge, we plead with, the RAP Commissioners to deny Mr. Bonin's request.

We request that our attorney, John Murdock, and our Neighborhood Council meeting be present and able to speak as much as Mr. Bonin's staff when the RAP Commissioners' meeting on this issue is reconvened for a special set. We made this request in light of serious omissions by Mr. Bonin's staff and his refusal to include our community in this important public process that affects our community and our children so much. Two minutes of time to comment is insufficient to address statements by Mr. Bonin's staff.

Thank you.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RV's in Westchester park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:02 AM

To: David Jeter <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:02 AM David Jeter <

> wrote:

Hello,

Enough! My kids grew up playing sports here. Now its virtually untenable. No more of the crazy.

They shouldn't be anywhere near this park.

Sincerely, David Jeter

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safe Parking at Westchester Park - NO Thank you

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Margaret Reilly

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:06 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 12:51 PM Margaret Reilly <

> wrote:

Dear Council Members

I am writing with great concern for myself, my students and all members of the community concerning your idea of a 24 hour safe parking.

I am a professional tennis coach with the United States Professional Tennis Association and work at Westchester Park.

As a child I grew up playing at Westchester Park with my family and friends. I earned a scholarship to Loyola Marymount University where I received my bachelors and ran the tennis academy for thirteen years. It has always been my privilege to give back to my community and offer a world class program.

Unfortunately, since my return to Westchester Park I have experienced numerous encounters with the homeless. I am distressed to hear that you have no reports of problems with the homeless. I have reported these encounters, called 911 and unfortunately not always received any help. I have had homeless come on the court drunk, urinating, defecating, and acting in a belligerent and hostile manner. While working on a daily basis they smoke pot and this toxic overflow spills out on the court where I am teaching not only adults but children. Some of my students are only five years old. Would you want your own children to be exposed to this? I think not.

Westchester Park cannot go back to a dangerous place for families and persons such as myself and my colleagues.

I am happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further. In my thirty four years of coaching I have never been so frustrated to hear you would consider allowing them to return to the park. You can reach me by return email or please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Peggy Reilly
USPTA/USTA/NASM

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safe Parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Chip Mallek < >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:54 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:27 AM Chip Mallek < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners,

Please take time to read this and understand that the majority of Westchester residents are opposed to safe parking at Westchester park. We are not opposed to safe parking, just not at a park.

PLEASE reconsider your decision to allow it at Westchester park!

Thanks,

Chip Mallek

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safe parking program with RV's in Westchester

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Stacey Travis

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:06 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 1:23 PM Stacey Travis < > wrote:

Hello RAP Commissioners,

I want to start by saying I sat through the zoom from 9 until 12 this week when I had to leave. Many of the Commissioners could not be heard very well or understood due to their equipment or proximity to the mic. Props to Commission Chase who while I was on the phone was always very easy to hear and understand unlike most of the others.

Please keep this in mind as I heard the vote to continue on zoom for these future meetings.

Many of you need to be aware it was difficult to hear you on your equipment for those calling in or on zoom.

I live in Westchester and am a staunch lifelong Democrat. I have to constantly bristle on my local next door when I read compete fabrications of many of our elected's motives.

I sit on two Neighborhood Council committees as a community member and have been actively attending them for eight years.

The callers that showed up to voice their concerns about the expansion in our park were told by the Councilman's staff we were confused as to which lot this program wanted to us. Many whom I work with, but no, we were not confused as to where this lot is... The lot is next to the school, pool and fields.

We have zero green space in Westport Heights, one tiny space in Kentwood and none in Osages. These are the three areas of Westchester.

My new neighbors with small kids have stopped trying to go to the library for the danger it currently exposes them to.

My senior neighbors won't use the senior center for the lot is dangerous and I begged two with no AC, to go during the heat wave as it was a cooling center but they would not go there in its current state. My neighbors with middle school age kids are not letting their kids play athletics there due to the rampant RV's, a loose pit bull by one occupant he sic's on kids. One friend who is a local vet is not letting her son who just got his lifeguard certificate work there this year due to our park's current state.

I heard caller and after called express these concerns to you in a time when the meeting went from two minutes to one minute. I heard many of the Commissioners express why Parks and Rec are important to communities. *I am begging you to hear our community.*

We showed up to let you know how we feel, we want to use our park, pool, library, senior center, and fields. Why are we as tax paying citizens unable to enjoy our *one facility* and for most of us are our only green space? There are other areas away from schools, libraries and parks that should be used for an RV parking program. Everyone I know would be on board with almost any other area than this one!

I am flabbergasted this is not a no brainer no vote, for all of you.

How do you consider yourselves Commissioners if you are openly ignoring the pleas of the citizens that need and use the park so we can actually use it?

I truly do not understand how any of you could look any of us in the eye and take that position.

Say no to this program and make the local politicians find another spot to put the RV's from Ballona and other areas for safe parking. Then it's out of your hands and you can rest assured our area will be able to actually make use of our facilities that many of us lost for two years during the pandemic.

Tax paying parents in houses and apts deserve to walk their kids to some green space, get a library book, swim at the pool, or play in a field in safety and peace.

Please do the job you are there to do... protect the Parks and Rec program in our area the only one we have for miles.

I'm begging you.

Best,

Stacey Travis

Community Member Ad Hoc Community Plan Committee Neighborhood Council

Community Member Govt. Affairs Neighborhood Council

Co-Chair of Sag Afra's National Govt. Affairs Committee

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safe Westchester Park!!!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Eliska Makovicka < >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:14 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:50 AM Eliska Makovicka < > wrote:

Dear commissioners,

I am Westchester resident.

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING IN OUR BEAUTIFUL WESTCHESTER PARK!

We want to use our park, the senior center and the library!!!!

It's extremely unsafe now and we need to change this! It's not fair that we can't use our park safely!

Other alternatives for RV parking were provided, use them!

KEEP OUR PARK SAFE!!!!!!!!!!

Eliska

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
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Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save our park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:31 AM

To: Liny Zurbrugg >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 12:18 PM Liny Zurbrugg <

> wrote:

Please no Encampment!! Save our Park and Senior center.
Lina Zurbrugg

--

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Mail Stop: 625/15
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save Westchester Park for Taxpayers, seniors, children and others who follow the law

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Erik Laykin < >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:51 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:13 AM Erik Laykin < > wrote:
Honorable Commissioners,

In advance of this mornings meeting I would like to draw your attention to the following article and the serious negative impact that Councilman Bonin's reckless disregard for the residents of Westchester is having on quality of life, safety, property values and ultimately tax revenue for the city.

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/westchester-coalition-hires-high-profile-attorney-to-stop-bonins-safe-parking-plan/article_79c7ed4a-34fe-11ed-bdc0-eb5491a72271.html

Westchester Park should not be a dumping ground for the city's homeless at the expense of children, seniors and others who require this vital neighborhood resource unencumbered by crime, drug use and sanitary risk.

Respectfully,

Erik Laykin
CEO and Managing Partner

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Peggy Kirsch >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:43 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:07 AM Peggy Kirsch < > wrote:

It's such a shame I can't use my library or walk in my park. Something needs to be done immediately. Have you noticed some of the trailers at the library are LANDSCAPING? And you let this go on?
Incredibly shameful.
Margaret Kirsch

--
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Figueroa Plaza
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Sept 15 Meeting Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:40 AM

To: Helen Fallon <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 12:58 AM Helen Fallon <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners: Please do not approve a contract at Westchester Park to legalize an encampment program. What is being proposed is not really "safe camping/parking" which is intended to provide safe sleeping areas for working poor. This proposal instead will allow 24/7 camping on a parking lot that serves the recreational needs of not only the Westchester community, but of neighboring communities. The existing 24/7 camping/parking that has been permitted at Westchester Park by Councilman Bonin has virtually shut down the Senior Center and has negatively impacted the Library thanks to the very campers you are proposing to accommodate. The trash generated by these campers attracts vermin and rodents and the stench from urine and feces is disgusting. What has been allowed to happen at this park, thanks to the lack of enforcement of existing ordinances, is a public health and safety hazard.

Los Angeles already doesn't have enough Public Parks and Public Open Spaces. Drug addicts need rehabilitation, the mentally ill need medical supervision and the criminal need to be held accountable. This proposal is not an appropriate solution. Please protect our parks and do not allow them to be used as campgrounds.

Helen and Bert Fallon

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Title: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Marcela Rondani >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:22 PM Marcela Rondani < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Marcela Rondani, LMFT, CEDS, PsyD

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Unacceptable

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Martha Spelman <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:42 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 5:50 AM Martha Spelman <

> wrote:

I am in extreme opposition of the proposal to allow campers and RVers at the Westchester park. This action brings people into our neighborhood that may not be in the best interest of the neighborhood. Allowing this type of residency means that it is unsafe for our children to play in the park and for adults to utilize the park's attributes.

I have been a resident of Playa Del Rey for over 36 years. In all that time, I never had any issue with crime until recently. I came home to witness someone trying to break into my home. I equate this issue with the fact that many people have come into the neighborhood Because they are homeless or looking for access to drugs.

Again please vote against the proposition to allow occupation of our park.

Thank you

Martha Spelman Evenson

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: UPDATE: THERE ARE SPACES FOR RV PARKING IN THE PROPOSED 24-HOUR SAFE PARKING LOT IN WESTCHESTER PARK

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 3:12 PM
 To: Debra Huston < >
 Cc: Rina Nakano Nakano < >, "Villegas, Catalina" < >,
 a < >, "Klemack, John (NBCUniversal)" < >,
 John Murdock < >, Jamie Paige < >, Sue Pascoe < >
 < >, Paula Gerez < >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 9:25 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Honorable Commissioners,

Another community member and I just went to Westchester Park to take a look at the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot.

There are 17 regular parking spaces and five RV parking spaces in that lot. The regular parking spaces face the back fence in the attached photos. You can see the First Flight Child Care Center beyond the fence and not far beyond the fence. Mr. Bonin's staff represented at your commission meeting of September 15 that this child care center is 280 feet away from the parking lot. That is false. This child care center is well within 200 feet of the Safe Parking lot, if that.

While there, we noticed five RV parking spaces along the curb, next to the median that separates this lot from a driveway that leads to the LAWA land on which the child care center is located. These RV parking spaces have been marked with spray paint with the letters "USA" or "WSA" and markings for each spot. These RV parking spaces are stacked, so there is no way these RVs could be backed out of the lot once they are moved into the lot and stacked.

One parking space will be needed for the security guard and one space for the porta potties. So this leaves 15 regular parking spaces and 5 RV parking spaces.

This explains why Mr. Bonin increased his request from 15 Safe Parking spaces to 20 at your commission meeting on September 15.

It also demonstrates that these RVs may not be operational, because they certainly can't be backed out once in the lot. The 15 spaces could also be occupied by non-operational vehicles. This is consistent with what Bonin staff Noah Fleishman said at our NCWP meeting.

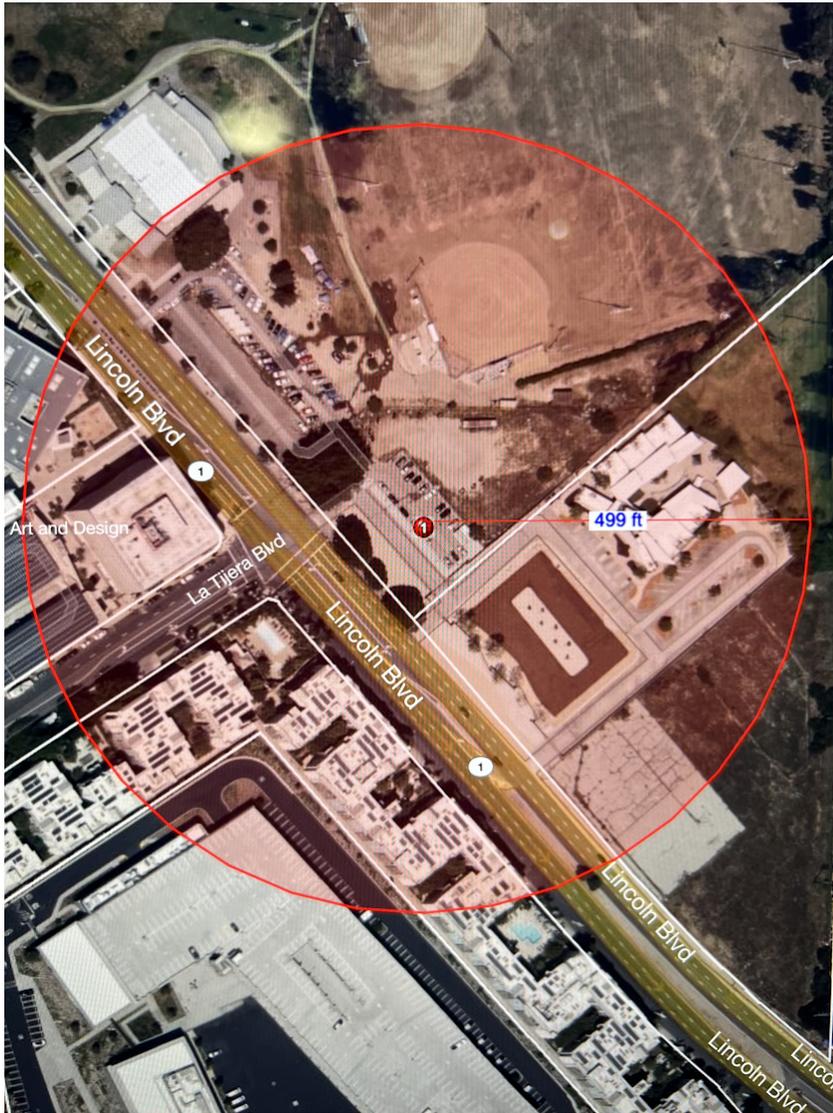
There is nothing in the RAP staff report to the board that says this lot cannot be used for non-operational vehicles or RVs or campers. I don't think that omission was accidental on the part of Mr. Bonin.

It appears that Mr. Bonin's office is withholding information from the commissioners, and Mr. Bonin's information has withheld information from the public for months. Our community is outraged by his actions and we urge, we plead with, the RAP Commissioners to deny Mr. Bonin's request.

We request that our attorney, John Murdock, and our Neighborhood Council meeting be present and able to speak as much as Mr. Bonin's staff when the RAP Commissioners' meeting on this issue is reconvened for a special set. We made this request in light of serious omissions by Mr. Bonin's staff and his refusal to include our community in this important public process that affects our community and our children so much. Two minutes of time to comment is insufficient to address statements by Mr. Bonin's staff.

Thank you.

Debra Huston



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 IMG_8879.jpg

 IMG_8880.jpg



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: We want our parks and parking lots back!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:35 AM

To: Mare Allen <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:54 PM Mare Allen < > wrote:

Please vote to get our parking lots back to being parking lots for people that use facilities like the park, the senior center, the children's center, the pool, and the library. We are tired of stepping over sleeping bodies and dealing with all the unsanitary conditions. I am a sad lifelong resident of Westchester and playa del Rey.

Thank you, Marilyn Allen

Ps... also like to mention the beautiful nature preserve on Jefferson that we can no longer enjoy by visiting or walking by. That is a hazardous situation waiting to happen.

--

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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Community Safe 24 hour Parking

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Gretchen Beck <
>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 12:01 PM Gretchen Beck <

> wrote:

Hello

I am a 40 year resident of Westchester

I cannot abide with a very small community playground and park being used to park homeless RVs

What you need is a PARKING LOT that is fenced and monitored. Security and bathrooms.

Let's take a look at the Forum parking area.

So move the RVs during events.

The trash and human waste left daily are unbearable not to mention a very real health hazard. With a paved area you can at least keep it from collecting into the grass where God forbid children should be playing.

The RVs are not well maintained. In all our effort to clean up our environment the oil and gas and other fluids dripping would be a huge problem.

Please find a big parking lot that doesn't have to interface with our sweet small community.

Thank you.

Gretchen Beck

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Files Ethics complaint

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Julie Zaller <j >

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 11:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 9:41 AM Julie Zaller < > wrote:

Good Morning Commissioners,

I wanted to remind you before next weeks meeting that we (Westchester residents) have not only sent a letter from the land use lawyer to Bonin, **we have now filed ethics complaints against Bonin** for doing all this harm to our community without our knowledge.

And do not forget, because we haven't forgotten, that just in August 2021, the City Administrators office CAO stated the park was INFEASIBLE for homeless housing! These findings were part of a feasibility study requested by Bonin himself.

https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/westchester-residents-file-ethics-complaints-against-bonin/article_dd29b8f0-394f-11ed-9d1f-8b0813218c1a.html?utm_source=westsidcurrent.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter%2Foptimize%2Fdaily-headlines%2F%3F-dc%3D1663770614&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline

Please do not approve his plan, it will only encourage him to continue to destroy our community.

Julie Zaller
Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park - Homeless

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Adam Sant <>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:06 AM Adam Sant <> wrote:

Hi,

Please do not allow the 24hr homeless parking at westchester park.

I coach cross country at St Anastasia school and wish I could take our students (grade 3-8) to train to run as its the only open space nearby. But with the homeless situation it is not safe for children. Its such an amazing space that is not safe.

It is the only open space we have.

During covid, when there was lots of homeless in the community my 8yr old daughter was playing soccer and was engaged by a man without his top on with ripped shoes, I had to go outside and bring her inside.

Another time a women came up to our door smelling of urine and was obviously intoxicated and disoriented and saying did someone live her, she claimed my car belonged to this person.

I have 2 young kids and we live behind the bowling alley so close to the park on 90th st, it just does not make it feel safe for my young kids 8 and 11,

Thank you
Adam Sant

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park - urgent crisis, losing our park!!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:57 AM

To: Jessie Stein-Sapir >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:16 AM Jessie Stein-Sapir <

> wrote:

Hello RAP commissioners,

We stand on the brink of an urgent issue this morning: the potential loss of our beautiful Westchester Park.

I am a homeowner in Westchester, a caring and concerned citizen of the community, and a mother of small children. We live around the corner from Westchester Park and for years have played there with our boys almost daily. Sports, bike riding swimming, etc.

In case I don't get a chance to speak at the meeting this morning, I want to make a very clear stand that I am against the implementation of 24-hour safe parking for recreational vehicles and homeless in the Westchester park.

As tax paying citizens and people who have chosen to live in this neighborhood (and pour money into the local economy), we have earned the right to keep our Park safe for our community and our families.

If 24 hr "safe" RV parking is allowed to pass today, it will in turn do the opposite to our park. We've seen this happen before during the covid crisis, and our neighborhoods, restaurants, local shops, and even our homes and driveways and streets were flooded with fear, crime, theft, drug use, and illegal behaviors. We've been victimized in our own streets because of our proximity to this park we will all be in Jeopardy if this is allowed to happen. Not to mention the loss of use of our recreational facilities, which this community so urgently needs. Taking away these resources from the families and businesses in this neighborhood is not the answer.

Please do not allow this to happen. Please do not condemn us to living in daily fear of our children riding bikes through the park. Please do not take a problem from one place, and move it to an even worse place.

Thank you for you time,

Jessie Stein-Sapir (resident)

Disclaimer

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--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: WESTCHESTER PARK - URGENT!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:37 AM

To: Cynthia Sampson <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:18 PM Cynthia Sampson <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Because of the safety issues at Westchester park, our family has not used it for 3+ years. The inhabitants are just too unpredictable and the area is unsafe. The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

--

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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park "safe" parking - finishing my comment which was cut off in the meeting

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jessie Stein-Sapir >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:14 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:59 AM Jessie Stein-Sapir <
good morning commissioners.

> wrote:

I am finishing my comment from the meeting this morning which was cut off after just 1 MINUTE.

I am a homeowner in Westchester, a caring and concerned citizen of the community, and a mother of small children. We live around the corner from Westchester Park and for years have played there with our boys almost daily. Sports, bike riding, swimming, etc.

I want to make a very clear stand that I am against the implementation of 24-hour safe parking for recreational vehicles and homeless in the Westchester park.

I've been listening to this mtg prior to this moment, and you all put so much conversation and time and resources into keeping the local communities safe - you put so much effort into transforming and keeping your parks beautiful and safe and valuable places, and exposing dangers and solving vulnerabilities. Moving this 24hr safe parking would be a complete disservice to that mission. This would not be a project for betterment - this would be a huge step towards the destruction of this space, and what's worse, it would create a massive vulnerability for the surrounding community.

During the recent times when these types of safe harbours have been permitted in the park for homeless encampments and RV encampments, those of us that live nearby - our friends, children and neighbors - have logged many many moments when we have felt completely unsafe walking through, using and playing in the park. and not just in the park - the dangers seep out into our stores, streets, driveways.

Our neighborhoods, restaurants, local shops, and even our homes and driveways and streets were flooded with fear, crime, theft, drug use, and illegal behaviors. A neighbor's young daughter was followed home by a "resident" who was living in the park, and harrassed - she was TERRIFIED. We've been victimized in our own streets because of our proximity to this park - we will all be in Jeopardy if this is allowed to happen. Not to mention the loss of use of our recreational facilities, which this community so urgently needs. Taking away these resources from the families and businesses in this neighborhood is not the answer.

As tax paying citizens and people who have chosen to live in this neighborhood (and pour money into the local economy), we have earned the right to keep our Park safe for our community and our families.

Please do not allow this to happen. Please do not condemn us to living in daily fear of our children riding bikes through the park. Please do not take a problem from one place, and move it to an even worse place.

Thank you for putting so much effort into keeping us safe, and PLEASE vote no on the measure. A vote for it would be a vote for the destruction and degradation of our park and our whole Westchester community.

Jessie Stein-Sapir



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park Agenda No. 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:56 AM

To: Cyndi Hench

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 4:43 PM Cyndi Hench < > wrote:

Honorable Commissioners,

I write to you today regarding our park. A once beautiful, vibrant, well used recreation center, that now looks like a mostly abandoned dump site for broken down vehicles and RVs and trash. The idea that any portion of the park should be converted into 24/7 safe parking, and the thought that this is a "consistent use" for the park, is beyond irresponsible. Our community of Westchester does not have an abundance of park space. Allowing for the use for safe parking has only served to be a magnet for others to move into the park and take up residence. This has resulted in an unattractive nuisance and a laundry list of crimes, including shootings and a homicide. This is not the purpose of our public parks. This is a recreational park, not a campground.

I ask that you not approve the request for the 24/7 safe parking, or any safe parking for that matter, in our park. We have tried it now for several years and the current configuration of the lot is an abject failure. Our community has had about a minute to respond to this covert plan to create this camp ground in our park. We were told at a previous RAP Commission meeting that the lot would close on October 2 or 3, when we asked that you not extend the permit a few months back. We have all been told by the CAO that the camp ground is not an appropriate use of the park. Please do not sell out on this. Please do not sell out our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Cyndi Hench

--
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park and RVs

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:32 AM

To: Mary <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:16 PM Mary <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Thank you,

Mary Farid

--

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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park and the homeless

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Heather Collins <>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:06 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 17, 2022 at 12:58 PM Heather Collins <>

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Heather Collins

Playa Del Rey

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park as homeless housing

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Dawn Runge <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:17 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:21 AM Dawn Runge <

> wrote:

Hello,

I am a resident of Playa del Rey, who uses the Westchester Park library branch. Vital public services and public use facilities are in this park. I oppose the continued use of Westchester Park as sanctioned homeless parking/camping. When you allow parking and space to be used as living space for a population of which 30-50% have substance problems and 25% have SEVERE mental illness (via the LA Housing Authorities own 2019 study), this space is no longer a safe public space, especially for children.

Drug use is not allowed within a certain number of feet within schools- how is it sanctioned near little league and preschool facilities?

In addition, by removing one of the few public green spaces in LA as a safe space for the majority of residents, there is a mental and emotional toll on the residents of the area. Access to safe green spaces have been proven to be key for mental health. The National Parks and Rec Association ranks Los Angeles 74th out of 100 cities on park access.

Helping homelessness is NOT going to be solved by taking away safe green spaces for the residents and children of this community. Los Angeles has been gifted \$533 million for this fiscal year to fight homelessness- let's try using those funds instead of punishing the people who are finding it.

Thank you.

Dawn Runge & Aaron Simonoff

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park Comment

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Katherine Durrin <>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:03 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:13 AM Katherine Durrin <> wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners,

I am a home owner and longtime resident of Westchester - and a mother. I know absolutely NO NEIGHBORS who want this. Zero. We are vehemently against it. We want our park to be safe. We want our kids to be able to use the library safely and for our seniors to have access to the senior center. Safe Parking is NOT safe for our community. We want our park back.

Follow Up question:

Was the cooling center in Westchester operational for the recent heat wave? I heard that seniors do not have easy access to it because RV's and garbage and filth block them.

While on this Zoom call, I am currently in the parking lot outside the Westchester library. It is filled with trash, RV's and what appears to be stolen bikes and smells like urine. There was just an altercation between some of the men living in the lot. There are also men passed out outside Mike Bonin's office. I believe everyone deserves a home but this is NOT the right place- not at the expense of our entire community, most especially our children.

A few photos for you...

Sincerely
Katherine Durrin
Resident of

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester park concern

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:33 AM

To: Robyn <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 2:42 PM Robyn <

> wrote:

Hello,

I am a resident of Westchester, who uses the Westchester Park library branch. I have a young son who loves going to the swings in the park. And we would've liked to use the pool too. Vital public services and public use facilities located in the park.

I oppose the continued use of Westchester Park as sanctioned homeless parking/camping. When you allow parking and space to be used as living space for homeless, it makes the neighborhood feel less, especially for families with young children.

We have walked through the park and have seen piles of garbage, human feces, and needles cluttering the streets and paths. I cannot feel safe bringing or allowing my son to play freely in the park due to these conditions.

Our family has concerns with allowing westchester park to become a 24 hr safe parking zone for homeless population. I agree that more services and support need to be provided but through tax dollars and programs to rehabilitate or provide mental health resources to get people back on their feet; not by sacrificing safe spaces in a neighborhood.

Thank you,
The Patterson family
Altavan Ave

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park Concerns

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Brendon T Gerisch >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:14 PM Brendon T Gerisch < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident in the Westchester area of Los Angeles and am writing to share my concerns about the proposed safe parking/living you are proposing for the unhoused. As a father of a 2 year old son, and a man who also has a 71 year old mother living with him, I am concerned about the safety of our law abiding citizens due to the issues caused at our park by those taking advantage of the situation and creating an unsafe and unsanitary environment near our park, library, and senior center. My family no longer feels safe to travel to our park, the only park mind you within a 15 minute drive in any direction, and as a result I am asking for your help.

The proposed safe parking project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing or to allow overnight stays. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had asked, you would have found out from residents about numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed by the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas.

I urge you to reconsider this project for another location within the city. My family and I thank you in advance, we want our library, senior center, and park back for safe and healthy recreational use. What it was intended to be used for.

Brendon Gerisch

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park is for Families/Children

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Virginia Smith-Rader <
>

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 2:54 PM Virginia Smith-Rader <

> wrote:

My name is Virginia Smith-Rader; I've been a resident of Westchester since 1968. I was selected as 1 of 23 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury members 2010-2011 for a term of one year; as you may know, the City's Civil Grand Jury is charged with investigating how public tax dollars are spent. Our year end reports are a matter of public record; it was a surprisingly useful and interesting endeavor throughout my year's tenure.

Yesterday, I found myself alongside many dozens of neighbors at Westchester Park holding my homemade sign, "SAVE OUR PARK." You may have heard or seen footage as the news media attended our protest, as well as one of our City Council candidates to replace Mike Bonin, Traci Parks. We've had difficult years' long struggles to rid our park of homeless encampments from Westchester Park which brought crime, unsanitary conditions, drugs, rapes, gunshots and so on. Mike Bonin is a homeless advocate and clearly not Westchester neighborhood's solution. In fact, Bonin was often a no show at the Park for many, many months; numerous calls pleading for help went unanswered. After Sheriff Villaneuava visited the Park four (4) times with the Sheriff's Home Outreach Team, the neighborhood finally got the homeless encampment removed. Mike Bonin lashed back with his push to allow campers to park on the parking areas between the Library and the Senior Center. Homeless inhabitants are now found in our local Ralphs shouting, stealing and on our streets near the park. Children see public defecation, shooting up, etc.

We've had attacks, indecent exposures in front of children and garbage strewn over the parking area. Seniors are not using the Senior Center; we're afraid to walk among the campers. It's dangerous; it's dirty. Handicapped parking spaces are taken up with campers; families have to endure coming face to face with this to go to the Library. Mike Bonin wants Parks & Recreation to allow 24 hour overnight camping not only where it already exists, but Bonin wants to include the parking lot south of the Pool. The one ballfield that's been refurbished at great cost is now fenced, set to reopen October 2nd. Mike Bonin wants to turn that into another homeless encampment. I am aware that Mike Bonin was once homeless himself with a drug problem; but Bonin's compassion MUST be for his Constituents who elected him. Compassion must be rendered to families and children of Westchester, Playa del Rey, Inglewood, etc. who have used and enjoyed Westchester Park for many years. We have worked hard to pay taxes to support our Park. I could write a litany of crimes that occur in neighborhoods in which homeless encampments are found.

Many laws of protection for the community are currently being broken. A children's daycare facility is within a short distance from the parking lots (unlawful), voting access that's safe and accessible at the Senior Center is being violated, among other law infractions. Out of all the City Council members' districts, Mike Bonin is the only Council Member who allows damaging and dangerous homeless encampments in his District's park. I plead with you; in fact, I beg you.....Vote NO Thursday. Do not allow Mike Bonin to further degrade and ruin our Westchester Community. Rid our once peaceful neighborhood of homeless encampments, campers, overnight camping. PLEASE give us our park back. You're Parks & Rec! Westchester families must have a park that's safe, clean, wholesome and peaceful. Help Us; Help our Children.

--

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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Website: www.laparks.org

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park not for homeless!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Barbara Taylor <>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:34 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:36 PM Barbara Taylor <>

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Barbara Tsylor

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester park -opposition to 24 hours safe parking for rv dwellers

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: T Jackson <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:15 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:05 AM T Jackson < > wrote:
Sending my comments regarding this proposition.

As a long term homeowner (15 years) and resident of Westchester, I formally oppose this proposition. My 2 black teenage daughters refuse to go to the park. They are afraid with the number of homeless people living there. We swam at this pool and did Junior guards and dive team there when they were younger. My oldest is lifeguard certified and wanted to work at this local pool, but now with this proposition that is never going to become a reality. They wanted to be able to encourage other black youngsters to learn to swim. but they can't use the pool , so that will not happen. It is so sad to see this happening in our community. Our local girl scout troop use to spend Saturdays doing community service and park clean up at Westchester park. We can no longer even do this because of the drug use in this park. It is truly a sad situation and make me so very sad. How can someone even consider this a safe proposal? We saw on the news that one of the homeless cut the fence to the pool and used the pool for bathing. ITS SICKENING. My daughters' keep asking me how the police and politicians continue to allow this to happen. Its truly mind boggling. I don't have an answer for them. OUR PARK IS NOT SAFE. PLEASE HELP US SAVE OUR PARK. THANKS

Dr TOYA JACKSON

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park parking concerns

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Darren Rosenblum <d >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:27 AM Darren Rosenblum <

> wrote:

Good Morning,

I am a resident of Westchester, and live on 90th street just behind the Ralphs/Bowlero complex. I am extremely concerned about the vote to allow 24 hour parking of RV's/homeless in the parking lot of Westchester park. I have personally witnessed examples of defecating, drug use, incoherent yelling, being chased with a metal rod, chasing off a man trying attempting to get into our neighbors house with an 8 year old girl. I do have compassion, but this is not the answer. I play tennis at the park weekly, and feel unsafe riding my bike through the park on my own. I couldn't imagine bringing my children to a place where children are meant to be playing. After the park was cleared from the Covid situation, we enjoyed the grass area, play structure and tennis courts. Now, it is beginning to return to the previous disruptions. Not to mention a pre-school will be opening up next door in the coming months. I ask that you please delay the vote, and try to work with LA World Airports to use their open land as a safe space for parking. The park is not the answer.

Regards,
Darren & Dana Rosenblum
213-220-1604
90th St.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park Parking Lot "Safe Parking" 90045

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:56 AM

To: David Martinez <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 3:36 PM David Martinez <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to you today to inform you that my family and I oppose the 24-hour Safe Parking in the park and the surrounding parking lots due to serious lack of safety. Pre-pandemic we used the park several times each week. We used it for picnics, sports, family time, leisurely walks, and several other activities.

Throughout the pandemic Westchester Park became a very large encampment containing nearly 100 tents. The crime was outrageous, murders, open air drug use, sex, rape, etc... The campers were finally removed in November and the city has begun to rehab the sports fields and the common areas. We were beginning to see families use the park again.

Over the course of the past several months the parking lots surrounding the park once again became an unsafe drug haven filled with many very mentally unstable people.

Can you please put a stop to this nonsense of allowing these mentally unstable people to reside in the parking lots next to a children's pool, sports fields, nursery school, and senior center.

We have provided many alternatives to our elected council member (Bonin), but he chooses to turn a blind eye to any of our proposals.

Allowing this to move forward is inconsistent with newly adopted LAMC section 41.18 which prevents encampments by homeless within 500 feet of "sensitive uses", which include public parks, libraries and day care centers.

The agreement that you are about to vote on only protects the city, but not the park users.

There has been a lack of Due Process preventing a fair trial. The public was not informed of this at all.

There was a feasibility study that indicated that the park site was feasible due to all of the robust park usage.

Please do not allow this vote to go through. For the safety of our community, children, and the unhoused. This is a bad idea.

David Martinez,

Westchester Resident since 1983.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park Parking Project

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:13 AM

To: Pamela Quan <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:48 AM Pamela Quan <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Families with children use this park. Schools have resumed and many sports activities are scheduled to start. Seniors, myself included, do not feel safe now trying to access the library or the senior center. I don't feel safe trying to park there now! How will we be able to resume our activities with this proposed project. Criminal incidents have been occurring throughout these years without enforcement or protection. We've been avoiding going there and it's unfair that we need to curb our activities...our neighborhood is a mess thanks to officials who are in office and not doing their job in serving the people in this district. What's the point of having parking privileges for the unhoused when there are repeated failures in support services that are suppose to aid in getting these individuals off the street. Without these services moving them into a park will be their permanent solution...most of these individuals do not want to be housed so they can continue to live without rules imposed on them. They'll continue their criminal activity and pollute the area without regard for others. Your solution is to endanger our neighborhood and schools. These quick fixes you think will benefit the homeless will never work. What's the plan after they move into the park? Were other areas looked at before deciding our park was the best? Where are the local support services? Who will be overseeing the upkeep and enforcing the laws? Who will protect our neighborhood from further crime?

This has already been sent to you but I repeat it's message:

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

I have never been prompted until recently to write a letter like this, but this has gone too far. My family and I have lived in Westchester for 30 years. Before that we were in neighboring LA districts. I, my husband, and children have attended schools in Los Angeles and have always viewed Westchester as a wonderful, safe community, and we've all used the park and library many a time. To see the downfall of this community in such a short period of time is disheartening. We have only a finite amount of resources and we've gone beyond the capacity to handle this situation. I sincerely hope you can find a better alternative solution...your project is not the answer.

Sincerely,
Pamela Quan



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park proposed "Safe Parking"

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: FIONA ENGLER <

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 9:01 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 7:13 AM FIONA ENGLER <

> wrote:

To the RAP Commissioners,

Westchester Park is exactly that...a park. It is the park my children grew up playing in, learning to swim at, and spending summers in sports, scouts, and the library reading programs. This park was created for the enjoyment of the community and paid for by the tax payers of the city. It is for children to safely enjoy playing in the playground, for families and community to gather and enjoy the green space, for young athletes to learn to play sports, for community to learn to swim, for seniors to have companionship and a place to go. It is the ONLY park in the city of Los Angeles being targeted for this use. Why?? It does not matter which parking lot you are looking at for this use, it is an unacceptable and unintended use for the park. The fact that much of this discussion was held without public access speaks to further issues with this being forced upon the community of Westchester.

"The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." Gov't Code § 54950.

Please do not allow the safe parking program in our ONLY green space in the Westchester/Playa del Rey community. Our children, families, community members, and seniors deserve to have a park that is safe.

Thank you,
Fiona Engler
Westchester Resident

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:48 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:10 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:28 AM
Subject: Westchester Park Safe Parking *resending*
To: Michael Shull <

>

Dear Mr. Shull and RAP Commissioners:

Last year, the Safe Parking program at Westchester Park was moved to the parking lot that serves the ball fields, and a permit was issued to increase that program from five or six to 25 parking spots. No notice of these permit requests or approvals were given to the community or the Neighborhood Council, and the community was therefore prevented from giving any input into that process or participating in it in any way. (See https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/westchester-residents-not-consulted-about-safe-parking/article_e96728ae-740c-11ec-95b8-a70604d45c25.html.)

We understand the permit for Safe Parking will expire June 30, 2022. We request notice of any requests for extension of that permit and any other Safe Parking requests pertaining to that program relating to Westchester Park.

Westchester Park has not recovered from the homeless occupation of the park for two years during covid shutdowns. We still have many vehicle dwellers, in RVs and cars, living in the parking lots of the park. (See photos below for a few examples--there are many others.) Many Safe Parking users, maybe most of them, simply move from the Safe Parking lot to other parking spots during the daytime. Thus, they are full-time vehicle dwellers in the park.

The ball fields are now being renovated, and we expect the fields will be ready for use in June. Our Senior Center has reopened. However, few seniors are willing to go to the Senior Center because they are frightened and feel unsafe because of the vehicle dwellers in the parking lot outside the Senior Center. Parents, league presidents, coaches, and children are all very concerned about homeless people using Safe Parking in the lot closest to the ball fields because many of the people using the Safe Parking simply move to other parking spaces in the parking lot during the day so they are there all the time. At least two children have been physically attacked by homeless people in the public restrooms of the park while trying to participate in sports. A recent PRA request of LAPD shows calls to those two parking lots in the past few months--after tent dwellers left the park and only the vehicle dwellers remain.

Also, the Safe Parking program next to the lot closest to the ball fields uses 25 parking spaces. There is no parking on Lincoln Avenue, which runs alongside the park where the ballfields are located. Lincoln Avenue is seven lanes wide and cars drive at freeway speeds. The street is also dark during much of the year when children are playing sports in the park after 5 p.m. It is unsafe for children and families to park on the other side of Lincoln and attempt to cross the street.

LA is a "park poor" city and Westchester Park is used almost equally by children and youth of African-American, Latino, and Caucasian groups. At least two leagues, Westchester Vikings Pop Warner Football and LAX Youth Baseball, provided scholarships, transportation, and other services to children and youth from east of the 405. We have a young LAPD officer who is in the process of starting a football league in the park for boys and girls from South Central and also for youth close to the park, but cannot do so until the park is safe. League presidents and coaches in general do not feel comfortable about having their players, for whom they are responsible, exposed to the risk. The park should be safe and have adequate parking as a matter of racial and social equity. Girls have been the most frequent targets of harassment, incidents of indecent exposure, and attacks by homeless people in the park and are at greater risk by being in the park. Therefore, safety in the park is a matter of gender equity. (See https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/westchester-versus-pacific-palisades-field-permits-and-the-safe-parking-program/article_a489d7da-72d7-11ec-a63f-4bf990dbf4c2.html.)

Westchester Park will not be safe for children and seniors until the parking lots are safe for them to use and until they have an adequate number of parking spots to safely accommodate them.

While we support Safe Parking, we ask that it be moved to a location other than the park. We are informed that there are 430 City parks in LA, and Westchester Park is the only one of those parks with a Safe Parking program. We believe this is likely a reflection of the fact that Safe Parking programs and park uses by children and youth are not considered to be compatible uses, and the fact that other locations for Safe Parking should be used.

We also note that the Safe Parking lot is not heavily used (see first photo below), yet it is fenced and the 25 spaces cannot be used by park users. (See <https://www.circlingthenews.com/safe-parking-effectiveness/>.) Undoubtedly, there are parking lots of government buildings that can be used for Safe Parking, instead of using a park. For example, we have heard that LADOT is considering the use of their parking lots for Safe Parking.

We also request notice of any requests to extend the Safe Parking program, change the number of parking spots in the program, or have a Safe Parking program in another parking lot of the park, such as the one outside Council Member Bonin's office, because that parking lot is shared by people who use the senior center (see last four photos below taken in the senior center and senior center parking lot). The remaining parking lot in the park is used by adults and children using the Recreation Center, the skate park, and the tennis courts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra Huston









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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figuroa Plaza
221 North Figuroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester park safe parking agenda item

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Robert Hansen <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:03 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:05 AM Robert Hansen < > wrote:

Robert (You): Dear commissioners

Please do not approve the requested overnight parking at Westchester Park.

As you know this park has been the location for a mass shooting, daily assaults, rapes, indecent exposure, drug sales and use.

This is an attempt by our outgoing council member to burn down the community on his way out.

There are 1200 identified county owned locations, parking lots and buildings for shelter.

This is a slap on the face for the residents of Westchester and surrounding areas

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester park safe parking motion

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Kevin Berman <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:03 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:10 AM Kevin Berman < > wrote:

Please do not approve the alleged safe parking at Westchester Park.

There is nothing safe about it.

We have an outgoing Council-member, who has lied to the residents and failed to even inform us without FOI requests.

It is dangerous and we need your help to allow us to fully use the park and it's facilities, free from danger.

Thank you

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park  No to Homeless Encampments!!! 'Protect Homeowners & Tax Paying Residents!'

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Elayne Anderson <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:44 AM Elayne Anderson <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Elayne Anderson

La Tijera Village/Inglewood

--

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Figueroa Plaza
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Katherine Williamson >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:34 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:31 PM Katherine Williamson <

wrote:

Hello, My name is Katherine Williamson. I am writing to you regarding my concern about allowing RV's to park in any parking lot near the Westchester Park. Right now the park it seems vacant. However, once the fence goes down this park will again be a vibrant city park full of children's soccer leagues, softball leagues, base ball leagues like it was when my children (now 23) were growing up. My children were able to go the park by themselves when they were 10 to ride their bikes, play with friends, and go swimming in addition to all their sports practices there.

Any kind of RV parking will bring people who do not respect cleanliness. There are many people who live in RV's that are dangerous to children and even adults. I have had many instances of RV people being rude and dangerous told to me from friends who live in Venice.

Our Westchester park is for the people in our neighborhood who pay taxes, respect the property and use it for relaxation and recreation not for people to stay over night there.

Thank you.

Katherine Williamson

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:53 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:25 AM Debra Huston < wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 7:46 AM
Subject: Westchester Park
To: Jose Ramirez <che.ramirez@lacity.org>, Paula Gerez < >

Good morning, Che,

Wanted to provide you a bit of info about Westchester Park. The users of our park are about 1/3 African-American, 1/3 Latino, and 1/3 Caucasian. The park has been a park of equity for a very long time, and we are proud of that. Many of our park users are from "park poor" areas, such as Inglewood. Actually, a fairly large percentage of Westchester Park users are from Inglewood. The park is a straight shot down Manchester from Inglewood to the park. Kids can take the bus from Inglewood to use the skate park, the ball fields, the tennis courts, the basketball courts, and the rest of the park facilities.

The park has four lighted multi-plex fields, and there is a shortage of these fields in the City. These fields can be used for all field sports, including those requiring large fields, such as football. Because of the closure of Westchester Park fields for renovation, and during the time the park was occupied by tent encampments, leagues had to travel as far away as San Diego to get field space.

Two leagues that used to play at Westchester Park folded during the pandemic because they no longer had field space closeby, and many parents were either working or could not afford to drive their children a long distance for practice and games. One of these league leaders is DeAndre Parks, who was the president of the Westside Vikings Pop Warner football, track, and cheer. DeAndre's league offered hot meals and other things many of the kids needed. DeAndre is very close friends with Earl Gales, Jr., who is on the Board of the Brotherhood Crusade. This organization's mission is to help black youth become successful in life, and one of their initiatives is sports. When you come to the park, I would like you to meet DeAndre and hear his story. Many youth were left without a league entirely after The Westside Vikings folded. You can still get information about the league on the Westside Vikings Website.

We have a young, African-American LAPD officer who was trying to start a league in Westchester Park last summer when RAP was instructed not to issue permits for the ball fields. Carlos lost two brothers to gun violence in South Central. Carlos, unlike his brothers, was bused to Westchester for school (Westchester is one of the few Westside communities that has busing). Going to school in Westchester was a life-changing experience for Carlos. He went to school and played sports with kids from Westchester, and Carlos saw opportunities for himself that he did not see when he was living in South Central. Carlos stayed with sports and avoided gang affiliation. He went to college and joined LAPD about three years ago. The son of one of his brothers who died of gun violence was going to be in Carlos's league. Carlos specifically wanted to play in Westchester, have the kids spend time at the library for homework while supervised by coaches, and have hot meals. Carlos had set up a nonprofit and obtained insurance for the league. And then he could not get permits. DeAndre has spoken with Carlos and would like to help Carlos get his league going because of the help Carlos's league could provide to so many kids.

Another league president, Eric Beckerman of LAX Baseball, ran a very diverse league at Westchester Park, and provided transportation and scholarships to kids from Inglewood. His league folded when he could not get permits at Westchester Park. He started a new league in Santa Monica, but none of his kids from Inglewood can travel that far. Eric would like to bring his league back to Westchester Park.

I recall that the Mayor signed two executive orders, I believe, supporting park equity in the City of Los Angeles. Westchester Park is a park of equity and diversity. Yet it is the only park, out of 430 parks in the City of Los Angeles, with a Safe Parking program.

Our league leaders are not comfortable with having their kids play in a park with so many homeless people living there. Youth sports last until 9 or 10 p.m. in the park, and in the winter it is dark for hours while they are playing.

If you like, I can set up a meeting with you and many of the league leaders so you can hear their concerns and their stories about scrambling for field space if they can't use Westchester Park. Some can also tell you about the crime and incidents in the park in which their kids were victims of homeless people. The crime/incidents by homeless individuals involving children included physical attacks in the bathrooms, racial slurs, indecent exposure, following and/or approaching children engaging in sports, trying to engage children in conversation, drug use in front of children, drug-induced meltdowns, and much more. Just in the last month, a homeless man walked onto the tennis courts on two separate days and each day told the girls taking lessons that "they want to f*ck me." Also in the last month, a homeless woman attacked the elderly lady who handles reservations for the tennis courts.

When Mike Bonin wanted to use a portion of the park for a homeless shelter (tiny homes, cabin communities), he asked for a feasibility study of Westchester Park. (CF 21-0350.) The CAO conducted that feasibility study and determined the park was not feasible for that purpose, and that it was not feasible for a Safe Sleep program either. I am attaching that report.

We have great compassion for people who are homeless and we want there to be safe places for them to park their RVs and other vehicle dwellings. However, we do not believe that it should be in a park. In addition to the reasons stated above, our park users need the parking (see CAO report). Lincoln is a seven-lane highway (Hwy 1) and there is no street parking on Lincoln. It is not safe for youth to cross Lincoln. Manchester, the only other street that bounds the park, is also a very busy thoroughfare. It is not safe to park across Manchester to find parking either.

Mike Bonin's staff person, Abby Austin, told our Neighborhood Council in March that the council office was looking into finding parking for vehicle dwellers in LADOT lots. We've heard nothing more of that. And now the council office has bids to fence the entire lot where the vehicle dwellers are located.

I am happy to set up a meeting with you and our league leaders and senior center users. I do believe it is important that you hear from them. Bonin's office doesn't seem to be concerned about the crime (other than in and around his field office, which, which was fortified last month with cameras, an electric gate to his parking lot, and 10-foot high chain link fences with barbed wire), or the impact having people dwelling in their vehicles in the park has on the thousands of kids who count on this park for sports and recreation. The CAO report covers the community's need for this park.

I can easily set up a meeting for you with stakeholders at the park. Our ball fields will be open October 3, after the renovation, and we really do need the parking in the municipal lot by that date, and our league leaders can tell you all the reasons why.

Thank you so much, Che.

Debra

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:48 AM

To: Karen Lask <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:07 AM Karen Lask <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week, and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents, you would have discovered numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity, and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall running of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities welcomed with the program, and the program, therefore, was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city, but it does not protect residents and parkgoers. This contract also blatantly neglects the 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address these issues before deciding to move forward.

Karen Lask (a 38-year resident)

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:56 AM

To: Darren Laos <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:58 AM Darren Laos < > wrote:

Please we are on our hands and knees begging for this not to happen. Not at a park and senior center and a library that we can no longer use out of fear for our safety. As soon as you step foot on the park grounds you are confronted and harassed. Every time we even drive by I have to explain to my 5 year old why there are naked people in the parking lot screaming yelling fighting and using it as a toilet. Please don't let the out cries or our community continue to fall on deaf ears. An innocent person is going to get hurt our children are in danger.

Darren Laos

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete this message and any attachments without retaining a copy.

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Linda Murata >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:32 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 8:12 PM Linda Murata < > wrote:

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Please do not allow 24-hour RV parking in the parking lots allotted for the Westchester Library, the Westchester pool, and the Westchester Park.

These parking spaces were initially allotted for people from all over to park their cars while they enjoy relaxation, picnics, and athletic games in the park and for people from all over who want to visit the library. These parking spaces should be kept free for their intended purpose.

The park and the library are places for people to use. They are not places for people to live in.

It is not fair for people living in their RVs to take up spaces (and in some cases taking up handicapped parking spaces), especially near the Senior Center. The Senior Center used to be a thriving place with people going there for exercise classes, visiting with friends, and for eating together. Some seniors are not as able-bodied as others and need to use canes and walkers for mobility. Having to park far from the Senior Center entrance is hard on some senior citizens and having to walk all the way around to the door away from the parking lot because a person living in an RV blocks the ramp to get into the parking lot-side door is cruel.

I don't think that you Recreation and Parks commissioners can be so unreasonable as to allow people to live in their RVs in the public park parking lot 24 hours a day.

Sincerely,
Linda Murata

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Pat Downing <>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:58 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:54 AM Pat Downing <>

> wrote:

Parks and Rec

I am completely opposed to any safe parking at Westchester Park

Current situation is deplorable and I don't see it getting any better by just changing the location within the park. We need to relocate all the encampments to a more appropriate place for the residents to get proper assistance.

Thank you,

Pat Downing

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester parking lot

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:03 AM

To: "

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:10 AM

> wrote:

I Was the cooling center in Westchester operational for I heard that seniors do nor have easy access to it because RV's and garbage and filth block them.

I am currently in the parking lot outside the Westchester library. It is filled with trash, RV's and what appears to be stolen bikes and smells like urine. There are men passed out outside Mike Bonin's office. I believe everyone deserves a home but this is NOT the right place. Our kids deserve a safe place to play.

I would love to send you photos

Katherine 9:51 AM 9/15/2022

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Parking Safe Parking

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Tim Campbell <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:08 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:55 AM Tim Campbell < > wrote:

I apologize for writing multiple emails, but I want to share my comments as they occur, and I believe a few short emails are better than a single long one no-one will read.

Looking back at the comments made by Mr. Bonin's staff, I noticed a recurring theme; one that was also apparent at the NCWP meeting Mr. Fleishman attended the week before. All the problems and issues at Westchester Park's safe parking site and the illegal encampment in the municipal lot seem to be someone else's fault; Mr. Bonin and his staff, who requested the safe parking program approval, and who have done nothing to abate the RV camp, accept no responsibility for the situation. For example:

- At the NCWP meeting, Mr. Fleishman said the General Services Department was responsible for installing the additional security measures at the municipal building. He was responding to a question as to why the measures were necessary if the encampment and safe parking areas were crime-free. Speaking as someone who was a Public Works manager for nearly 30 years, this is nonsense. No major facility repairs or improvements take place without the resident staff's prior notice and acceptance. Yet Mr. Fleishman said the security measures were forced upon them by GSD.
- Mr. Bonin's office also claims the illegal RV encampment cannot be cleared because General Services has not yet posted the proper prohibitive signing. There now seems to be some question as to the funding for the signs. Again, Mr. Bonin is transferring his responsibility for allowing the encampment to proliferate to another department. Regulatory signs are mass produced and inexpensive; adding the required LAMC citation would be quick and easy. Yet Mr. Bonin says this is taking months.
- Mr. Fleishman has said several times we, the residents being most affected, are conflating the Safe Parking area with the illegal RV encampment and we are opposing Safe Parking based on the situation in the municipal lot. In reality, it is the users of both areas who are combining the two, by moving between them at will. Only six to eight safe parkers use the Safe Parking site program at night. And most of those pull into the non-safe parking part of the lot after the "safe parking" lot closes and stay there during the day. Some pull into the municipal lot. It is nonsensical for Mr. Bonin to defend Safe Parking as a benign presence when it is one of the chief causes—directly and indirectly--of the blighted camp in the municipal lot. As we have said before, the only people sowing confusion are in Mr. Bonin's office.

There seems to be a pattern in how Mr. Bonin defends the Safe Parking program. When things don't work out as he thinks they should, he blames others. Instead of reassessing his own program design and goals, he finds a scapegoat.

The tragic irony is there are several other options for better locations. The City Controller recently identified 26 sites with sufficient parking and capacity for other amenities; had Mr. Bonin pursued those

with the same zeal he has shown for insisting on Safe Parking (and its knock-on campsite) at the park, we would not be dealing with this problem.

Again, we are not confusing one lot with the other; our comments merely reflect the reality at Westchester Park. No sign, no fence, no security guard will make the area any safer for residents and the community. Only cancellation of the Safe Parking program and removal of the illegal RV campsite will achieve that goal.

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Tim C

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park--Misuse of City Assets/PRA Request

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston < >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:07 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Please include this in the official record for item number 22-244 on today's agenda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Wed, Sep 7, 2022 at 11:48 AM
Subject: Westchester Park--Misuse of City Assets/PRA Request
To: <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, Greg Good <greg.good@lacity.org>, <controller.galperin@lacity.org>, <mike.feuer@lacity.org>, <kathleen.kenealy@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, <matt.szabo@lacity.org>, Yolanda Chavez <yolanda.chavez@lacity.org>, <sharon.tso@lacity.org>, <karen.kalfayan@lacity.org>
Cc: Paula Gerez <

Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor
City of Los Angeles

Hon. Ron Galperin, City Controller
City of Los Angeles

Hon. Mike Feuer, City Attorney
City of Los Angeles

Honorable Commissioners of the Recreation and Parks Board

City of Los Angeles

Mr. Matthew Szabo, Chief Administrative Officer

City of Los Angeles

Ms. Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst

City of Los Angeles

RE: Westchester Park/Misuse of City Assets

I am a resident of the Westchester neighborhood. As you know, there is a large and growing encampment of inoperable recreational vehicles parked full-time in the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park. The encampment is in addition to and outside of the designated Safe Parking area at the south end of the property. Many of the RV's occupy multiple parking spots and marked disabled spaces. In addition, there is a well-documented history of excessive trash in and around the encampment, as well as human waste and other hazardous materials leaking from some of the vehicles. The encampment's residents have been offered alternative housing but, for the most part, have refused. Many of the neighborhood's residents no longer use the park's facilities because they can find no safe and clean parking spaces, or have been harassed by the encampment's dwellers. There have been several police calls to the camp, including one reporting a vicious dog that attacked an LAPD officer. A CBS News team was accosted by homeless vehicle dwellers in that parking lot.

Our Council Member, Mike Bonin, had a staff member present at our Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa Del Rey last evening, and informed the NCWP Board that CM Bonin's office has received money from the County for 24-hour Safe Parking in the lot by the swimming pool and ball fields. CM Bonin's representative said this parking would be used for RVs from the Wetlands. Such a program would basically kill the park. Multiple youth athletic leagues have folded and many youth leagues will not have their children play in the park because of the danger of playing in a park where children are accosted by homeless people. Yet the lighted, multiplex ball fields are THE ONLY such fields for miles around. Children are being left out of sports, and CM Bonin's 24/7 Safe Parking plans for that lot will make matters far worse and deprive many more children of youth athletic opportunities because the lot will be open all day when children are there. The effect on the recreational pool and all other facilities in the park would be the same.

CM Bonin's plan will deprive children of neighboring communities safe access to the park. At least half of the users of this park are from inland communities who rely on this park for field space, picnic space, swimming, the skate park, the tennis courts, and cooler weather. These

are our neighboring community members, many of whom are people of color and of low socio-economic means.

The City Council representatives for these nearby communities will not have the opportunity to vote on CM Bonin's plan, as I understand, because CM Bonin has obtained money (\$1 mill) from the county for his plan. Therefore, Bonin's plan bypasses City Council members whose constituents are affected and will not be able to represent their constituents in this matter that involves their constituents.

You are probably aware that the **CAO has determined the park is NOT FEASIBLE for Safe Parking because of the robust usage of the park by thousands**. (See attached memo from CAO.) Our Council Member requested this report, and he is now ignoring it and proceeding as if the feasibility study by the CAO was never conducted.

It makes absolutely no sense that RVs that are being moved from the Wetlands because of the danger they present and environmental damage they cause should be moved to a City park that is heavily used by children and seniors.

Our community has opposed this by having an Action Network letter which has resulted in nearly 18,000 letters being sent to City officials opposing CM Bonin's plans for the park. https://actionnetwork.org/letters/save-westchester-park?clear_id=true. The issue of crime and lack of safety in the park has been covered by prime time news, as well as by news publications, dozens of times. Here are links to the most recent reports:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/westchester-residents-frustrated-with-growing-homeless-encampment/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/video/cooling-centers-open-throughout-la-county-as-record-breaking-heat-bakes-southland/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

I and other residents have contacted Council Member Bonin's office dozens, maybe hundreds, of times to request a resolution, and have been ignored.

Misuse of Public Assets

Public service officials and employees have an affirmative duty to use public assets to their best and highest use, for the greatest benefit of the community at large. Many Westchester residents, including civil service professionals and attorneys with whom we have conferred, believe the current situation at the park is a gross misuse of public assets.

Our belief is based on:

1. The encampment prevents the use of the park's amenities and facilities for their intended use, including the library, senior center and sports fields. Despite the ongoing heat wave, very few people used the senior center as a cooling center due to conditions in the camp. Allowing inoperable vehicles with no or expired disabled placards to occupy disabled parking places is a violation of ADA regulations.
2. The muni parking lot's current use as a campground is inconsistent with its intended use. It does not have the proper sanitary or services infrastructure to support full-time camping, especially when many of the vehicles pose an environmental hazard to the surrounding area. Putting the proper support facilities in place would also be inconsistent with the park's intended use and would be more costly than the alternatives offered by the City Controller's recent report on homelessness. CM Bonin's plans for the ballfields' parking lot would destroy the intended use of the ballfields and the recreational pool and other facilities in the park, even though CM Bonin has county money to invest in the park, because people would not be able to park close to those facilities and because of the danger presented by 24-hour Safe Parking, which means homeless people from the Wetlands and other locations were be present all day when children and seniors, and other community members and members of nearby communities, are using the park..
3. Regarding the municipal parking lot, using that lot as a campsite puts the City at significant risk for violations of its NPDES permit and other health regulations. The unmitigated leakage of human and other waste from stationary vehicles into nearby storm drains is a violation of the Clean Water Act. The presence of rats and other disease vectors is a public health hazard. Since the City is aware of, and has taken no mitigation action against these violations, it is at risk of fines from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other agencies.
4. If the City has received state, federal or other outside agency funding for park improvements, and that funding restricts its use to community services, its use for something other than recreational or community service purposes may be a violation of grant conditions, requiring the City to pay those amounts back to the funding agencies.

Public Records Act Request

Given the significant continuing risks of allowing the campsite to proliferate, and the absence of any documented plans to close the camp and relocate the vehicles to a more appropriate area, **I am making the following public records requests:**

1. Any and all grant or other outside funding agency documents currently in force for Westchester Park. The documents should include all restrictions to which the City stipulated;
2. Any and all documents or correspondence, written and/or electronic that may pertain to:
 - A. Notices and reports of leakage of human and other waste from vehicles in the lot and the steps taken to mitigate such leakage for the past 24 months;
 - B. Improper use of handicapped parking by inoperable or improperly placarded vehicles and any steps taken to remove such vehicles from those spaces.
 - C. Any analysis of the use of the parking lot as a campsite, including any discussion of alternative sites.

Please respond to my request as promptly as possible and please let me know if you need more information.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Recreation Center - 24 Safe Parking LA Program at Westchester Parking Lot.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Heger, Duke" >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 3:04 PM Heger, Duke < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am a long time resident of Westchester and I am adamantly against the "24 hour **safe** parking program" at Westchester Park and parking lot. The Commission needs to look to space that is away from areas that are needed for the community residents, including seniors and children – and do not threaten the safety of those residents. Further, this project is not consistent with park purposes and the park is not zoned for housing. The current Westchester Park experiment is a huge fail and has made the residents unsafe and unable to use the facilities at and around the Park as they're intended. This contract being considered also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas.

I chose to live in Westchester and close to the Westchester Park and golf course, so my family and I could enjoy these spaces for their intended use. We were disappointed to see these public facilities and open spaces unavailable to the public and Westchester residents for most of the past three years; however, we assumed the park would only be unavailable for a short period – then returned to the public and Westchester residents for its intended use. Westchester Park is for the public and Westchester residents to safely enjoy the facilities. The Westchester Park also has a library and senior center that are important spaces for the public and residents – and these facilities are not easily accessible or safely accessible for the people who want to use them.

My family requests that the Commission reject this contract and explore a suitable and safe location to allow the homeless to park their vehicles – that does not infringe on the availability of resources and threaten the safety of local residents.

Duke Heger

Attention: This email is intended for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential or privileged information. No one is authorized to copy or re-use this email or any information contained in it. If you are not the

intended recipient, we request that you please notify us by reply email and destroy all copies of the message and any attachments. Thank you for your cooperation.

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Residents AGAINST 24-hour Safe Parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Blair Phillips <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:43 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:16 AM Blair Phillips <

wrote:

In case I don't have a chance to speak at the public meeting this morning, I'd like my opinion known. I very firmly stand against making Westchester Park a 24-hour safe parking zoon for RV dwellers. **Parks are for recreation not residents!** Passing this is only creating a safe place for these people to make everyone else unsafe. We've already seen it!

I could go on about the crime in the park. **Conditions are unsightly, unsanitary, and unsafe.** There are assaults, lewd acts, and blatant drug use. Our family and neighbors no longer feel safe using the park. You cannot use any sports fields, the senior center, or the library. We personally have seen people pulling down their pants to defecate, drug use, crack pipes and needles. We've been yelled at and harassed.

When the park was occupied before during covid one of the residents came onto my own home street and went after my 9-year-old daughter. I have witnesses. Myself, and some neighbors, had to chase him off our street to protect ourselves. If these people move back, our children will no longer be able to play in the park or in our nearby yards. The businesses at Lincoln and Manchester will become dangerous and undesirable. I've seen these RV residents walk into Ralphs, grab items, and leave. And they disturb all the businesses at the local retailers.

These people need help, but the park is not a good option for them. In addition, many of these people have already refused help so we know they have no intention of leaving. Again, conditions at the park are **unsightly, unsanitary, and unsafe.** Please do not let the 24-hour safe parking pass.

Blair & Scott Hiding (90th St)
And all our neighbors!!!

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester residents are no longer playing around

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Julie Zaller >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:53 AM Julie Zaller < > wrote:

Good Morning,

I wanted to reach out before today meeting to remind you all that Westchester residents are no longer playing around. We are tired of Mike Bonin trying to screw our ONE and ONLY park with his homeless plans. We have hired a great attorney and will continue litigation as needed!

https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/westchester-coalition-hires-high-profile-attorney-to-stop-bonins-safe-parking-plan/article_79c7ed4a-34fe-11ed-bdc0-eb5491a72271.html

Julie Zaller

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Will RVs, campers, and trailers be prohibited from using the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot?

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:07 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 6:26 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Hi Jimmy,

I emailed you last week asking if RVs will be prohibited from using the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot in Westchester Park. I asked this because the RAP staff report to the Board of RAP Commissioners refers only to "vehicles," as does the proposed contract between RAP and Community partners.

I haven't received an answer from you about that.

We would also like to know if trailers and campers will be prohibited from using the lot, and if non-operational vehicles will be prohibited in the program.

This proposed 24-hour Safe Parking plan was presented at the RAP meeting as being like the nighttime-only Safe Parking lot that is now in the park, and the word "car" or "RV" was never uttered by either of Mr. Bonin's representatives at the meeting. Only the word "vehicles" was used.

Mr. Bonin's staff made statements at our NCWP meeting of September 6, 2022, which was recorded, describing how RVs and other vehicles from the Ballona Wetlands and the municipal lot in Westchester Park will be moved to this proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot if it is approved. RVs are prohibited in that lot.

This is important because Mr. Bonin's staff represented at the RAP Board meeting on September 15, 2022, that there have been only two incidents in the current nighttime-only Safe Parking lot and the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot will be just as safe.

As you know, 24-hour Safe Parking is entirely different from nighttime only Safe Parking in that the people who occupy the spaces in the proposed lot will be living there full time, and they will be there when children are engaging in activities in the park.

In addition, if this proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot includes RVs, trailers and campers from the Wetlands and the municipal lot, or from anywhere else, there is no question that the program would pose a much higher level of danger to children. The Wetlands and the muni lot are crime hot spots.

It is vitally important that this matter be clarified in the RAP staff report to the Board of Commissioners and in the proposed contract attached to that report before the RAP Board votes on this matter.

We add that during the meeting of the RAP Board, the RAP staff report was amended to increase the size of the program from 15 to 20 vehicles. We walked the lot on Saturday and saw that the additional five spaces will accommodate RVs. The other 15 spaces could accommodate trailers, small RVs, and campers.

Please provide the requested information at the earliest possible time.

Thank you.

| Debra Huston

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Written comments for item 22-244 on today's RAP Commissioners Meeting Agenda

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:58 AM Debra Huston <

> wrote:

Honorable RAP Commissioners:

I will be calling in to your meeting today to comment on this item. However, I do not expect that I will have the opportunity to comment because of the number of people who will be calling in and time limitations on general comment.

As you know, we have an attorney, John Murdock, and he has written a letter to you on our behalf explaining our position. I am including here the basic text of my comments for today's general comment time in case I am unable to comment:

The City has an emergency declaration in place. However, this does not relieve our Council Member of his obligation to find locations for Safe Parking that will not endanger children and nearby residents.

Mike Bonin claims he has searched far and wide. However, the only motion he has filed with City Council for moving people who are homeless is to parks and beaches.

He has filed no motion with city council asking the council to direct various city departments to survey city parking lots, such as LADOT and LASAN parking lots, for use as sites for 24-hour Safe Parking, and report back to the City Council.

Mike Bonin adamantly opposed the recent motion in City Council to ban camping within 500 feet of schools and child care centers, and he stated his opposition was "on principle."

With all due respect to Mr. Bonin, he believes as a matter of principle that people who are homeless should be living in parks, on beaches, and near schools. While we agree the homeless must be given shelter, we do not agree with his principles as to where this shelter should be located.

Please continue this matter and send the staff report back to RAP staff to gather much more information you need to make a decision that is based on input not only from Mr. Bonin, but also from the users and stakeholders of Westchester Park as outlined in Mr. Murdock's letter to you.

It is vitally important that RAP staff also get information from LAPD as to the calls LAPD has received regarding incidents and crimes against children and others in the park. I would have provided that information to you long ago, but I do not have access to it as a member of the public.

I believe GM Jimmy Kim would be able to access that information for the staff report to the RAP Commissioners. This should include 911 calls, calls to the park that resulted in arrest, all police reports based on incidents at the park, calls to the non-emergency line of LAPD regarding incidents or crimes in the park, and all service call records.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Debra Huston

--

City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Tim Campbell <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 12:11 PM Tim Campbell < wrote:

At yesterday's Commission meeting, during the discussion of the proposed 24-hour safe parking program space at Westchester Park, Mr. Bonin's staff repeatedly said community members who called into the meeting were providing misinformation about the program and were conflating the proposed safe parking area with the illegal RV camp in the municipal parking lot (about which Mr. Bonin has done nothing for months). Mr. Fleishman and Mr. Medhekar must have used that word "misinformation" a dozen times during the meeting. Besides being condescending, the statement is untrue.

It was condescending because it makes community members--Mr. Bonin's own constituents--sound like a cabal of uninformed reactionaries being misled by dark forces. Nothing could be further from the truth. Among those of us who oppose the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking and the RV camp at the park, you will find people of all political stripes and philosophies, as well as all ages, from young parents to retirees. Many of us advocate for the unhoused to receive needed care, shelter, and support services within the community. None of us are dupes, willing to be led wherever someone wants us to go. Several of us have done hours of research and made dozens of calls and sent hundreds of emails to fully inform ourselves of the situation at Westchester Park. We are fully aware of the difference between the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking area and the illegal encampment in the municipal lot, and we are acutely aware of the impact on our community, as is Mr. Bonin, but it does not serve his purposes to acknowledge the danger to or children and others. We live with the reality of the encampment 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The unfortunate fact is, due to a complete lack of enforcement of existing rules and regulations, the only differences between the RV camp and the Safe Parking area are location and intensity. Both have been linked to increased anti-social and criminal behavior in the park and the surrounding community.

If we have been misled or misinformed, it hasn't been by anyone in the community; it has been by Mr. Bonin and his staff, who have failed to provide accurate and timely information to residents and to the RAP Commission. To cite a few examples specific to the park:

- Despite what Mr. Fleishman and Mr. Medhekar said yesterday, **the safe parking contract contains no prohibition of RV parking**. It only refers to "vehicles" . We confirmed this in an email with Jimmy Kim after yesterday's meeting.
- Mr. Bonin's justification for using the park as a safe parking area is partially based on its "underutilization". Yet a 2021 report from the City's CAO, which includes information provided by RAP, states just the opposite; the park and its facilities are in high demand by the entire community, including use by groups in other park-poor areas. If anything is affecting the park's use, it is the continued presence of unsafe and improper homeless camping.
- Mr. Bonin's office has withheld or obfuscated information about the safe parking area. Ms. Gerez, the President of the NCWP, wasn't told Mr. Bonin planned to extend the parking program and make it 24/7 until just before the September 6 Neighborhood Council meeting. This last-minute announcement was made by Ms. Austin from Mr. Bonin's office despite repeated attempts

from community members asking Mr. Bonin to inform residents of his plans for several weeks prior to the NCWP meeting.

- The contract extension was never formally presented to the NCWP for public comment but announced by Mr. Fleishman at the September 6 meeting.
- Residents were unaware the safe parking plan would be expanded from 15 spaces to 20 until yesterday's meeting.
- Despite Mr. Bonin's staff saying the illegal encampment hasn't been removed due to a lack of proper signage, Mr. Bonin has informed RAP and the community if his Safe Parking request is approved, he will remove the RV's in the lot that serves his field office, a branch of the City library, and the senior center. This "promise" is in no contract with Recreation and Parks. If he can remove it after the RAP Commission approves his request, why can't he do it now? His strategy seems to be holding the municipal lot hostage until and unless he gets the Safe Parking area.

We believe the Commissioners and the public have been misled by Mr. Bonin and his staff. We have heard from Noah Fleishman, who spoke at an NCWP meeting on September 6, that Mr. Bonin plans to use the safe parking lot for RV's from the Ballona Wetlands.

At yesterday's commissioners meeting, neither Mr. Medhekar nor Mr. Fleishman used the word "RV." They spoke only about "vehicles." The RAP staff report prepared for the Commission uses only the term "vehicle[s]" and the contract attached to the staff report also uses only the term "vehicle[s]."

If, as Mr. Fleishman repeatedly said, we have been misinformed, we should ask who is responsible for the misinformation. It was up to Mr. Bonin and his staff to properly articulate the need and justification for the Safe Parking area. If there has been a failure to properly define the difference between the Safe Parking area and the illegal RV encampment, whose responsibility was it to ensure the community knew the difference? Given the lack of accurate and timely information from Mr. Bonin's office, there are only two causes: either his staff is incompetent at public outreach, or they are being untruthful—there are no other possibilities.

In any case, Westchester Park is not a viable location for a Safe Parking program, nor should it be used as an RV camp. Political obfuscation and bureaucratic finger-pointing aside, the RAP Commission should not approve the new 24-hour Safe Parking contract for "vehicles," nor should it countenance an illegal camp in the main parking lot, regardless of what department "should" be responsible for removing it.

We also believe there is no basis for Mr. Bonin's staff members' contention at the RAP Commission meeting that because there have been only two reported incidents in the current nighttime-only safe parking program in the lot by the pool, then the 24-hour safe parking program for "vehicles" will not pose a safety threat to anyone. 24-hour safe parking is very different from nighttime-only safe parking, especially if RV's are in that lot.

Mr. Bonin made many promises of safety to the Venice community before approval of a bridge home in that community. Mr. Bonin's promises have not been kept at the bridge home nor at other facilities. The bridge home is now surrounded by tents and Mr. Bonin will allow no enforcement under LAMC 41.18, so those tents remain. The entire area, including the surrounding residential area, is a crime hot spot, as identified by LAPD. This is how Mr. Bonin's projects turn out--all of them. The 24-hour safe parking program will be no different.

We note the on-site security at the proposed 24-hour safe parking program will provide no safety to park users. While the presence of security will make it more unlikely that a program resident will commit a crime within the safe parking area, we all know that residents who want to commit crimes will go outside the safe parking area to do that--like in the park and the adjacent community. The Ralph's grocery store has already experienced increased shoplifting incidents. **That is our concern and the concern we were expressing at the RAP Commission meeting. Rather than listening to our concerns, Mr. Bonin's staff tried to reframe the discussion by changing the subject to the difference between the proposed 24-hour safe parking lot with the municipal lot. We were given no opportunity to correct those statements.**

Here are some news pieces describing exactly what we are concerned about.

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/suspect-sought-in-homeless-shooting-in-venice/article_a39569fc-34fb-11ed-b7d8-7713fde9bdfd.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/archives/police-investigating-stabbing-at-venice-bridge-home/article_e1b2ec87-b5b1-5575-981a-c1d494a5afca.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/a-bridge-to-nowhere-after-2-years-only-30-people-housed-from-venice-bridge-home/article_14815e90-9430-11ec-99b4-1f707b1a0318.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/exclusive-suspect-arrested-in-connection-with-homicide-outside-venice-bridge-home/article_09444486-c1a6-11ec-b734-7b13f7d0a123.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/crime/one-person-in-custody-after-assault-with-deadly-weapon-incident-at-bridge-home/article_0587a5f6-581e-11eb-82d0-87576352d058.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/emails-show-mounting-concerns-over-encampments-rvs-in-venice-bridge-secz/article_8dce50fc-62dd-11ec-8f7f-b7dd91fa76fd.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/open-records-show-bonin-weaponized-false-narrative-surrounding-bridge-home-bomb-scare/article_5b72faa4-26c9-11ec-9b73-0f2db1d6f392.html
www.westsidecurrent.com/news/crime/lasd-arrests-homeless-outreach-advocate-for-dealing-drugs-near-venice-bridge-home/article_169ff0f4-eca3-11eb-85de-d79ae3f708d7.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/crime/suspect-arrested-after-attacking-4-people-outside-venice-bridge-home-on-saturday/article_6275a026-634d-11eb-a60c-137355016287.html

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/venice-abh-continues-to-be-surrounded-by-encampments/article_6a8b6c72-bb86-11ec-a87c-efa2c2a7e479.html

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Tim C

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:35 AM

To: Pat and Cathy Reid < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:51 PM Pat and Cathy Reid < > wrote:

| It's totally wrong to turn a public park into homeless encampment.

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City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: homeless in Westchester LA

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: penny campagna <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:31 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:53 PM penny campagna < > wrote:

I am so sick of the homeless encampments getting larger and larger. With all the money and fund raisers to help them they have multiplied. Some people don't want to be helped they just want hand outs and not have to follow rules. The ones that want help seek out those shelters.

You know the small percentage of mentally ill who are homeless in comparison to the majority do some research on how many don't want to follow any rules just feel entitled to live where ever they want and be taken care of.

There are days you can't even see the pavement of the parking lot for the library. It's covered with trash and walkways to the library smell like urine. The parking lot for Ralphs in the back also smells of urine. They have no care for picking up after themselves.

You care about their safety. What about the safety of the people paying a premium for rent and mortgages in this area who are afraid of being harassed by them.

They should not be moved to any areas where there are homes and businesses where people care about the area and the environment. They are trashing our property values.

There is plenty of land out towards the desert that is undeveloped maybe that would be a better option.

I was never a heartless person and have given generously to all causes but this seems to have back fired by allowing them beach front property (Venice Beach) and the ability to let them live where ever they want.

It's really out of hand.
Please reconsider where to place them.

Penny Campagna

--
City of Los Angeles
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: homeless

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:45 AM

To: E-mail Service <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:52 AM E-mail Service <

> wrote:

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Letter to the Commissioners of Recreation and Parks

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Patrick Reynolds >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:58 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:48 AM Patrick Reynolds < > wrote:

Please read especially my updated comments in bold below. Thank you.

Mike Bonin's homeless policies been a failure. How? Mr. Bonin allowed over 100 tents in Westchester Park, where the unhoused were living in squalor with truly Kafkaesque scenes by night. Later, Mr. Bonin moved many of the unhoused to motel rooms rented by the City at exorbitant prices.

Now he is asking the commissioners of Recreation and Parks to allow 24-7 parking for 15 RV's in two parking lots at Westchester Park. **Bonin's allies claim the RV's will be moved if their owners violate the "rules," but do not be persuaded by this. The history of the unhoused in the park includes used needles scattered in the grass, along with other drug paraphernalia and garbage. Many are unwilling to be housed, are mentally ill or drug-addicted. It is not likely, given this history, that those camping in the RV's will follow the rules for very long.**

Chris Lively is an intelligent 21-year-old unhoused person who was living on the sidewalk a few blocks from Westchester Park. When I asked him why he wasn't camping in the park with the other unhoused, he replied emphatically, with fear in his voice, "I feel safer here. At night, Westchester Park is much too dangerous -- there are drugs, screaming, mental illness and violence. It gets really crazy at night."

My wife and I live a few steps from Westchester Park, and we have a 12 year old son. Hundreds of other families in our neighborhood have kids, too.

On October 3, Westchester Park will open for all youth sports -- yet Mr. Bonin has requested that you approve turning the two main parking lots of Westchester Park into safe parking areas for 15 RV's.

They will be able to park there, perhaps indefinitely, for 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The proposed contract blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas.

What about the children living in our neighborhood -- the kids who come to play sports in the park, like Little League and AYSO? What about them?

Allowing the unhoused to camp in the parking lots of Westchester Park will bring fear and anxiety to our kids and seniors, and may put them in danger.

Please do not approve Mike Bonin's request. Please ask Mr. Bonin to go back to the drawing board and find another solution. Perhaps the new Mayor of LA will appoint someone with better ideas.

There is a 50-spot parking lot along the South side of the airport already approved by LAX for RV parking, as long as RV owners or tenants follow the rules. What is the problem with allowing RV parking there? There are good available alternatives to our parks.

One wonders why Mr. Bonin selected Westchester Park, and not the parks of Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Bel Air. I can't help but wonder if this is payback for the vigorous opposition he encountered from the residents of Westchester when he permitted "Safe Camping," and dozens of tents in our park.

Westchester resident Tim Wallender said, "The Westchester Park project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents, you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current 'safe' parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park... The proposed contract blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas."

Our community is well organized and we are mobilized to oppose this new contract. I very respectfully urge you to vote No on the proposal and ask Mike Bonin to find an alternative solution.

Please make the responsible decision today and do not add a new, unnecessary burden on our kids and seniors. They are the ones who will suffer -- and just like the homeless, they have rights, too.

You have been given stewardship of our parks. Our parks are for them, above all.

Patrick Reynolds

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:33 AM

To: A Shannon <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:16 PM A Shannon <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Sincerely,

Anne Shannon
6515 Hedding St
Los Angeles, 90045

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Danielle Gray >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:04 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:20 AM Danielle Gray < > wrote:
Dear Commissioners,

This email is in relation to the vote on legalizing the encampment program in the Westchester Park parking lot up against the ball field that is set to start on October 2nd. The project is not consistent with park purposes, the park is not zoned for housing, and there has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this **until last week** and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. Commissioners have their points of view, and I cannot fathom ANY residents being on board with this. If you had taken the time to listen to residents, you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program and the vagrant problem over the past 2-3 years.

- Residents have been avoiding the park
- Seniors cannot safely access their Senior Center
- Potential residents are getting a negative impression of Westchester when driving by
- It prioritizes the homeless over residents who pay rent and taxes
- It discourages movement, getting fresh air, and hosting gatherings in our own open grassy areas

I, myself, have even filed a police report in December 2020 after being **assaulted** in my own front yard due to crowds coming in for street takeovers which really grew popular due to the homeless encampments during the pandemic. I call 911 almost every weekend now. I also submitted eyewitness footage to the news from the July 2021 over 50-round shooting that occurred at the park with bullets whooshing past my window. I had considered moving from the neighborhood after living here almost 8 years due to the declining neighborhood, constant noise, and rising crime. We do not need to encourage more of this behavior or mindset that people will be taken care of, rather, we need to encourage people to get back up on their feet and provide things like mental health and occupational services.

It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Please do not pass this new contract. We miss what the park used to be. Thank you,

Danielle Gray



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Files Ethics complaint

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 11:47 AM

To: Julie Zaller <j >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 9:41 AM Julie Zaller < > wrote:

Good Morning Commissioners,

I wanted to remind you before next weeks meeting that we (Westchester residents) have not only sent a letter from the land use lawyer to Bonin, **we have now filed ethics complaints against Bonin** for doing all this harm to our community without our knowledge.

And do not forget, because we haven't forgotten, that just in August 2021, the City Administrators office CAO stated the park was INFEASIBLE for homeless housing! These findings were part of a feasibility study requested by Bonin himself.

https://www.westsidcurrent.com/news/westchester-residents-file-ethics-complaints-against-bonin/article_dd29b8f0-394f-11ed-9d1f-8b0813218c1a.html?utm_source=westsidcurrent.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter%2Foptimize%2Fdaily-headlines%2F%3F-dc%3D1663770614&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline

Please do not approve his plan, it will only encourage him to continue to destroy our community.

Julie Zaller
Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park Agenda No. 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:56 AM

To: Cyndi Hench

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 4:43 PM Cyndi Hench < > wrote:

Honorable Commissioners,

I write to you today regarding our park. A once beautiful, vibrant, well used recreation center, that now looks like a mostly abandoned dump site for broken down vehicles and RVs and trash. The idea that any portion of the park should be converted into 24/7 safe parking, and the thought that this is a "consistent use" for the park, is beyond irresponsible. Our community of Westchester does not have an abundance of park space. Allowing for the use for safe parking has only served to be a magnet for others to move into the park and take up residence. This has resulted in an unattractive nuisance and a laundry list of crimes, including shootings and a homicide. This is not the purpose of our public parks. This is a recreational park, not a campground.

I ask that you not approve the request for the 24/7 safe parking, or any safe parking for that matter, in our park. We have tried it now for several years and the current configuration of the lot is an abject failure. Our community has had about a minute to respond to this covert plan to create this camp ground in our park. We were told at a previous RAP Commission meeting that the lot would close on October 2 or 3, when we asked that you not extend the permit a few months back. We have all been told by the CAO that the camp ground is not an appropriate use of the park. Please do not sell out on this. Please do not sell out our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Cyndi Hench

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:33 AM

To: Amy Fadhli <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:23 PM Amy Fadhli <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

How can you possibly even consider allowing people living in RVs & cars to park overnight and all day for that matter? This plan you are voting on blatantly violates ordinance 41.18 in that the lot in question is within 500 feet of several sensitive areas (park, pool, senior center, early childhood center, etc...), not to mention the family neighborhoods surrounding this area. I've personally had many negative interactions w the homeless who were allowed to live in the park. Now I can't even access the library w my 2 sons for fear of being accosted by some random, drugged up transient. I've stepped in human feces, my dog has EATEN human feces (so disgusting), & my sons have been exposed to someone shooting up IN BROAD DAYLIGHT with no regard for anyone else. Disgusting

Please don't let these fucking vagrants destroy our park & neighborhood AGAIN. We just got it back to its beautiful state & now you're considering allowing this to happen all over again? Where tf have you guys been?!! Read the room! We (the actual tax paying residents) don't want them here!

Sincerely

Amy Fadhli Raymond

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To:

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:36 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:00 PM <

> wrote:

Please do not allow the unhoused to stay at Westchester Park!! I am so tired of being afraid! I'm tired of no consequences for what ever they do! Why will you allow people to dump all their trash, yell at everyone, they do not care about anything!! Also park where ever they want as long as they want.
Where are the laws that they should abide by as we do?
Let the unhoused live on your property if you are so passionate about it!
This is out of control and you are allowing it!!
Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: homeless

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: E-mail Service <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:51 AM E-mail Service <

> wrote:

To the commissioners,

As a homeowner in Westchester since 1993, I really don't think the park or any area should be used for the homeless, Westchester is a beautiful area and we really don't need encampments in this area.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: David Hauser >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:34 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:32 PM David Hauser <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week, and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents, you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity, and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall running of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program, and the program, therefore, was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city, but it does not protect residents and parkgoers. This contract also blatantly neglects the 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Regards

David

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:36 AM

To: Kelly J >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:10 PM Kelly J <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

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--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:40 AM

To: Nicole Leeds

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:05 PM Nicole Leeds < > wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern with the proposed plan to build an RV / "safe" parking lot within our community park.

I grew up in Playa Del Rey and attended summer day camp at Westchester park. After returning back to LA to raise my own family, we bought a house in Westchester with the hope they'd spend their summers at that same park. Since having children 4 years ago, I have never once taken my 4 year old or 1 year old near the park (no park, no library, not even the farmers market) for fear of the transient people that tend to congregate there. Please do NOT risk our beautiful community. Please save our park and make it the place I remember from growing up. Listen, it's still LA so I get it, but it needs to be a safer place for our kids and community.

Thank you,
Nicole Leeds

Westchester Resident

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Rosalyn Vasquez >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:01 AM Rosalyn Vasquez < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,
I am writing to oppose 24hr Safe Parking at Westchester Park.

I am a local resident and have just started to return to use the park, use the tennis courts in the morning and tennis lessons once a week.

I am about to finally consider allowing my children back at the park to participate in sports, use the library or swim at the pool.

The park is finally getting cleaned up and I am just beginning to feel safe to return to the park again. Then I hear that you will be voting to have 24 unhoused residents moved onto the park property, which really makes me upset because why do I lose my ability to have the safe use and enjoyment of our community park for the benefit of these 24 people?

First, parks are not the right place for housing the homeless;
Second, housing the homeless at our park will violate the communities right to the safe use and enjoyment of the park. There have already been multiple unsafe incidents perpetrated by the unhoused living at the park. My tennis instructor Peggy recounted multiple incidents that occurred while she was teaching lessons on the courts - how she saw a homeless woman bathing herself at the water fountain by the courts, a homeless man urinating in the court next to a kids group lesson and then continue to fondle himself and moan loudly.
Third, there is already very limited parking and the community will not have access to the park due to a lack if available parking and the inability to access facilities that are adjacent to the proposed 24hr safe parking.

Allowing 24hr safe parking will also increase crime and vandalism in the surrounding neighborhood. We have seen in the past, the homeless at Ralph's, Bristol Farms and the surrounding areas creating unsafe situations for shoppers.

It is my understanding that there are more appropriate options for the relocation of these unhoused persons.

Please vote "no" if anyone is hurt, injured or killed as a result of your vote then the bkood will be on your hands as such injury is reasonably foreseeable given the number of past incidents.

Sincerely,
Rosalyn Vasquez,
Westchester Resident

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Tim Campbell <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:34 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 4:19 PM Tim Campbell <

> wrote:

First, I would like to thank the RAP Commission for delaying action on the Safe Parking Program at Westchester Park until staff and Councilmember Bonin's office can provide additional information. This is an important issue for our community and deserves careful consideration.

I am a semi-retired public sector performance audit manager, and still hold two active professional certifications in auditing. Performance auditors are trained to carefully assess evidence before using it as a basis for making decisions. During the meeting, Mr. Bonin's staff used LAHSA's recent point-in-time count as evidence the Safe Parking program is successful and deserves renewal.

Unfortunately, the supposed reduction in homelessness LAHSA reported has come under serious question. A recent article in a local news agency was written by someone who participated in the count. His story, backed up by photographic documentation, is very troubling, indicating LAHSA used poor survey design and ignored problems with the count and reporting. At the very least, LAHSA should have investigated and disclosed these problems as part of the reporting process. Other mainstream news agencies have picked up on the story and began their own investigations.

<https://allaspectreport.com/2022/09/10/exclusive-major-problems-with-the-2022-los-angeles-homeless-count/?fbclid=IwAR0usn9bu-qNLwiekZ9vVORLupZGsBKjifcaEDm05dKb30Mw8pHVeniactl>

As I read the results of LAHSA's survey, I became increasingly suspect of its accuracy. The wide swings in numbers between 2020 and 2022 seemed odd, and the large increases and decreases among SPA's and Council Districts were accepted with no explanation, other than "Our programs are working," The increase in tent camps was explained away with a theory there are fewer people in each tent. The preposterous assertion there are fewer than 20 people in the Ballona Wetlands camp was among many of the report's questionable conclusions. There is no evidence of a causal relationship between current programs and any supposed reduction in homelessness..Such weak data cannot ethically be used as a basis for policy decisions.

In auditor's parlance, the survey is statically unreliable. In lay terms, it is useless as a planning tool. For Mr. Bonin and his staff to continue to use the latest PIT count to justify the Safe Parking program extension is irresponsible at best and borderline fraudulent at worst.

I also take exception to Mr. Bonin's staff framing this item as if residents do not understand the difference between the Safe Parking area and the main parking lot where RV's have been illegally parked for months, as if the Safe Parking area is a benign presence besmirched by its ugly twin to the north . We do know the difference; we also know there is only one park and to arbitrarily divide the responsibility for parking between RAP and GSD is disingenuous. Mr. Bonin's aides blamed other departments and staff for their dereliction in removing vehicles even they admit do not belong there. As more than one RAP Commissioner pointed out at the meeting, most residents aren't interested in which department supposedly controls which parking lot. We want a safe and clean park for everyone. In trying to blame a

lack of signage or other factors, Mr. Bonin is dodging his own duplicity in creating and sustaining the encampment. Simply put, if he wanted it gone, it would have been gone long ago. He is gaslighting the public and the Commission.

Finally, as a performance auditor, I noted the safe parking contract lacks specific and enforceable rules and has no metrics to measure its success. Mr. Bonin's claim that he has housed more than 100 people from the Park means little if the camp has grown, and LAHSA has a reputation for exaggerating its shelter numbers, often by counting the same person twice if they go in and out of a shelter. Mr. Bonn's lackadaisical approach to ensuring shelter facilities are properly managed is evidenced in nearly every shelter in his district—the one at Westchester Park is no better.

Safe Parking at Westchester Park, despite being presented as a vital part of the City's homeless response, is not the only choice in CD-11. LAX management has offered up to 50 spaces on its property. But that offer is contingent on the residents accepting rules of conduct to which they aren't held in the RV encampment, and which aren't enforced in the current Safe Parking area. Besides the LAX property, the City Controller's performance audit of LAHSA and the City's homeless intervention program identified at least two dozen other safe parking areas. A public park, meant to be used by the entire community, should not even be a consideration.

Thank you

--

Tim C

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: mark silverman >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:58 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:49 AM mark silverman < > wrote:

Hi all

Saving our parks is a critical component of saving our neighborhoods .

Parks are designed to be a safe place for the neighborhood's families to congregate and safely enjoy themselves.

As the parks go ... so goes our neighborhoods.

Have we learned anything from the many years of the increasing problems on the streets?

Apparently not .

- Mark Silverman
Marina Del Rey

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: westchester park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:43 AM

To: JIM phuket

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:19 AM JIM phuket

> wrote:

not SAFE for us who live near the park.I pay alot of taxes and do not feel safe round the mental people.They need help not parking lots to trash

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "David G. Price (Jr.)" >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:57 AM David G. Price (Jr.) <

> wrote:

To Whom It May Concern,

Children and the elderly need and deserve a safe space to play and enjoy the outdoors. Look around at the current state of Westchester Park. This is NOT NORMAL. Filth, trash, human waste has been spread everywhere. Civil society does not expose their community to these inhumane conditions. Enough is enough. Clean up our communities and protect our residents.

Sincerely,
Tracey Price

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:36 AM

To: suzie k <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:11 PM suzie k <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I live a couple blocks from the park and while I understand the urgent need to find solutions for the homeless, the plan to legalize encampments in the parking lot of Westchester Park would cause an even more dangerous situation especially for children and seniors.

I used to walk through the park with my dogs but it's gotten less safe with the current situation in the parking lot and I no longer do so. My two recent experiences was so sad, as I rode my bike through the lot and was immediately struck by the strong stench of urine and feces, as well as trash strewn about the area. As this was one of the polling places, I didn't feel safe getting out of my car because of the people living in the parking lot. Thankfully there were a couple of police cars that arrived to ensure safety.

I don't understand why anyone would feel that having a legalized encampment is a good idea for this area. As indicated, it's currently presenting an unfortunate issue for all those who used to enjoy the park. It would defeat the purpose of having a safe and secure area where people can enjoy the outside and the facilities.

Please reconsider this decision as you will put the community at risk.

Regards,
Suzie

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM

To: Noel Haro <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:52 AM Noel Haro <

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Noel Haro

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Pat Downing <>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:02 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:54 AM Pat Downing <>

> wrote:

Parks and Rec

I am completely opposed to any safe parking at Westchester Park

Current situation is deplorable and I don't see it getting any better by just changing the location within the park. We need to relocate all the encampments to a more appropriate place for the residents to get proper assistance.

Thank you,

Pat Downing

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Bridget Moyer >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:38 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:39 PM Bridget Moyer < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Thank you

Bridget Moyer

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: George Adeff <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:39 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:12 PM George Adeff <

> wrote:

Title: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

RAPCommissioners,

The ill-named "Safe Parking" project is not consistent with park purposes and has been proven over and over to provide NO SAFETY to community members. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of proposal until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. Sadly, you've not had the time to conduct discovery or listen to residents. Were you to do so you would discover that there are voluminous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current "safe parking" program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities to which the park and community residents have been subjected due to the "safe parking" program.

Community Partners are neither part of the community nor interested in partnering with the community. As such they've taken no interest in properly managing their Safe Parking program, and in fact have been aggressive and destructive towards the community. Beyond their disdain for the community they appear to have a surfeit of competency to manage such a dangerous program.

The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. Please take the time to honestly investigate and address all of these issues. Surely, doing so will lead to your conclusion that Community Partners and their Safe Parking program should have no home in the Westchester/Playa del Rey community.

Sincerely,,,

--ga

George Adeff
HWL Engineering Fellow, Retired

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Susan McGinley <

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 10:52 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 11:36 AM Susan McGinley <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. NOT to mention the environmental damage!!! They just litter and dump their waste right there. Inevitably, there will be fires. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park.

The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Thank you.

--
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:35 AM

To: Helen Ross <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:56 PM Helen Ross <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Westchester, I am disgusted by what is happening at Westchester Park. The "safe parking project" is in reality, a permit for homeless to live in Westchester Park. Westchester park is not zoned for housing. Furthermore, since homeless have been allowed to live there, residents using the park have been subjected to men exposing themselves, drug use out in the open, fires, verbal and physical assaults. The housed residents of Westchester deserve to have a safe park to use. If my children were still young, I would not let them play in the park. I feel sorry for the young children who no longer come to the park. Kids cannot possibly feel safe with the RVs parked there now, let alone once more RVS are allowed to park there. I feel sorry for the seniors who don't use the senior center because of the squalor and danger created by the homeless living in the parking lot by the library. I am now a senior and I don't feel safe there. I wouldn't consider going there even as a cooling center! Mike Bonin's office in Westchester Park utilizes security because his staff isn't safe in the park, but the Westchester residents aren't afforded any security. For us, there is apparently no danger! Lies! It is common knowledge that many homeless in the park (and the city for that matter) are mentally unsound and drug addicted. The safe parking plan blatantly violates ordinance 41.18 which restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. The parking lot in issue is only 200 feet from a childcare center! Homeless men in the last few months have already exposed themselves and assaulted children in the tennis court area. Why would we risk more of this? Aren't there other places to allow these RVS of homeless people to park, which are farther away from neighborhood parks, senior centers and childcare centers? Why would we want more violence and tragedy here? This is an insane proposition.

Last year, when Westchester Park was littered with tents of homeless people, I witnessed a man riding naked on a bike inside the Ralphs across the street from the park. He furiously rode his bike down the aisles, knocking down items from the shelves and screaming obscenities. Scenes like this guaranteed to happen if we allow Westchester Park to house the homeless. The park is NOT zoned or intended for this. Please do not vote in favor of this dangerous contract tomorrow.

Thank you,

Helen Ross

--



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:34 AM

To: carla brown <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:48 PM carla brown <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Thank you,l

Carla Brown

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: We want our parks and parking lots back!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:35 AM

To: Mare Allen <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:54 PM Mare Allen < > wrote:

Please vote to get our parking lots back to being parking lots for people that use facilities like the park, the senior center, the children's center, the pool, and the library. We are tired of stepping over sleeping bodies and dealing with all the unsanitary conditions. I am a sad lifelong resident of Westchester and playa del Rey.

Thank you, Marilyn Allen

Ps... also like to mention the beautiful nature preserve on Jefferson that we can no longer enjoy by visiting or walking by. That is a hazardous situation waiting to happen.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Patty Detroit >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:36 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:59 PM Patty Detroit > wrote:

When did the homeless population become more important than the families who live in Los Angeles, who spend their savings to buy and upkeep homes and raise families?

Los Angeles has so little green space and you are giving it up to the homeless population not the children and their families who need it.

This city is out of control. Now we have an out-of-control sheriff investigating anyone who tries to make him follow the rules.

Where are your values? What are you doing to make Los Angeles safe and livable.

Taking away our parks is not helping

Patrice Dobrowitsky

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Website: www.laparks.org

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Lynne Welch >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:34 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:43 PM Lynne Welch < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Lynne Welch (Westchester Resident since 1966)

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:43 AM

To: Joy Partlow >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:45 AM Joy Partlow < > wrote:

I just heard about this a minute ago! Homeless encampments in parks should not be allowed. Westchester park was cleaned up once and the dirty needles and trash and junk was removed but they came back to the parking lot and around the senior center. The community feels unsafe and the senior center has diminished use due to fear! Don't legalize this abomination! Clean it up!!!

Joy Rossmessl

--

City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:39 AM

To: Jan Brice <

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:27 PM Jan Brice < > wrote:

To the RAP Commissioners

As the Commissioners for Recreation and Parks, please take a few minutes to consider if the current type of 'recreation' that's occurring in Westchester Park is consistent with the Mission or Vision Statements for the parks under your jurisdiction.

I ask that you listen to and hear the concerns expressed by various community members about the violence, drug abuse, illegal activities, domestic abuse, etc. as a result of the current safe parking program in the park. This program has immensely impacted the intended use for the park, namely, a place for children to play, for families to gather, for senior activities, a respite from the responsibilities of daily life for the residents in the surrounding area.

I implore you to conscientiously consider the points in my letter, as well as, the concerns expressed by other residents as you decide the use of this park. And realize that using it to for both encampments for the unhoused and for recreation for the housed residents is totally incompatible.

Thank you for considering the concerns of the surrounding community and I ask that you return the park to them for the original intended recreational purposes.

Sincerely,
Jan Brice

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:40 AM

To: Karin bohnhardt <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 5:28 PM Karin bohnhardt < > wrote:

I am a homeowner, taxpayer resident of Westchester. Please do not again turn our park into a homeless parking area. The studies already determined it was not a feasible and our kids and seniors need safe spaces for recreation. While Westchester continues to seemingly endlessly build behemoth apartment complexes, it cannot simultaneously disrupt the precious few green areas that exist. I desperately wanted my child to have the ability to swim this summer at the park but even now it feels unsafe. Make our parks our parks. Make our representatives do real studies and follow them and make our society follow the rule of law and civil society at all levels please. Thank you.

Karin Bohmholdt

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:33 AM

To: Pam Mautner <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 1:59 PM Pam Mautner <

> wrote:

I am a long-time resident of the Westchester and am against using the parking lot for homeless overnight parking. We only have one park in Westchester and our children and seniors need a safe environment. It is completely reprehensible that the city council would approve this measure without the participation of the legal residents and constituents you serve.

Best regards,

Pam Mautner



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Karolina C." < >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:42 AM Karolina C. < > wrote:

Moving homeless from one place to another is not an answer.

These people, however they got to that state of homelessness, deserve a concrete results, not move them from Playa Vista to another park where they will be kicked out again and outrage the residents in the process.

And the residents in the Westchester and Playas deserve to have a safe space to live and enjoy life, without being harassed by mentally ill, scared by thieves, and exposed to danger by criminals that are masquerading as "needy homeless".

There are maybe 30 separate cases we are talking about - people ILLIGALLY parked for months now by the city wild life refuge Ballona Creek - that doesn't provide any refuge anymore at this time as there were 2 major fires happened there because of the inaction by the local authorities and the weak stand on how it should be handled.

30 cases can be handled easily

1. Move those with RVs to a PROPER RV park - help them fix their cars, give them gas and get them moving.
2. Arrest those with drugs and stolen property
3. help mentally ill by placing them into a HOSPITAL where they can get treatments! something meaningful and beyond 3 days! It takes at least a month for mentally ill person to come to reality and get the drugs working for them.

COME ON! these are easy solutions that will actually achieve something.

Sincerely
Karolina Camarillo

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:41 AM

To: "L. Jimenez"

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 5:34 AM L. Jimenez

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward. The takeover of Westchester Park is unconscionable and difficult to witness what has been allowed to occur. There is more than enough money to remove these people from our park.

Thank you,

J. Carlos & Lydia Jimenez
Westchester Residents

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RAP Commissioners meeting Sept 15 Item 22-244

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Conor Harding >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:57 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:32 AM Conor Harding < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

The project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Conor Harding

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Carol Harding <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:37 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 10:21 PM Carol Harding <

> wrote:

Please this is not exceptable . The park is finally being safe enough for my Grandchildren to use the park. I have lived in Westchester and I cannot believe this could even be considered. We deserve to be able to use the facilities. Thank you Carol Harding

Sent from my iPad

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Karen Nakagawa >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 8:05 AM Karen Nakagawa <

> wrote:

Please oppose the encampment program, this program would jeopardize the safety of the public to enjoy the facilities.

--

Karen Nakagawa D.D.S.

--

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: T Wallender < >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 7:42 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 5:54 AM T Wallender < > wrote:

Dear Commissioner:

Please find other options for the Homeless and declare an emergency to get homeless off our public streets, sidewalks, parks and other public areas - the Westchester Park project is not consistent with park purposes. The park is not zoned for housing. There has been a lack of procedural due process because residents were not made aware of this until last week and we have not been given proper recourse to voice our opinions on the contract. If you had taken the time to listen to residents you would have discovered that there are numerous accounts of violent acts, drug abuse, illegal activity and nuisances that have occurred as a result of the current safe parking program. It seems clear that you have not conducted a full investigation of the usage of the park and the negative impacts of the safe parking program on the overall runnings of the park. The park has not been protected from the violent and dangerous activities that were welcomed with the program and the program therefore was not managed properly. The agreement as written in the current contract protects the city but it does not protect residents and park goers. This contract also blatantly neglects 41.18 ordinance that restricts homeless encampments within 500 feet of sensitive areas. A fair trial would be for you to address all of these issues before making any decision to move forward.

Tim Wallender

Los Angeles Resident

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Crime in Westchester Park muni lot yesterday and vicious dog on the loose/need other placement for vehicle dwellers

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:32 AM

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** < >
Date: Thu, Aug 25, 2022 at 7:40 AM
Subject: Crime in Westchester Park muni lot yesterday and vicious dog on the loose/need other placement for vehicle dwellers
To: <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, Sophia Castaneda <35080@lapd.online>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, <connie.llanos@lacity.org>, <barbara.romero@lacity.org>,

>

Good morning,

Yesterday morning at approximately 8 a.m., two homeless men squared off with one of them wielding a golf club. This occurred in the parking lot between the senior center and the library and the vehicle dwellings. LAPD responded. There is also a vicious dog on the loose in that parking lot who has gone after several seniors. LAPD responded.

These types of incidents, of course, have a terrifying effect on seniors who use the library and the senior center, and people who use the parking lot. The homeless vehicle dwellers in the parking lot are frightening to seniors, children, and others. The lot also poses a public health threat because of the rotting food and containers of human waste and trash near some of the dwellings. At least one RV is leaking what appears to be human waste on the parking lot below the RV.

We have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of RVs, fifth wheel trailers, and other vehicles used as dwellings in this parking lot in the last month. It is almost as if someone is asking people to move there, and is even providing assistance in moving people and their vehicles there. For example, someone has driven three fifth wheel trailers into the lot within the last few weeks, and they are now used as dwellings.

Some of the homeless vehicle dwellers in the parking lot are very open about saying people from Mike Bonin's office have told them that they can stay at the lot, and no one can make them leave. They are also open about saying they have received many offers of housing and other places to park their vehicles, but they don't have to leave so they are staying. One of these people has an apartment provided by the City, but he really doesn't like the location so he keeps his van, with tent attached, in the park because he "wants the best of both worlds."

Mike Bonin has obtained estimates to fence this entire lot, and a member of his staff has inquired of the CAO about funding sources to use this lot for Safe Parking. Park users need the parking used by the 20 or so homeless vehicle dwellers in the park, most of whom use more than one parking space and some of whom use up to five parking spaces.

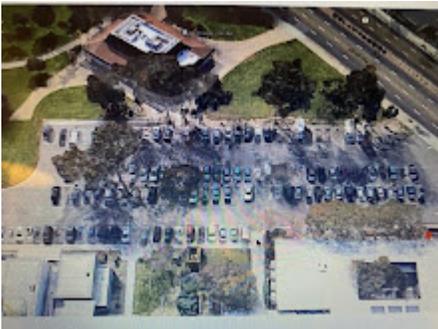
I am attaching a photo included in the estimates Mike Bonin obtained showing the level of usage of this parking lot. This photo was taken when there were only a few vehicle dwellers in the lot, as the estimates were dated January 2022. Now park users and library users are afraid to park there. There is no question the parking is needed for the thousands of park-goers who use this park for park purposes.

We believe that Mike Bonin has every intention of using this parking lot for Safe Parking, and is setting the situation so he can say there is "need" for Safe Parking in the park. And we suspect he plans to move vehicle dwellers from the Wetlands to the park as he tries to find other places for those vehicle dwellers to move. Bonin is trying to get approval to move 25 RVs to Northside Parkway, basically adjacent to the north runway of LAX. It is expected the FAA will deny this request for safety reasons. So we have every reason to believe Bonin is looking for locations to move vehicle dwellers from the Wetlands, and he is fixated on Westchester Park as that location. This would destroy the park, and we believe Bonin knows that and intends that. This is consistent with the method of operation he has used previously. He sets up the "need" and then claims he's just making official what is already happening.

I look forward to meeting with many of you in that parking lot. For those of you who were not on the list of invitees in the email I sent yesterday, please let me know if you would like to attend and I will include you when the meeting date and time is set.

Thank you.

Debra Huston



IMG_8034.jpg
136K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Upcoming Westchester July 4 parade: Safe Parking/vehicle dwellings in parking lot/cleanup of parking lot that serves the Senior Center/construction work and fencing at Bonin's office

1 message

Debra Huston

>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:41 AM

To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Honorable RAP Commissioners,

Attorney John Murdock who sent a letter to you this morning has informed me that the emails I have sent to you must be made part of the record for Item No. 22-244, which is on your agenda for the September 15, 2022, meeting of your commission.

There are a number of legal reasons that the record must be made complete and preserved. Therefore, I am forwarding to you the emails I and other community members have sent to you and ask that each of them be made part of the official record in Item No. 22-244 for the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Huston** <

>

Date: Mon, Jun 20, 2022 at 7:36 AM

Subject: Upcoming Westchester July 4 parade: Safe Parking/vehicle dwellings in parking lot/cleanup of parking lot that serves the Senior Center/construction work and fencing at Bonin's office

To: Sonya Young-Jimenez <Sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Beth O'Rourke <

Dear RAP Commissioners, Mr. Royster, Mr. Kim, Ms. Aguirre, Ms. Young-Jimenez,

Safe Parking: I went to the Juneteenth event at the park yesterday, and it was a wonderful community event. The recreation pool opened recently, and we had many swimmers in the pool. People were playing tennis, skateboarding at the skate park, and playing on the play structure outside the rec center. All three parking lots in the park were completely full and many people had to park on Manchester and elsewhere. We have the Westchester July 4 parade in a couple weeks, and that parade begins at Westchester Park, where parade participants and floats are assembled and organized, and goes up Loyola to Loyola Marymount University. There will be over 7,000 attendees at the parade. We need all parking spots in the park.

The recreation pool offers low cost swimming (\$1 a day) for children, and that pool is heavily used by children from surrounding communities, such as Inglewood, who come to Westchester to beat the heat and enjoy swimming. The lot that serves the pool has 50 parking spots. Between the 25 spots used for Safe Parking, and the vehicle dwellers in another eight or so parking spots, this leaves less than 20 parking spots for pool users. The ballfields will be open, post-renovation, within a few months. Each and every parking spot in the park, including the pool/ballfields parking lot, is needed for park goers.

The Safe Parking permit for the fenced-in 25 spaces of parking by the recreation pool and ballfields will expire on July 4.

-Will RAP have the fence removed the morning of July 4 so there will be parking available for parade participants?

-Will RAP immediately begin enforcement in the parking lot for the vehicle dwellers in that lot who dwell in their vehicles outside the Safe Parking lot? When rangers have asked vehicle dwellers to move from that parking lot after curfew, they have done so. More consistent enforcement of this type is necessary.

-Has there been a request for a permit to extend, expand, or move Safe Parking in the park in any of the parking lots, in the lot behind Mr. Bonin's office, or in the lot south of the lot where Safe Parking is now located (the lot in front of the First Flight Child Care Center)? If so, what does this request include? Has any such request been approved or denied?

Cleaning and clearing of parking lot that serves the Senior Center, the Library, and the Council Office: Yesterday, during the Juneteenth event, this parking lot had probably 10 vehicles used as dwellings. The man who lives in his dwelling in the handicapped parking spots in front of the Senior Center placed large buckets on either side of his van so no one could use the handicapped parking spots next to the handicapped parking spots the man was using for his van and his belongings, which are strewn around his van. This man uses two to five handicapped parking spots, depending on how much trash he has around his van at the time. A tent dweller in the parking lot and his tent look frightening, so no one parked near his area. Other vehicle dwellers in the parking lot were sitting in office chairs surrounded by belongings of various types, taking up parking spots. The parking lot smells like urine, and there trash strewn around the parking lot. Weeds are growing up through the asphalt in the parking lot.

We spoke with a number of attendees of the Juneteenth event yesterday, and many said they were shocked to see the state of the parking lot and were frightened to park there. We have also heard this from people who use the Senior Center and the County Library, which are also served by that lot.

-Will RAP and GSD get this parking sanitized and all trash surrounding vehicles removed prior to the July 4 parade?

-Will RAP and GSD schedule weekly cleanings going forward?

We understand Mr. Bonin is opposed to removing the vehicle dwellers from that parking lot. However, even Mr. Bonin's staff stated after the park was cleared of tents last November that trash around vehicles, tents, and camping outside of vehicles would not be allowed in the parking lot. The trash and tents create an unsanitary situation and trip hazards, and the trash and tents use parking spots that are needed by park goers.

Construction/fencing near Bonin's office: While at the park yesterday for the Juneteenth event, I noticed the attached notice posted on the back door to the Council Office. The notice has a space for a description of the work, but no description is included. What work is being done? We have received documents in response to Public Records Act requests to the City General Services Division that show Mr. Bonin's office obtained five bids for various projects, two of which included fencing the lot that serves Bonin's office, the Senior Center, and the Library. The GSD provided an email that said work should be done in consultation with RAP because of the facilities other than Bonin's office (e.g., County Library, Senior Center, basketball court, picnic areas) that are served by this parking lot. I am attaching the documents provided by GSD.

-What work is planned/being done? (The description of the work being done should have been provided in the notice, but it was not.)

-Will GSD post a notice that describes the work?

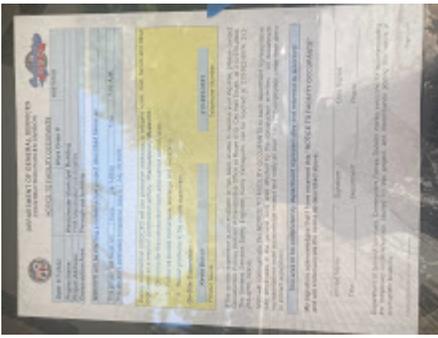
-Has RAP been included in this process? If so, what have RAP recommendations been?

Thank you for all the work you do to make the park safe and accessible for members of the Westchester and surrounding communities. We all look forward to the Westchester July 4 parade. We look forward to hearing from you in response to the above questions.

Debra Huston

2 attachments

IMG_7610.HEIC
1401K



General services division E-Mail - - Bonin office -Westchester Muni center.pdf
186K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please DO NOT RENEW Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:56 AM

To: Katie Henoch <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 5:05 PM Katie Henoch

> wrote:

Hello,

I am a constituent of Nithia Raman and I live close to Griffith Park. I am kindly asking the board NOT to renew the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo concession contract and instead replace the outfit with an inflatable obstacle course, go-karts, or some other form of non-animal entertainment. It is inhumane to work the Pony's in this way and it needs to stop.

Thank you!
Kate Henoch

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Welfare

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 11:46 AM

To: Beejoli Shah <

>

Cc: " <

>, contactcd4@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 5:13 PM Beejoli Shah <

> wrote:

Hi Councilwoman Raman,

I'm a constituent who lives in Los Feliz, and regularly hikes and bikes in Griffith Park, often near the pony rides. Additionally, I've taken my 2 year old niece to the rides on a recent summer day.

It was visiting this summer that made me realize the pony rides - while fun for families - come at a significant cost to the welfare of the animals themselves. Over the course of 4+ hours, I saw ponies given no breaks (including water), while temperatures soared above 95 degrees. While I hoped this was a one off incident, I've witnessed similar behavior many times in the park since. I was further shocked to read the report by an independent agency undertaken in 2021, that found severe health issues among many of the ponies in use at Griffith Park.

As I'm sure you and the Board of RAP commissioners have seen, the mistreatment of horses and ponies in entertainment capacities are being scrutinized around the country, such as in New York City where a carriage horse recently collapsed from overwork and was beaten by its owner. In NYC, proposals to make carriage rides horseless are gaining widespread support throughout the city, due to the concerns of animal welfare.

It would be tremendous progress to see our city take a similar position. As our climate changes rapidly, it's become ever more dangerous for these animals to be protected. Replacing the pony rides with non-animal attractions also has precedent already set within Griffith Park — exhibitions and activities such as the Autry Museum and the Travel Town Train delight thousands of guests per year, and with the expansion of the LA Zoo on the horizon, there's no shortage of animal interaction available in the park. Similarly, licensed and bonded horse riding businesses (whose animals are protected under the federal Animal Welfare Act, unlike the Griffith Park ponies that are only protected by patchy state and local law) provide safe rideable recreation for those who still wish for equine experiences.

I urge you to use your position and voice to advocate for the safety of the animals in Griffith Park, and push for the closure of the pony rides and not renewing the concession contract — just as you advocated fiercely for closing arteries in the park to car traffic. This is a terrible problem with a simple solution - one that, if replaced properly with non-animal activities, could still bring delight to citizens and revenue to the park.

Thanks,
Beejoli Shah

--

Beejoli Shah

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Nighttime Bocce Lighting and Play/Veterans Gardens and Palisades Recreation Center

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 10:45 AM

To: Jennifer Massey <j >

Cc: Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Kortley Norris <kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Mike Dundas <mike.dundas@lacity.org>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, Kevin Behrendt < >, Joe Halper <j >, Jasmine Dowlatshahi <jasmine.dowl@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Sep 24, 2022 at 7:34 PM Jennifer Massey

> wrote:

Commissioner Halper and RAP Commissioners:

Once again, the Veterans Gardens bocce lights are fully lit, well past RAP's "dusk" end time. No one is available at the Palisades Recreation Center, which is closed, to "police" the use of the courts or turn the lights off.

RAP continues to permit and enable this nuisance to adjacent residences, despite Sonya Young-Jimenez's assurances for 16 months that the lighting issue was taken care of. The fact is, Sonya and Jasmine refuse to turn off special access granted to private bocce donors. They also refuse to post signs stating when game play ends, despite our asking for over a year.

For players who don't have special private access to the illegal and non-permitted court lighting, there are groups using iPhone lights as well to play into nighttime.

Photos below.

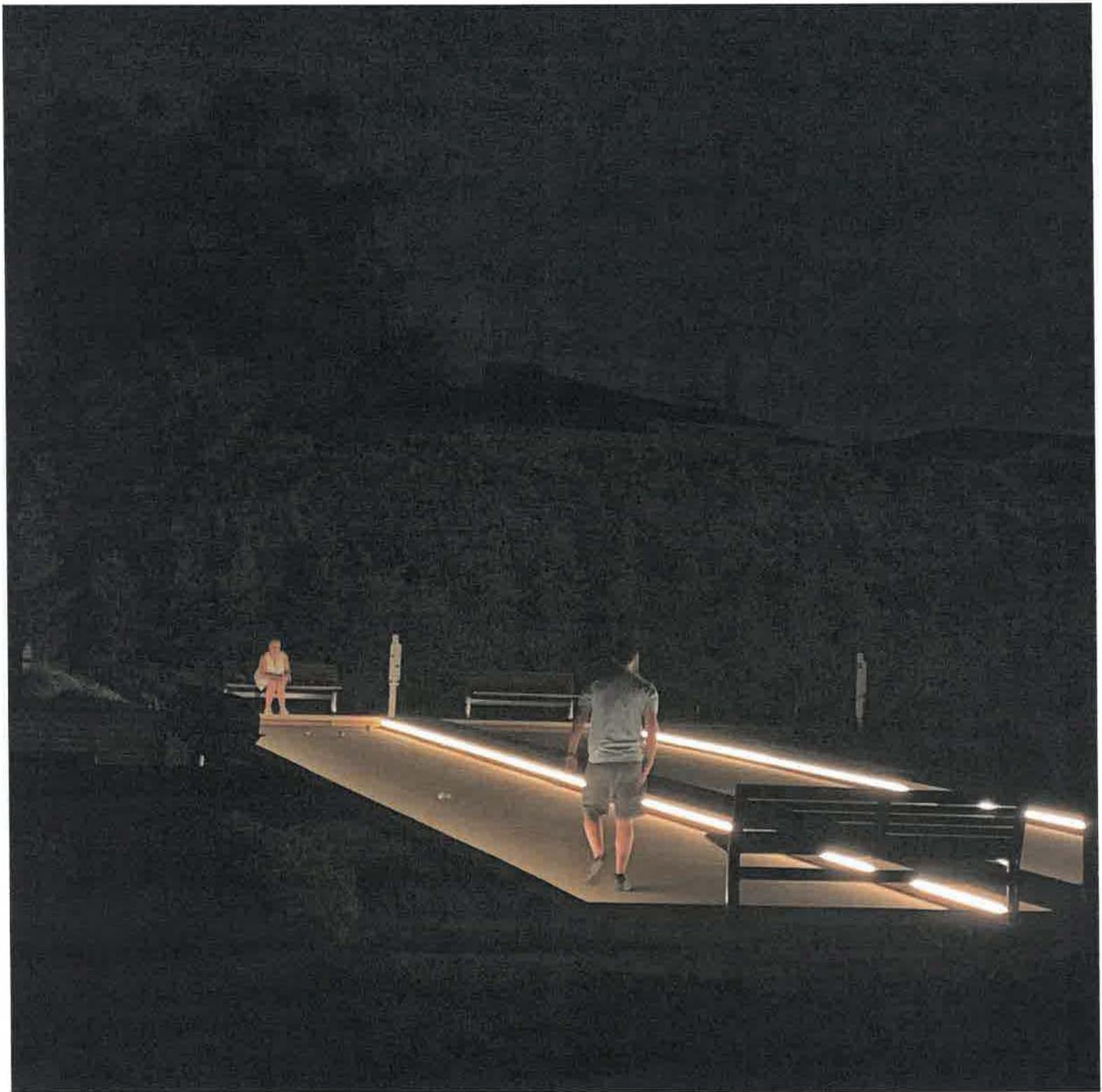
Sent from my iPhone

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Nighttime Bocce Lighting and Play/Veterans Gardens and Palisades Recreation Center

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 27, 2022 at 9:13 AM

To: Jennifer Massey >

Cc: Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Kortley Norris <kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Mike Dundas <mike.dundas@lacity.org>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, Kevin Behrendt >, Joe Halper >, Jasmine Dowlatshahi <jasmine.dowl@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Sep 27, 2022 at 8:14 AM Jennifer Massey

> wrote:

Lights were on again, well past dusk and overnight; turned on by Jimmy Dunne, who has a personal key to the lighting lock boxes and was "coaching" a large group yesterday evening.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 24, 2022, at 7:34 PM, Jennifer Massey < wrote:

Commissioner Halper and RAP Commissioners:

Once again, the Veterans Gardens bocce lights are fully lit, well past RAP's "dusk" end time. No one is available at the Palisades Recreation Center, which is closed, to "police" the use of the courts or turn the lights off.

RAP continues to permit and enable this nuisance to adjacent residences, despite Sonya Young-Jimenez's assurances for 16 months that the lighting issue was taken care of. The fact is, Sonya and Jasmine refuse to turn off special access granted to private bocce donors. They also refuse to post signs stating when game play ends, despite our asking for over a year.

For players who don't have special private access to the illegal and non-permitted court lighting, there are groups using iPhone lights as well to play into nighttime.

Photos below.

Sent from my iPhone

--
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Fax: (213) 202-2610



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Veterans Gardens/Lights on at 730

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 29, 2022 at 7:36 AM

To: Jennifer Massey

Cc: Kortley Norris <kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Jasmine Dowlatshahi <jasmine.dowl@lacity.org>, Joe Halper < >, Kevin Behrendt < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 28, 2022 at 7:33 PM Jennifer Massey < > wrote:
Lights on and people playing well past "dusk".

> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: We have witness accounts of people towing vehicles to the muni lot at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston >

Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 8:09 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 8:12 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Dear RAP Commissioners,

We have witnesses who have seen flatbed trucks with towing equipment towing trailers (fifth wheel, without motors) into the municipal parking lot at Westchester Park. We also have witness accounts of flatbed trucks hauling inoperable vans to that parking lot.

In the beginning of July, there were no more than 10 vehicle dwellings in that parking lot. Mike Bonin's office asked the vehicle dwellers to leave that lot for the day of the Fourth of July parade, because that lot is the staging area for the floats and other vehicles in the parade. The dignitaries and elected officials in the parade saw a clean lot.

The homeless vehicle dwellers informed us that they were asked to leave for the parade and they were told they could return after the parade, which they did.

After the Fourth of July, the towing of trailers and inoperable vans began, and the number of vehicle dwellers has increased from 10 to at least 24.

We believe CM Bonin will claim there is a "need" for Safe Parking in the park to justify his plans for 24-hour Safe Parking in the park.

Homeless vehicle dwellers in the lot have informed members of our coalition that CM Bonin has told them they will never have to leave that lot. One of our members actually saw CM Bonin in that parking lot talking to a homeless vehicle dweller.

Lt. Deedrick of LASD was present at our Neighborhood Council meeting on October 6, and he mentioned that many of the RVs as vans used as dwellings are basically shells. They have no engines, for example. People/organizations buy them from junk yards and tow them to locations, such as the park, and rent them to people who are homeless. We believe the vehicles being towed into the park meet this description, and that this is what is happening at the park. We also believe Bonin's office is well aware of this.

There are homeless advocacy organizations that bring food to the vehicle dwellers every day. Some of the vehicle dwellers hoard this food, which adds to the cockroach and rat problems in that lot.

We know from past experience with CM Bonin that he does set up a situation so that he can claim "we are just making official what is already happening there." This was the basis of his motion to build shelters/tiny home communities in parks and on beaches. (CF 21-0350.) Some groups, organizations, and individuals are making this happen in the muni lot, and it appears to us to be a well orchestrated set-up for a claim that "we are just making this official."

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Notice to you, CM Bonin and Mr. Fleishman

1 message

Debra Huston < >
To: Lisa GAINES >
Cc:

Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 7:17 PM

Our community has received information earlier today that the RAP Staff is recommending a 24-hour Safe Parking program for the lot next to the ballfields and the pool recreation pool. I received the RAP Commission agenda around 4 p.m. today, and the staff report to the RAP Commissioners was included as an agenda item.

<https://www.laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2022/sep15/22-244.pdf>

Our community is shocked, outraged, and in a state of disbelief. This evening, I received an email from GM Jimmy Kim in which he all but stated that a deal had been reached with Mr. Bonin's office, and he set out in his email to me the particulars of that deal. I find this to be shocking given that neither RAP staff nor Mr. Bonin's office has consulted our community or our NCWP about these plans, and we have not been kept in the loop. In fact, we have been entirely excluded from this process.

The report does not consider, at all, the crime by homeless vehicle dwellers in the park on children. The report fails to include any contact with LAPD about the crime in the park, and the crime involving children, perpetrated by the homeless vehicle dwellers. The report refers to the parking lot as the "pool lot" and fails to mention it is adjacent to the ballfields, which children play until 9:00 p.m. or later year-round.

All in all, it appears the report was drafted by LAHSA and/or Mr. Bonin's office. There's plenty of support for the need for homeless people in that report and nothing about the need for safety for the children, or the crimes against children by the vehicle dwellers. And there's no mention of the mission and values statements of LA City Parks, which includes nothing about sheltering homeless vehicle dwellers.

Westchester Park is the only park out of 480 parks in the City that has a Safe Parking program.

Mr. Bonin is well aware that there is an automatic ban on homeless camping within 500 feet of a child care center, and First Flight Child Care Center is within 50 feet of this lot. Mr. Bonin is also fully aware that LAMC 41.18 designates parks as "sensitive" locations.

As I said in a previous email, Geoff Thompson of Mr. Bonin's office informed me and another community member during a meeting that Bonin's office does not announce plans until they are approved in order to avoid dealing with community opposition. It appears Mr. Bonin believes this plan is already approved with Jimmy Kim, or his staff member, Noah Fleishman, would not have discussed it at the NCWP meeting on Tuesday, September 6.

We find this to be very troubling. We have hope the RAP Commissioners will stand by its word that no further permits for Safe Parking for that lot will be granted, that LAHSA should get to work to find parking for the vehicle dwellers, and that the fence surrounding 50 spaces in that parking lot will come down on October 2 before the ballfields open on October 3.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

On Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 2:00 PM Lisa GAINES > wrote:

Concur! If you don't want your constituents to know what you are doing then reply with an automated response. If you care what they are saying, then for God's sake, reply to their concerns.

From a person who has sent at least a dozen of emails in the last 3 months with no response.

Exactly, who do you work for if not for us?

Lisa Gaines
Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 9, 2022, at 11:46 PM, Z Ziebarth > wrote:

I notice that the only response you seem to get from the Board of RAP is automated.

I'm curious, what is the Board's responsibility to their constituents in answering valid concerns directly?

Kristin Ziebarth

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 9, 2022, at 1:23 PM, Lisa GAINES > wrote:

I agree with Debra! This is unconscionable to do. Get a spine and stop this insanity.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 9, 2022, at 9:59 PM, Rap Commissioners
<rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 7:08 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Council Member Bonin and Mr. Fleishman,

During the NCWP meeting of September 6, Mr. Fleishman you discussed in detail the Council Office plans and work with LAHSA to use the entire parking lot adjacent to the ballfields and the recreation pool at Westchester Park for 24-hour Safe Parking, and you informed us that the Council Office has obtained county money to fund this. Mr. Fleishman also informed the NCWP that the plan would be to move vehicle dwellers from the Ballona Wetlands to the park, and those people will reside there all day and all night when children are using the ballfields and the recreation pool. As you know, the Ballona Wetlands is considered a crime hot spot by LAPD.

Having these same people live in the park is unimaginable and dangerous, and it would destroy the park. Ballfield users and recreation pool users would also have nowhere to park. The ADA requires handicapped parking within 100 feet of public facilities.

I assume you were on the RAP Commissioners meeting in July in which the RAP Commissioners reluctantly granted your request for a 90-day extension of the Safe Parking permit for the lot by the swimming pool and the ballfields.

During that meeting, the RAP Commissioners made it very clear that LAHSA has those 90 days to find other Safe Parking arrangements for the people who use that lot because the ballfields will be opening for the winter season on October 3. RAP Commissioners extended the permit until October 2, and said the fence surrounding the 50 parking spaces that have been used for the Safe Parking program must come down on October 2 so the people using the fields will have parking.

This Safe Parking program has been using 50 parking spaces, fenced in, for a program for 25 cars, which is the maximum number of cars that can use the program. We have information, based on personal observations by many in our community, that there are never more than six to eight cars in that parking lot. Mr. Fleishman, you represented to the NCWP that 22 cars use that parking lot every night. This is false. Perhaps LAHSA or Safe Parking LA represent this to you because they have had 22 people sign contracts for the use of the lot? Never has anyone in our coalition seen anywhere near that number of cars in the parking lot.

I have received information from the CAO that you, Mr. Bonin, are in meetings with RAP and the mayor's office regarding this program. Because of our experience last summer with you getting a permit at the last minute to extend the Safe Parking permit, we have concerns. We have obtained emails from you, Mr. Bonin, in response to PRA requests that show you began a bullying campaign with RAP, and a shaming campaign, to persuade RAP to issue another permit last summer on the eve of the expiration of the permit. By going in at the last minute, you were able to exclude our Neighborhood Council and our community from having any input whatsoever regarding your plans.

We do not want this to happen again. Therefore, while I assume you had staff members listening in on that RAP Commissioners meeting in July, I am making sure you receive notice of what happened at that meeting so you cannot claim you have been taken by surprise and your office received no notice. RAP staff made it clear in the board report for the RAP Commissioners that the recommendation was that the extension was for 90 days--and not for the full year that a permit usually entails. So I assume you are aware that the program will not be extended beyond that time.

Mr. Fleishman, please share this email with LAHSA so they can get to work informing the six to eight people who use the Safe Program in the park that they will need to begin parking at another lot on October 3. The LAHSA website contains a spreadsheet with the Safe Parking programs in the area, and there are plenty of spaces available. In addition the Safe Parking program of 50 spaces at LAX will be open soon.

Please be aware that we are also concerned that because you are obtaining money from the county for 24-hour Safe Parking, the City Council will be excluded from this process. I do not believe City Council approval would be required if you are not asking for an appropriation of money from the City. I assume you are aware of this, and that is the reason you went to the county for money. This 24-hour Safe Parking program you are working on for our park is in a park and within 500 feet of the First Flight Child Care Center. The majority of the City Council respects LAMC 41.18, which designates parks and child care centers as sensitive locations for the safety of children and others in the community. You are now trying to put

24-hour Safe Parking in a park and within 500 feet of a child care center, and move dangerous people and their vehicles from the Wetlands to that parking lot.

Prior to Mr. Fleishman's presentation at the NCWP meeting of this week, our community had no notice of your plans even though we have been asking for information for months. This plan has obviously been in the works for months, and you did not provide notice or allow anyone in our community to be part of this public process.

We have an Action Network letter that has been signed by many and has resulted in 18,000 letters being sent to public officials regarding what we could put together about your plan. Now that the Council Office has confirmed the plan, and it is worse than we could have imagined, our community is more outraged.

We were informed by Geoff Thompson, a high-ranking member of your staff, Mr. Bonin, that you do not share your plans with the community "until they are approved," because there would be community opposition if you shared your plans. It appears that is what is happening here.

Excluding the City Council and the public from your plans is not how the process should work under the law or by ethical or moral standards. The CAO determined last summer that Westchester Park is NOT FEASIBLE for Safe Sleep because it is a heavily used park that serves thousands every year. RAP has received permit requests for the ballfields from 20 organizations so far. Your plans will destroy the athletic opportunities of hundreds of children, even though parks are deemed to be "sensitive" locations under LAMC 41.18. The City Council should be included in this process, as should the public. I am attaching the CAO report.

Thank you.

Debra Huston

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
[221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300](https://www.laparks.org)
[Los Angeles, CA 90012](https://www.laparks.org)

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: HIGH IMPORTANCE--Staff report re: 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park is Deficient

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:38 AM

To: Debra Huston < >
 Cc: "Klemack, John (NBCUniversal)" < >, "Villegas, Catalina" < >, Rina Nakano Nakano < >, Nickee Liang < >, Paula Gerez < >, Tom Brewster < >, Chip Mallek < >, Alexandra Reynolds < >, kristin ziebarth < >, Lisa < >, Gaines < >, Sue Pascoe < >, Jamie Paige < >, Beth < >, O'Rourke < >, Beth Rubenstein < >, Jessica Froehlinger < >
 < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 6:52 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
 Honorable RAP Commissioners:

I am preparing a letter of opposition to Mr. Bonin's request for 24-hour Safe Parking in the southernmost lot of Westchester Park.

However, I have received information that you should know now. NCWP President Paula Gerez and I spoke with Jimmy Kim, GM of RAP, yesterday afternoon. **Mr. Kim informed us that the Senior Center does not have a parking lot because the lot next to the Senior Center is a municipal lot.** He said Recreation and Parks should never have had signs there or enforced there, and that Mr. Bonin is getting different signs.

I asked Mr. Kim if he was suggesting that seniors, library goers, and other park users would not be allowed to park there. I told him park users have been using that parking lot for 70 years. Mr. Kim was very vague in his response.

As you are aware, Mr. Bonin has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot, and that fencing would cut off access to the senior center. We obtained these estimates in response to a Public Records Act request of General Services, which is the agency that has jurisdiction over that lot.

We also obtained through a PRA request an email from a staff member of Mr. Bonin's to the CAO asking for Roadmap (covid) funding for Safe Parking in that muni lot.

The estimates to fence that entire lot and the email from Mr. Bonin's staff member are attached. the estimate to fence the entire muni lot includes a map of where the fence would be.

Please know that if you approve 24-hour Safe Parking in the southernmost lot of the park, Mr. Bonin will then ask General Services and the City to put Safe Parking in the municipal lot. Mr. Kim believes Mr. Bonin will move all the vehicle dwellers from the municipal parking lot to the 24-hour Safe Parking on Park property if it is approved.

This is not possible. There are more than 20 vehicle dwellers in the Safe Parking lot, which will be for 15, if approved. Also, Mr. Kim was unaware of Mr. Bonin's plan to move vehicles and their dwellers from the Ballona Wetlands to Westchester Park. Mr. Bonin's staff member, Noah Fleishman, informed us of this plan. Apparently, Mr. Fleishman did not inform Mr. Kim of the plan.

We informed Mr. Kim during our meeting yesterday that this matter should be taking off the agenda and sent back to Recreation and Parks so the staff report can be revised to include Mr. Bonin's estimate and email to the CAO regarding the municipal lot, input from the following:

- Input from LAPD about all the crime committed by homeless people living in the park and the public safety issues presented
- Input from LAWA regarding the placement of a 24-hour Safe Parking adjacent to and within 200 feet of the First Flight Child Care Center
- input from the Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa who did not receive information about this motion until members received your agenda, and input from the community. The NCWP wrote a letter in July opposing any Safe Parking in the park and giving the reasons why, and that letter was not included in the staff report
- Input from the community about their feelings regarding a possible 24-hour Safe Parking is located in Westchester Park
- Input for nearby businesses, all of whom have been very impacted and affected because of crime committed by homeless vehicle dwellers in their businesses
- Input from neighbors who live close to this proposed project
- Input from stakeholders, such as youth athletic leagues, senior center users, tennis center users, recreation pool users, library users, recreation program users
- Information from Mr. Bonin regarding his plans for the municipal lot so that a written contract between the City and RAP can be entered regarding park access to that lot, removal of the vehicles used as dwellings in that lot, the installation of t-bar gates on the entrances and exits of the lot, and a commitment to ongoing enforcement in that lot once the vehicle dwellings are removed. This contract between the City and RAP should be entered BEFORE 24-hour Safe Parking is approved
- Information from Mr. Bonin about his willingness to file resolutions under LAMC 41.18 to ban camping within 500 feet of the park, and within 1,000 feet of the 24-hour Safe Parking he proposes. Signs as to both must be posted in and around the park. This should be done BEFORE 24-hour Safe Parking is approved

The staff report includes none of the above information, which we believe is a denial of Due Process. Mr. Kim informed Ms. Gerez and me that we could give our input during general comment time. Our response was that Mr. Bonin has had a seat at the table giving input for months and the staff report recommending approval of Mr. Bonin's project reflects only Mr. Bonin's input. And Mr. Bonin has not fully informed Mr. Kim of his plans.

In addition, the staff report does not include much relevant information the RAP Commissioners should have before voting on this proposal.

Mr. Kim seems to take Mr. Bonin's promises at face value. As I am sure you are aware, Mr. Bonin makes promises to the community and others that when one of his projects is completed, it will enhance the neighborhood and there will be no homeless people living near the project. In every case, these representations turn out to be false. A prime example of this is Mr. Bonin's failure to inform the NCWP or the community that the initial pilot of Safe Parking of five spaces in the park was expanded to 25 spaces and moved to the lot next to the ballfields. The NCWP and the community was excluded from these processes.

Another example is A Bridge Home in Venice. So many promises to the community, and now the facility is surrounded by tents--many of whose occupants also have a bed in the facility ("dual residents," as they are called). Crime in the surrounding neighborhoods has nearly doubled. Residents in nearby homes won't leave their homes after dark, and some won't leave their homes at all, because of the danger. Any promise from Mr. Bonin must be in a written and enforceable contract. We advised Mr. Kim of this during our meeting.

Members of our community have filed ethics complaints against Mr. Bonin for his complete lack of transparency with our community regarding these public processes, his complete unwillingness to inform us of his plans, and his complete unwillingness to provide any of the information regarding his plans, for which we have been asking for months. These complaints are pending and have not yet been investigated.

Mr. Kim said he would speak with his General Counsel and would let Ms. Gerez and me know today if he would change his position and receive input from the NCWP, LAPD, and others listed above.

We will let you know what he decides.

Our community held a protest at the park yesterday opposing Mr. Bonin's plan to put 24-hour Safe Parking in the park, asking that the municipal lot be cleared of vehicle dwellers, and asking that Mr. Bonin use all of the City resources of

his disposal find one parking lot to move these vehicle dwellers. We suggest that he consider LADOT and LASAN lots.

This event was covered by six news stations and two journalists with print publications. Most of the news channels have already run their news pieces. We will provide a list of these news pieces when compiled.

I am also attaching the CAO report determining Westchester Park is NOT feasible for Safe Sleep because of the heavy usage of that park by thousands and the need for parking.

Debra Huston

[Preview attachment IMG_7653.jpeg](#)



IMG_7653.jpeg
8.7 MB

[Preview attachment H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf](#)



H234010E OPT2 CNC CD 11 WESTCHESTER - IRON FENCE sent to client 01-20-2022.pdf
641 KB

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: HIGH IMPORTANCE--Staff report re: 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park is Deficient

1 message

Beth Rubenstein < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:54 AM

Thank you Debra. Just an FYI, my roommate is contacting the legal team from AARP and will write a (motion, complaint? Not sure of legal term) to them about LA's treatment of seniors and the complete disregard in terms of unavailability of senior centers.

She probably can't file it due to her work situation and it may be coming from me.

I will keep you posted- different issue than parking.

B

Beth Rubenstein, MS, PT Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner

Phone:

Email:

Website:

Address:



Fluency is, in fact, possible, the possible, easy, the easy elegant." Moshe

[App Social Buttons Image](#)

On Sep 14, 2022, at 7:38 AM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 6:52 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:
Honorable RAP Commissioners:

I am preparing a letter of opposition to Mr. Bonin's request for 24-hour Safe Parking in the southernmost lot of Westchester Park.

However, I have received information that you should know now. NCWP President Paula Gerez and I spoke with Jimmy Kim, GM of RAP, yesterday afternoon. **Mr. Kim informed us that the Senior Center does not have a parking lot because the lot next to the Senior Center is a municipal lot.** He said Recreation and Parks should never have had signs there or enforced there, and that Mr. Bonin is getting different signs.

I asked Mr. Kim if he was suggesting that seniors, library goers, and other park users would not be allowed to park there. I told him park users have been using that parking lot for 70 years. Mr. Kim was very vague in his response.

As you are aware, Mr. Bonin has obtained estimates to fence that entire lot, and that fencing would cut off access to the senior center. We obtained these estimates in response to a Public Records Act request of General Services, which is the agency that has jurisdiction over that lot.

We also obtained through a PRA request an email from a staff member of Mr. Bonin's to the CAO asking for Roadmap (covid) funding for Safe Parking in that muni lot.

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: August 10, 2021

CAO File No. 0220-05734-0029

Council File No. 21-0350

Council Districts: 11

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **Report Back on Evaluation of Site Feasibility and Identification of Funding for Potential Homeless Interventions in Council District 11**

SUMMARY

On May 26, 2021 the City Council adopted recommendations from the Homelessness and Poverty Committee relative to a Motion (Bonin - Ridley-Thomas, C.F. 21-0350) instructing the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to evaluate site feasibility and identify funding for potential homeless interventions at various locations in Council District 11. These sites include: Will Rogers State Beach at 17000 CA-1; Dockweiler State Beach at Lot 3, 11999 Vista Del Mar; Dockweiler State Beach RV Park at 12001 Vista Del Mar; Marina del Rey at Lot 2, 13477 Fiji Way; a Culver City owned site; privately-owned land near 5000 Beethoven Avenue; Westchester Park; Mar Vista Park; Los Angeles World Airports land; and the West Los Angeles Municipal Building at 1645 Corinth Avenue.

The CAO followed its feasibility process as outlined in C.F. 20-1351 to assess the proposed sites. The CAO worked with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), the Department of General Services (GSD), and the public and private owners of the sites to determine feasibility. Based on these assessments, the majority of the sites are not feasible for homeless interventions, mainly due to infrastructure constraints. The Marina del Rey and the Dockweiler State Beach RV Park sites are still under assessment, and the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is communicating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the feasibility of using airport land for homeless interventions. Finally, the City of Culver City has decided to proceed with a homeless intervention on the site it owns in Council District 5, near the border of Council District 11. Discussions regarding partnering on this effort are ongoing.

Council District 11, like Council Districts 1, 5, 7, and 12, lacks City-owned land that can be used for homeless interventions. For these areas, we should continue to identify privately-owned sites that can be leased for homeless interventions and request that the Los Angeles Housing Department pursue properties under the Project Homekey 2 Program. Most of these districts benefited from Round 1 of Project Homekey. In Council District 11, two motels/hotels were purchased, and are now operating as interim housing.

If the sites under assessment are found to be feasible for homeless interventions, the CAO will

include recommendations for the proposed sites' use and funding in upcoming reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council note and file the report as no further action is required at this time.

DISCUSSION

The following sites were assessed and found to be infeasible for the reasons outlined below.

1. State Owned Beach Sites for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

Will Rogers State Beach and Dockweiler State Beach are owned by the State of California and managed by the County of Los Angeles. The BOE assessment determined that these sites are cost prohibitive for the following reasons:

- *Lack of Infrastructure Capacity:* The beach sites were not built for 24/7 residential use, and thus, the sewer infrastructure is not suitable for homeless housing.
- *Lack of Utility Capacity:* The power capacity would have to be increased at both beaches, and the nearest transformer is located 1,000 feet from the sites.
- *Fire Safety:* There are no fire hydrants near these two beaches, and new hydrants would need to be installed as a requirement for residential use.

2. Privately Owned Site near 5000 Beethoven Avenue for Safe Sleep

The site is a peninsula of vacant land located southeast of 5000 Beethoven Avenue and is enclosed by the I-90 Freeway, the Ballona Creek, and the Centinela Creek Channel. The BOE assessment determined this site as infeasible for the following reasons:

- *No Access to Site:* The site has no pedestrian or vehicle access.
- *Lack of Nearby Utilities:* Utilities are situated far from the site, and capacity is uncertain. The closest sewer connection is 500 feet away, the closest water source is 800 feet away, and there is no apparent source for power within 1,000 feet.
- *Expensive to Develop:* The terrain is rough and substantially contoured, which would require considerable grading and soil removal to level the site for access and placement of pallets for administrative purposes, hygiene trailers, and tent spaces.

3. City Owned Westchester and Mar Vista Parks for Safe Sleep

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) assessed the proposed sites, and recommended that these parks not be used for the following reasons:

- *Sites Are Not Underutilized:* Prior to the pandemic, both Westchester and Mar Vista Parks experienced varied and robust recreational usage. Data from both parks show that on average more than 6,000 youth participants attend and utilize the parks and facilities. The parking lots are needed for pick up and drop off for programming and aquatics. Both parks returned to normal operations on June 14, 2021, and

programming is planned through the end of the fiscal year. The RAP sites that are being used for homeless interventions are on underutilized park land.

- *Revenue Generating*: These parks generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue for RAP.

These two parks should be considered for targeted outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and services through “Encampment to Home” or similar models.

4. City Owned West LA Municipal Building for Temporary Shelter

The evaluated site at the West LA Municipal Building is an approximately 5,500 square foot vacant office space with 24 enclosed offices on the second floor of the building. The State Emergency Shelter Declaration allows the City to use non-residentially zoned properties for shelter according to alternative health and safety standards. These standards limit shelter sleeping quarters to the ground floor. This standard has also been codified in the Los Angeles Municipal Code § 91.8605.2, 2.E. The Municipal Building is zoned as public facilities, and thus, not feasible for shelter use. Even if the zoning was changed to accommodate shelter, the available space is too small to make an interim housing project viable. An interim housing facility should be a minimum of 13,000 square feet to provide up to 70 beds, administrative offices, hygiene facilities, common space, and storage, to make it financially and programmatically viable.

The following sites are still under assessment.

1. County Owned Marina del Rey Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed Marina del Rey site, located in Lot 2 at 13477 Fiji Way, is an underutilized parking lot owned by the County of Los Angeles adjacent to a boat launch and commercial buildings.

- *Utility Capacity*: BOE’s final assessment and Rough Order of Magnitude is pending a report from the County Department of Public Works on sewer, water, and power capacity.

2. State Owned Dockweiler Beach RV Park for RV Safe Parking

The proposed site at 12001 Vista Del Mar is still being assessed by BOE.

3. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Owned Site for Tiny Homes, Safe Parking, or Safe Sleep

LAWA has identified possible sites for homeless interventions and requested that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) review for approval. The FAA would have to agree to allow the use of airport land for homeless housing and waive the requirement that land purchased with FAA funds be leased at market rate.

Culver City Owned Site for Tiny Homes or Safe Sleep

The proposed site is a parking lot in the City of Los Angeles but owned by the City of Culver City in Council District 5, near Council District 11. Culver City is not interested in leasing the site to the City. Instead, Culver City plans to develop the site as a homeless intervention and is open to collaborating with Council Districts 5 and 11 regarding the utilization of the intervention. BOE has provided sample layouts for Tiny Home and Safe Sleep Villages.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund at this time.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City Financial Policies.

MWS:YC:AW:16220101



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: I oppose "safe parking" at WestChester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:22 AM

To: Krishna Thangavelu <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 4:32 AM Krishna Thangavelu <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

Westchester Park is for recreational use not housing anyone. Public safety has been greatly impacted by housing the homeless at the Park.

Vital green space and sport's facilities for the use of children is endangered by the presence of transients in close proximity.

Westchester residents and its neighborhood council are against this misuse of public assets.

Please return the park to its intended use ... safe recreation.

Warmly,

Krishna Thangavelu .

M:

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Westchester Park interview — oppose safe parking

1 message

Krishna Thangavelu < >
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:14 AM

Dear Commissioners:

This is how the public views the issue of “safe parking” at Westchester Park As an abuse of public assets

[2022-09-13 19.04.44 My Meeting/audio1774565436.m4a and 2 more files](#)

2022-09-13 19.04.44 My Meeting/audio1774565436.m4a and 2 more files

3 files sent via WeTransfer, the simplest way to send your files around the world

Krishna Thangavelu, Ph.D.

M:

E:



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Fw: LETTER TO RAP FOR HEARING

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:39 AM

To: John Murdock < >

Cc: Mike Bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Debra Huston

< >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 8:25 AM John Murdock < > wrote:

Commissioners:

Please review attached letter before tomorrow's hearing on the proposed Westchester homeless program.

John B. Murdock
Attorney at Law

tel.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

**JOHN B. MURDOCK
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

TEL:

L.A. City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328

VIA EMAIL to:

rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Re: "24-hour Safe Parking" at Westchester Parking Lot
Proposed Agreement with Community Partners
Hearing Date September 15, 2022, item No.22-244

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is presented on behalf of a coalition of Westchester area residents in opposition to approval of the staff recommendation to enter into the proposed agreement with Community Partners, a California non-profit corporation, for "a full-time safe parking site" which staff says is "consistent with park purposes" (Staff Report, p.1). While assisting persons in a homeless situation is a necessary endeavor, the residents oppose approval today of the agreement *as drafted*, and seek a continuance of the hearing for the following reasons.

1. **Project is *Not* "Consistent with Park Purposes"**. The City already investigated the feasibility of providing housing for the homeless at city various locations, as you see in the CAO Report dated August 10, 2021. Specifically, the report identified the Westchester Park site as one of the potential sites but concluded this park site was *not feasible because this site experienced "varied and robust recreational usage", and the "parking lots are needed for pick up and drop off for programming and aquatics"*. (*Id.*, p.2, *emph. added*). Thus, proposing the parking lot as 24/7 housing site for the homeless directly **contradicts the specific conclusion** paid for by the city and generated by the objective office of the City Administrative Officer. While the proposal by Councilperson Bonin is salutary in purpose, it is arbitrary

and actually foolhardy in refusing to acknowledge the reasons Westchester was rejected as unwise and infeasible. Unfortunately, the Councilman has refused to listen to his constituents as well as the CAO, as the emails in your file attest to the residents being stonewalled. It required Public Records Act requests to find out what was being discussed behind closed doors, the full extent of which was not revealed until just over a week ago. Moreover, there is in your file a presentation of more than 19,000 letters in opposition to the proposed use, which evidences the major factor in the CAO report, that the park is used by many, many thousands of citizens for the intended purposes: recreation. Approval by this Commission in the absence of compelling countervailing evidence (of which none is present in the Staff Report) would therefore be what the law calls "arbitrary and capricious", which is a lack of substantive due process. It would also be in violation of the zoning code, as discussed *infra*, notwithstanding the emergency exemptions cited.

2. **Lack of Procedural Due Process Preventing a "Fair Trial" on the Issues.** According the Supreme Court opinion in *Horn v. County of Ventura* (1979) 24 Cal. 3d 605, when a project that may affect the property interests of surrounding residents is proposed for vote and a public hearing, the affected residents are entitled to adequate notice and opportunity to be heard. You have received correspondence from resident Debra Huston and others detailing the fact that this project was actively hidden by CD11 Councilman Mike Bonin because of his fear of neighborhood opposition, and it required several Public Records Act demands to find out about what was going on. (All of the correspondence from Ms. Huston and others directed at this proposal are hereby **incorporated by this reference** as part of the "public record" of this matter, since they did not have notice of any agenda item or project hearing date to reference in their correspondence). Only last week did the project and its details become revealed at the neighborhood council, but the surrounding residents **did not get notice**, written or otherwise, of the proposal. This deliberate shrouding of an unpopular project is a direct violation of procedural due process, which requires at the very least that you **continue the hearing** date for a reasonable time for the residents to learn and understand the full implications of the project and voice their concerns, whether that be for approval or disapproval. The outcome must be based on evidentiary details that can only be presented with adequate time for review and consultation. The short time given to the public does not allow them to prepare for a proper evidentiary record that may have to be reviewed in court at some future date. As an attorney called in at the last minute, I can attest to the lack of time to adequately prepare the evidence and do the legal research needed to provide a proper record for eventual court review. If the evidence is not in the record now, the court rules normally will not allow a party to present it for the first time in court. Thus, it is already true that the

public cannot have a fair trial on September 15th, because a fair trial includes advance knowledge of what is being proposed and an adequate time to prepare and present evidence in opposition. The only way to have a fair trial would be to grant the time afforded by a reasonable continuance that will allow the public, with or without an attorney, to have informed input on the operational details and demonstrate why they think it is unwise and unworkable, if not completely illegal. What is revealed thus far in the Staff Report is woefully lacking and completely unacceptable for reasons outlined in the ad hoc letters and emails sent about existing problems at the park caused by the encampments, even before the expanded project was revealed.

- 3. Wrongful disposition of public park asset.** The existing "Safe Parking" program has failed miserably due to lack of oversight and enforcement of laws applicable to the patrons. The correspondence in your files reveals an astonishing number of reports of incidents of nuisance, violence, rape, threatening behavior, and child endangerment witnessed by residents and reported to anyone who could be reached. Violations of the ADA restrictions in the parking lot clearly visible to anyone are left to continue unabated. The property designated for this program is a parking lot for the public park, not a home for the homeless. You should ask your city attorney whether this would be a disposition of surplus land which has not been declared surplus, (quite to the contrary), and does not comply with State Law, since it is in essence a disposition of park land (notwithstanding being called a "license") that strips the city of any effective control, as the program proposes the lot be used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This removes the public asset from the park users for which it is intended and hands it over to the corporation "Community Partners" for full control, 24/7. That corporation, a private entity, is supposed to take all responsibility for everything that happens, including security, law enforcement, maintenance, and management of debris, sanitation, and water, yet the so-called "license" agreement is extremely lax on what can be done when enforcement fails. As evidenced by the current use of the lots for overnight parking, the city does nothing to interfere with illegal and dangerous activities and uses. The agreement forces the nonprofit corporation to manage the site with one security guard, and to insure and indemnify the city against any and all harm that may come from usage. The Commissioners should visit the existing site being used for "safe parking" and ask why there is so much debris allowed to accumulate in violation of conditions of usage. Why does the Department allow these filthy, unsafe, hazardous conditions to exist? Are the Commissioners *aware* of the existing conditions? This new and expanded "24/7 program" turns the city lot onto a privately controlled campground despite the overwhelming evidence from the public that the existing program is totally lacking in enforcement of any kind-- which leads to the next point.

4. **Lack of Staff Investigation and Disclosure of Failures in the Existing program.** The staff report recommends approval of this agreement requiring only ONE “security” person, without detailing that person’s responsibilities, yet the staff report fails entirely to give any information regarding the past extremely poor performance of the operator of the program during the past year. Your Board must postpone or continue this hearing and require staff to do a proper evaluation of the past performance before allowing this private entity to undertake an expanded operation in total control, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In other words, the entire city asset is being given over to an operator whose poor performance has not been revealed to you in the staff report, but whose performance is shown in public correspondence to be absent in any enforcement or protection for the public. For this reason alone, the hearing must be continued because the public is not getting its money’s worth in paying for staff to do its job in reporting the state of affairs. Please review the materials provided to you by Debra Hudson and many others for proper insight into what a meaningful report would include, before you vote on this proposal. All of this rush to approval is driven by Mike Bonin, who obviously has deep compassion for the homeless population and is seeking solutions, but has been working behind the scenes and keeping details from the public in hopes of avoiding public opposition and ultimate rejection. This strategy cannot be allowed to succeed.

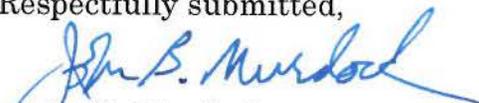
5. **The Agreement as Drafted Protects the City, but not the *park users*.** If you read the proposed agreement (Exhibit to Staff Report) carefully, I’m sure you will find it bland and ambiguous. But what it does best is *protect and indemnify the city* against any liability or even responsibility for maintenance or for whatever goes on there. Is this responsible stewardship of park lands by the Commission? It seems like a “see no evil” policy, grounded in nothing more than fear of being criticized for rejecting a homeless site. The agreement does “prohibit” alcohol, but there is no prohibition on sex offenders, illicit drugs, narcotics, firearms, or dangerous weapons of any kind. Isn’t that amazing? While background checks may be required for employees and volunteers, what checks are made of the “patrons”, the occupants of the vehicles? And if there are violations, as residents have reported, who is going to enforce the law or the “conditions” of the license? The history of “security” provided for the current program, which is only for overnight parking, has shown that security merely means someone to open and shut the gate. Enforcement is otherwise reported by residents to be completely lacking.

6. **Blatant Inconsistency with Intent of Newly Adopted LAMC Section 41.18 and Zoning Code OS regulations.** Just one year ago Section 41.18 was adopted to prevent the encampment by homeless persons on designated

city rights of way within 500 feet of “sensitive uses”, which include public parks, libraries and day care centers. Although this section requires a City Council resolution before any such site can be designated and posted, it is incomprehensible why Councilperson Bonin and this Commission would preemptively place this encampment for sitting, sleeping, storing personal belongings, and camping adjacent to a heavily used ball field as well as a day care center and a public pool. The senior citizens center and the tennis courts may be a bit further but nonetheless impacted as has been attested already by existing usage of the safe parking night-time program. Moreover, this property is Zoned OS, which prohibits residential structures of any kind, and the Staff Report does not show whether this program meets the definitional requirements of the exemption for “Shelters for the Homeless” as defined in LAMC Section 12.03. The shelters must meet the “standards for shelters contained in Title 25, Division 1, Chapter 7 of the California Code of Regulations” in order to qualify for the zoning exemption, yet it is clear that the vehicles now sitting on the lots and proposed to be in this program do not qualify in order to fall within the emergency proclamations of LAMC Sections 12.80 or 12.81. Staff fails to address this issue other than to cite the sections, giving no analysis or factual investigation as to whether the prerequisites and conditions are now, or will be, met. It is clearly counterproductive to designate this area for a homeless camp and then force the residents to sue or lobby the City Council for a prohibition after the fact. Again, approval at this location is not only ill-advised and illogical, it is arbitrary, capricious, and illegal.

With due respect to the Council office for earnestly trying to provide relief to the homeless population, this proposal is rash, and this Commission should take the time to study it in more detail, with input from the citizens who use the park, the senior center, the pool, the tennis courts, the district office, and the child day care center. Due to the claimed exemption from CEQA, you have not been presented with the type of information that could possibly mitigate or eliminate the severe impacts and turn it into a workable program. There are other “safe parking” programs with workable conditions in other districts that should be studied to see what is effective. **A fair trial would include that kind of evidence** and consideration, along with a full presentation of the evidence of the problems (crimes) generated at the current site and how they should be addressed. The present agreement is a flimsy, ambiguous, unworkable, and disaster-prone proposal that should be sent back to staff for a more thorough report, with adequate time for proper community input.

Respectfully submitted,


John B. Murdock

cc: Hon. Mike Bonin
Jimmy Kim
Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: I oppose 24 hour parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:55 AM

To: pia altavilla <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:05 AM pia altavilla <

> wrote:

To the RAP commissioners

Green space for children is really important. Westchester and the surrounding community is in dire need of a safe park. This is not a location for Safe Parking for RVs etc. As we saw in the past at the Bridge Home in Venice, there is no security or safety provided for the community.

The children of this community must have a safe place to play and must be a priority.

Vote No on 24 hour Safe Parking at Westchester Park.

Thank you

Pia Altavilla

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: I oppose 24 hour parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:56 AM

To: tina amin

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 9:19 AM tina amin <

> wrote:

To the RAP commissioners

Green space for children is really important. Westchester and the surrounding community is in dire need of a safe park. This is not a location for Safe Parking for RVs etc. As we saw in the past at the Bridge Home in Venice, there is no security or safety provided for the community.

The children of this community must have a safe place to play and must be a priority.

Vote No on 24 hour Safe Parking at Westchester Park.

Thank you

--
Warmly,

Tina Amin

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: I oppose "safe parking" at Westchester Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "T.C. Macker" <

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 1:18 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 11:16 AM T.C. Macker < > wrote:

I oppose safe parking or any homeless housing at any of our park. Parks are for recreating.

Thank you,

T.C.



T.C. Macker, CCIM | President

D: | C:

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE | This message (including any attachments) contains confidential, proprietary and/or legally privileged information intended for a specific purpose and individual(s) and is protected by law. It is intended solely for the addressee. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it and all copies of it from your system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender. Access to this email by anyone else is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any unauthorized action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it, is strictly prohibited and unlawful. When addressed to our clients any opinions or advice contained in this email are subject to our terms and conditions.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgently need the information requested herein for proposed 24-hour Safe Parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Debra Huston < > Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 7:01 AM
 To: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>
 Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, "Klemack, John (NBCUniversal)" >,
 Paula Gerez < >, Jamie Paige <j >, "Villegas, Catalina"
 < >, Sue Pascoe < >, Tim Campbell < >, John
 Murdock >, Rina Nakano Nakano

Jimmy,

During the RAP Board meeting of September 15, 2022, there was much discussion by CM Bonin's staff members about the rules for the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking program in Westchester Park. However, the RAP staff report did not include a copy of this agreement, and CM Bonin's staff did not provide a copy of the agreement during the meeting.

-Please email a copy of that agreement to me as soon as possible.

We also need the following:

-During the RAP Board meeting CM Bonin's staff did not mention the plan to move 25 RVs from the Wetlands to Westchester on Northside Parkway, which is just blocks away from Westchester Park. LAWA has confirmed that this is CM Bonin's plan, and he is trying to get approval from the FAA to use one lane of Northside Parkway for RV parking.

-Clarification on whether vehicles other than cars/vans will be prohibited in the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot. So far, we have heard from CM Bonin's staff and read in the RAP Staff report that and the attached contract with Community Partners that "vehicles" will be allowed to use the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot, yet Noah Fleishman stated at our NCWP meeting on September 6, 2022, that the plan is to move RVs from the Wetlands to this Safe Parking program.

-Information as to whether there will be a requirement that the vehicles be operable, which is always an express condition of Safe Parking in LA but does not appear to be a condition for the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park.

-Information as to who is funding this proposed 24-hour Safe Parking program in Westchester Park. We have received information that it will be funded by the county, who will pay LAHSA directly.

-Information as to whether this 24-hour Safe Parking plan is part of Supervisor Holly Mitchell's plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors, to provide parking for operational and inoperable RVs in which homeless people can reside, and if other LA City parks are included in that plan. Please also provide a copy of the county appropriation and the county file number so we can review that.

-A copy of any grants given to the park or park programs over time, and any grant requests now pending, that mention parking or any requirement of parking in Westchester Park. This is important because these grants may be withdrawn or the city may have to reimburse the grantor if parking in the park is used for another purpose. I have filed a PRA request for this information and was told by RAP that I would have a response to that request. So far, no response. Will you please check into the status of this PRA request?

We need the requested information at the earliest possible time so we can analyze it and prepare a response for the RAP Board. It is also of vital importance that the RAP Commissioners be fully informed of the facts before voting on whether to approve or disapprove this proposed 24-hour Safe Parking plan.

Thank you.

Debra Huston



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgently need the information requested herein for proposed 24-hour Safe Parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>
To: Debra Huston < >
Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 7:36 AM

Good Morning Debra,

See my responses below.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 7:02 AM Debra Huston

> wrote:

Jimmy,

During the RAP Board meeting of September 15, 2022, there was much discussion by CM Bonin's staff members about the rules for the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking program in Westchester Park. However, the RAP staff report did not include a copy of this agreement, and CM Bonin's staff did not provide a copy of the agreement during the meeting.

-Please email a copy of that agreement to me as soon as possible. **The agreement is on page 6 of this report. We are updating to address some of the concerns you list below.** <https://www.laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2022/sep15/22-244.pdf>

We also need the following:

-During the RAP Board meeting CM Bonin's staff did not mention the plan to move 25 RVs from the Wetlands to Westchester on Northside Parkway, which is just blocks away from Westchester Park. LAWA has confirmed that this is CM Bonin's plan, and he is trying to get approval from the FAA to use one lane of Northside Parkway for RV parking. **I am not aware of plans outside of RAP property at this point.**

-Clarification on whether vehicles other than cars/vans will be prohibited in the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot. So far, we have heard from CM Bonin's staff and read in the RAP Staff report that and the attached contract with Community Partners that "vehicles" will be allowed to use the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot, yet Noah Fleishman stated at our NCWP meeting on September 6, 2022, that the plan is to move RVs from the Wetlands to this Safe Parking program. **It is our intent to follow Safe Parking Program guidelines which we are working to obtain. Once we have it, it will be included on the BR.**

-Information as to whether there will be a requirement that the vehicles be operable, which is always an express condition of Safe Parking in LA but does not appear to be a condition for the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking in Westchester Park. **Same as above.**

-Information as to who is funding this proposed 24-hour Safe Parking program in Westchester Park. We have received information that it will be funded by the county, who will pay LAHSA directly. **Funding is handled by LAHSA via the provider.**

-Information as to whether this 24-hour Safe Parking plan is part of Supervisor Holly Mitchell's plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors, to provide parking for operational and inoperable RVs in which homeless people can reside, and if other LA City parks are included in that plan. Please also provide a copy of the county appropriation and the county file number so we can review that. **Again see above. At this time, we have only this request for Safe Parking, we do however have Tiny Homes at other Park Properties. North Hollywood, Eagle Rock, and Griffith Park.**

-A copy of any grants given to the park or park programs over time, and any grant requests now pending, that mention parking or any requirement of parking in Westchester Park. This is important because these grants may be withdrawn or the city may have to reimburse the grantor if parking in the park is used for another purpose. I have filed a PRA request for this information and was told by RAP that I would have a response to that request. So far, no response. Will you please check into the status of this PRA request? **I'll check on this but none that I know of.**

We need the requested information at the earliest possible time so we can analyze it and prepare a response for the RAP Board. It is also of vital importance that the RAP Commissioners be fully informed of the facts before voting on whether to approve or disapprove this proposed 24-hour Safe Parking plan. **The BR should be uploaded no later than Friday.**

Thank you.

Debra Huston

--

Jimmy Kim
General Manager

City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgently need the information requested herein for proposed 24-hour Safe Parking at Westchester Park

1 message

Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:57 AM

To: Debra Huston <

Cc:

And maintenance staff is reorganizing the dirt lot. Also the proposed site is next that lot.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:52 AM Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org> wrote:

The staff is misinformed. We are installing t-gates for the main lot.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:51 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Jimmy,

I was at the park 30 minutes ago and saw lot behind the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking lot, which is the park's maintenance lot, being cleared by people and large machinery. I was told by a RAP person that the RVs and other vehicles are being moved from the muni lot to this maintenance lot. I was told there will be a meeting there on Friday and they want the lot cleared by then.

This is ZONING VIOLATION and it is not excused by the Mayor's emergency proclamation. The park is in an OS zone and living in the park is not permitted. There is no legal authority for this to happen.

Also, this lot is within 30 feet of the ballfields and just over a fence from the First Flight Child Care Center.

This point was raised in the letter our attorney wrote to RAP Commissioners.

What is going on?? And has a deal been struck that our community is not aware of? Who within RAP gave permission for this to happen?

Please respond ASAP.

Debra

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 7:37 AM Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning Debra,

See my responses below.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 7:02 AM Debra Huston < > wrote:

Jimmy,

During the RAP Board meeting of September 15, 2022, there was much discussion by CM Bonin's staff members about the rules for the proposed 24-hour Safe Parking program in Westchester Park. However, the RAP staff report did not include a copy of this agreement, and CM Bonin's staff did not provide a copy of the agreement during the meeting.

-Please email a copy of that agreement to me as soon as possible. **The agreement is on page 6 of this report.** **We are updating to address some of the concerns you list below.** <https://www.laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2022/sep15/22-244.pdf>



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: RECAP/ACTION PLAN - POST ZOOM MEETING AUGUST 9th

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

On Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 8:07 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 7:47 AM Bethy G. < > wrote:

hi all -

The picture below is part of the morning crew gathered outside at the moment. This doesn't show the 6 dogs 20 feet down.

They are here everyday starting at 7:20-8/8:20 between the sliding gate and Oakwood and the first entry to the park on Oakwood.

I don't understand why there is a single ticket written here or there. They are here every day. These people stopped coming for 1-2 days after they were warned by whoever did the drive

Please note this is at least the 5th or 6th warning they have received. One guy hooks his backpack to the fence as he has zero fear of any type of consequences. Warnings do not work.

It seems simple to pull up, stop them from leaving out of the gate on 7th, give a few tickets and tell them this is a legit problem and violating the rules won't be tolerated and can end with

In the evenings there are 3-4 cars that pull up every night, at this point we know there names, the dogs names. The evenings got a bit better for 4-5 days after lapd parked by the park an

The same people are in the park every night from 6-8pm. Every night for over a year. If we get you pictures and license plates can people be issued a written warning? In some states the

It has been a month since our meeting - are there any updates from the divisions represented on action plans from that meeting?

Please advise - tickets and removing parts of the fence are the only things that will make a difference. Warnings have time and time again shown nothing changes.

Thanks

Beth





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Oakwood Park September 22, 2022

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 10:44 AM

To: print < >

Cc: John Gavilan <john.gavilan@lacity.org>, Laura Island <laura.island@lacity.org>, "lesile.richter@lacity.org" <lesile.richter@lacity.org>, Adrian Acosta <37285@lapd.online>, Steven Embrich <30993@lapd.online>, West La ANIMAL SERVICES <ani.wlfield@lacity.org>, RAP Partnerships <rap.partnerships@lacity.org>, RAP UHRC <rap.uhrc@lacity.org>, Lydia Ponce < >, Ed Ferrer < >, "Bethy G." < >

< >, " >, Eileen Archibald < >, Jon Wolff < >, Margaret Molloy < >, Ingrid Mueller < >, Mike Bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>, Noah Fleishman <noah.fleishman@lacity.org>,"

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 9:12 AM print < >

wrote:

Good morning LA City,

Dogs every where day and night last night (every day and night) the dog club meets as the children practice, or play in he park.

The dog club ignores the requests to leash up their dogs while the children are practicing soccer, or playing in the park. Parents make the request "Please leash up you dog" coaches also make the same request, and of course were all ignored. The dog club is staying the entire time, and that is two hours. Matter of fact the dog club were there after practice was over.

FYI, there leaving the leash on the dogs so if any official comes into the park they immediately pick the leash up. At night the dogs have on glow collars.

Would Recreation and Parks and CD11 please consider making Oakwood a NO DOG PARK. It would be greatly appreciated, and it would assist in keeping Oakwood Park dog and poop free.

Thank you
Laddie Williams

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

On Mon, Aug 15, 2022 at 10:17 AM, print < >

< > wrote:

Good morning City of LA, Recreation and Park,

Today the children are having soccer instruction and the dogs are everywhere, dogs running up on the children who are being instructed by there soccer coaches.

Please consider making Oakwood a NO DOG PARK.

Thank you

Laddie Williams



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT_Pacific Palisades Pickelball

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Andy Thomas Hill <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:05 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 10:36 AM Andy Thomas Hill <

> wrote:

Hello Department of Recreation and Parks commissioners,

Please note our active group of Pacific Palisades pickleballers are hoping to have a great say and support from your department regarding our ongoing interests in painting the public tennis court #7 or #8 at the Palisades Rec Center to accommodate our Pickleball court with permanent lines (we have been talking about it with the recreation center location in Pacific Palisades almost a year). It's been costly, time consuming and wasteful to have to tape these 2 tennis courts still and we're still having to pay for reservations in order to play Pickleball. Pickleball courts are a great way for a variety of people with many different ages, backgrounds and physical capabilities to unite in a healthy, happy way. The sport has grown a lot, especially in the city of LA in general and specifically in Pacific Palisades. We hope to hear from you soon and please offer our group support to take appropriate action.

Thank you for your time, efforts and patience,

Andy Hill - Pickelballer

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pacific Palisades Rec Center Pickleball courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Larry Corsa <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:27 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:27 AM Larry Corsa < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners and Board Members,

Thank you for your important work.

I participated in the Zoom, but did not want to take up your valuable time during the meeting with this item of relatively minor importance.

I am a fairly new member of the growing Pickleball community in the Palisades. The plan to paint permanent pickleball courts on the existing tennis courts #7 and 8 will be of great service to us and I urge that it be executed sooner rather than later. The time it takes to put down tape is lengthy and tedious and would be completely eliminated by this solution.

Thank you again.

Larry

--
Larry Corsa

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pickleball Court Striping Goes before RAP Commissioners |

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jennifer Massey <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:39 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:58 PM Jennifer Massey <

> wrote:

Dear Sue,

Thanks as always for your informative article. I find it fascinating that while Mr. Halper is pushing forward with a sound study for Pickleball at the Palisades Recreation Center, no such study (or EIR of any kind) was ever conducted for the entirely new sports courts (3 regulation sized-bocce ball courts) built behind our home in the Veterans Gardens in 2020. The 3-4x a week, 75 person bocce tournaments, which last for several hours at a time, produce ear-shattering noise levels (crowd noise—screaming, clapping, moaning and shouting) a few feet from our hedge, in addition to the striking, crashing and clanking of 2 pound steel balls against concrete court perimeters, for over at times a dozen hours each day. The noise levels both within our home and outside **far exceed** legal levels under the LA Noise Ordinance, as we have explained on RAP Board calls and demonstrated in videos.

We and our neighbor have sent Mr. Halper and RAP multiple letters and emails, including videos with the illegal noise levels we regularly experience, to no avail. We have been told that the park "can do whatever it likes". Is this not the case with Pickleball as well?

We filed an administrative action this summer to pursue the issue legally, since the City has turned a deaf ear for 15 months and has been non-responsive to any mitigations we have proposed. Perhaps Mr. Halper can send the sound study team he is commissioning for Pickleball, to research bocce sound impact as well?

Best,
Jennifer<https://www.circlingthenews.com/pickleball-court-striping-goes-before-rap-commissioners/>

Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: High Decibel Blowing in Palisades Recreation Center (Veterans Gardens)/Impact on Neighborhood/5x a week

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jennifer Massey <

Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 10:43 AM

Good morning,

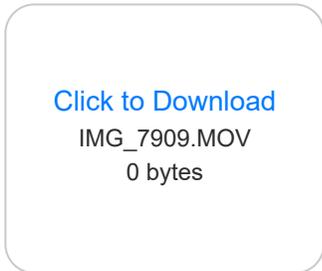
Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 8:18 AM Jennifer Massey <

> wrote:

Download Attachment
Available until Oct 22, 2022

Commissioner Halper,
These are the sounds neighbors of Veterans Gardens and parkgoers are subjected to, 5 days per week. So much for the City's low maintenance landscaping and "green initiatives".



Sent from my iPhone

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Glen Alla large dog park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Eric Drachman <...>
Cc: RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>, sean.phan@lacity.org

Wed, S

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 1:31 PM Eric Drachman <...> wrote:

Hello -

Is there anyone in the Project Info department who can give me a status update on the renovation of the large dog park at Glen Alla park?

Thanks,

Eric Drachman

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 12:03 PM Eric Drachman <...> wrote:
To all of our concerned representatives -

This email was addressed to all of the commissioners of the recreation and parks, mayor Garcetti's office, and council member Bonin. I have written several emails about the situati...

In the meantime, please respect the citizens and taxpayers of this area and respond with helpful information by August 15th.

Thank you,
Eric Drachman

Dear Park Department and our representatives -

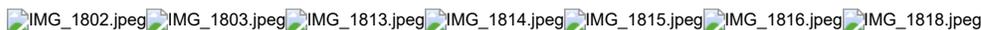
I am expanding the recipients on this email as I have not received a reply lately regarding our concerns. I am including Mayor Garcetti and Council Member Bonin as their n...

Please finish the work. 🙏 We are there almost every day and it's so sad to look at such a mess which feels like it represents such a lack of care for all of us. Also, please I...

Please see below for photos of the current state of this dog park.

I will look forward to hearing from all of you.

Best regards,
Eric Drachman



Hello -

I have to say that the way our park "repair" was handled so far is very disappointing. We have waited for many months and the "improvement" is that our park is smaller and uglier. It's an unfinished construction site. There is a strong group of taxpayers who use this dog park every day and it has seemingly been abandoned ir



Re: Glen Alla large dog park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Eric Drachman <

>

Cc: lynn.alvarez@lacity.org, RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>, sean.phan@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 11:24 AM Eric Drachman <

wrote:

Dear Ms. Alvarez –

Thanks again for allowing me to speak during the public comment at the last meeting of the Facility Repair And Maintenance Commission Task Force. I appreciate your asking for an update project for the next meeting on October 6th and I'll look forward to hearing what we find out. I'm wondering if we can also find out why the department of project info (if that is a department) September 1st, the office of the commissioners gave the name of someone to contact over there - Sean Phan (cc'd here). He was very friendly and helpful on the phone when I called and would put me in touch with the person who is overseeing that project. I sent the email right away, but then have not been able to reach him since via email or phone.

I suppose waiting two more weeks is not so long in the scheme of things. This project was originally slated to start in 2020! They finally took down the banner showing all of the improvement.

I'm attaching some photos from July showing the state of the park. No work has been done since and it's now in a slightly greater state of disrepair.

Thanks again for your help!

All the best,

Eric Drachman













On Sep 21, 2022, at 10:52 AM, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 1:31 PM Eric Drachman < > wrote:

Hello –

Is there anyone in the Project Info department who can give me a status update on the renovation of the large dog park at Glen Alla park?

Thanks,

Eric Drachman

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 12:03 PM Eric Drachman < > wrote:
To all of our concerned representatives –

This email was addressed to all of the commissioners of the recreation and parks, mayor Garcetti's office, and council member Bonin. I have written several emails about the Glen Alla dog park. I got a couple of (frequently inaccurate) updates from the Project Info email address, but to this email I have received zero responses. I have to say, the very least that I would expect is a thoughtful, accurate and honest response to having left the resource of our dog park in a state of disrepair for many months... year recommend if you were in our position? I won't delve into the condition again. Please see the email and pictures below. This project was meant to be completed in 2020. The name is on the banner that still hangs there telling us of the improvements coming in 2020! It seems the last resort for us is to start petitions and a public editorial campaign that.

In the meantime, please respect the citizens and taxpayers of this area and respond with helpful information by August 15th.

Thank you,

Eric Drachman

Dear Park Department and our representatives –

I am expanding the recipients on this email as I have not received a reply lately regarding our concerns. I am including Mayor Garcetti and Council Member Bonin are both on the now years old banner on the fence of the seemingly abandoned part of the Glen Alla dog park which touts the upcoming improvements to the park the issue here for the new recipients. The large dog park at the Glen Alla park was slated for improvements before the pandemic. It was on hold for a while, under then the work began, closing off one side and then the other. It seems that they repaired the faulty plumbing, they roughly patched up the old artificial turf on one s prepare the other side for installation of turf there as well. Sadly, after months of waiting and seeing them do a tiny bit of work here and there, they quit. I will attach current state. There are piles of gravel, un-emptied trash cans, an abandoned shovel, miscellaneous detritus, and — a WORKING dog water fountain! Well, I belie The whole area is still fenced off, but they spent a great deal of time working on that from time to time, replaced it twice, poured a concrete pad around it and seer finish the park. But then they just quit. The rumor in the park is that they ran out of money. I can't say why, except maybe after months and years of stalling, finance honestly, that is really not fair for all of the tax-paying dog owners who depend on this space and have been making do with half of this small dog park for a large g

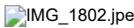
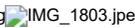
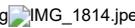
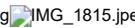
Please finish the work. 🙏 We are there almost every day and it's so sad to look at such a mess which feels like it represents such a lack of care for all of us. Also, know what is going on. You can start by replying to this email with some truthful information. You could also post signs that explain and apologize for how this has Would it help for us to gather hundreds of signatures of people for whom this improvement is really important? What can we do to help move this process forward?

Please see below for photos of the current state of this dog park.

I will look forward to hearing from all of you.

Best regards,

Eric Drachman

Hello -

I have to say that the way our park "repair" was handled so far is very disappointing. We have waited for many months and the "improvement" is that our pa smaller and uglier. It's an unfinished construction site. There is a strong group of taxpayers who use this dog park every day and it has seemingly been aba this current state. The rumor is that you ran out of money. If it had been done in a reasonable amount of time, that likely wouldn't have been an issue. I hope expect that you will make it a priority for our community and repair our park soon as it is an important resource for all of us.

Please update me on where you are so I don't have to rely on rumors.

Thanks,

Eric

Hello again –

I wanted to check back as you ended the last email with the fact that the plans are not finalized yet...

I see that they have pulled back the turf and it looks like progress has been made on the plumbing.

- Do you think you're still on track to have that first area completed and re-opened in 2-3 weeks? (3 weeks from this email would be April 6th.)

- And then would you be on track to get the turf in on the other side in the following 2-3 weeks?

- And finally, what's the word on the lighting? It is less of an issue right now after the time change and as the days are getting longer, but in the Fall, v will need better lighting again, so just checking in to see where you are on that part of the project.

- One more note. It would be really helpful if you had them work on the functionality of the gates opening and closing before this project is finished. Some don't close all the way. Some open partly and then stop without warning. In fact, I have a friend who got a real bump on her head when the gate stopped suddenly and she had to return home right away to ice it.

Thanks for your help and for finally getting this project moving forward! :)

All the best,

Eric

On Mar 16, 2022, at 3:48 PM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Eric,

The latest update we have is that we are in the process of repairing the sump and piping. We are hoping to get the main area (Center) open in the next two / three weeks. (It depends on what we find in terms of repairs).

We are hoping to then work on replacing the DG with turf at area #1. Perhaps 2-3 weeks additional work is required for this replacement. This could be done with the center area open.

We're looking into getting more info in regards to the future closure of the park, and the timeframe for that, but it appears these plans have not been finalized yet.

Thanks,
RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
4th Floor, Suite 400
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 202-2682

from: Eric Drachman < >
to: Sean Phan <sean.phan@lacity.org>,
Rap Commissioners <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>
cc: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org,
RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>
date: Sep 27, 2022, 3:55 PM
subject: Re: Glen Alla large dog park
signed-by: kidwick-com.20210112.gappssmtp.com
security: Standard encryption (TLS) [Learn more](#)
: Important mainly because you often read messages with this label
Hi Sean –

Thanks for your direct reply and update. I'll look forward to hearing more about the plans for the Glen Alla dog park at the meeting on October 6th.

As I mentioned, I found that a number of the issues I discussed were on the Park Advisory Board (PAB) Agenda from August 3, 2021, so I'm really glad to hear they will be discussed again and that we can hopefully get the park finished.

I'm writing again now, because it was brought to my attention by someone I saw at the dog park just the other day that they saw a child who had climbed over the fence to that unfinished project area and were able to snap a photo. I thought you would want to know as that does not sound safe. I'll attach a photo here and look forward to hearing more about the plans, soon!

Thanks,

Eric Drachman

Thanks again for allowing me to speak during the public comment at the last meeting of the Facility Repair And Maintenance Commission Task Force. I appreciate your asking for an update on the Glen Alla large dog park project for the next meeting on October 6th and I'll look forward to hearing what we find out. I'm wondering if we can also find out why the department of project info (if that is a department) no longer replies to inquiries. On September 1st, the office of the commissioners gave the name of someone to contact over there - Sean Phan (cc'd here). He was very friendly and helpful on the phone when I called and said that I should email him and he would put me in touch with the person who is overseeing that project. I sent the email right away, but then have not been able to reach him since via email or phone.

I suppose waiting two more weeks is not so long in the scheme of things. This project was originally slated to start in 2020! They finally took down the banner showing all of the improvements that would be coming soon.

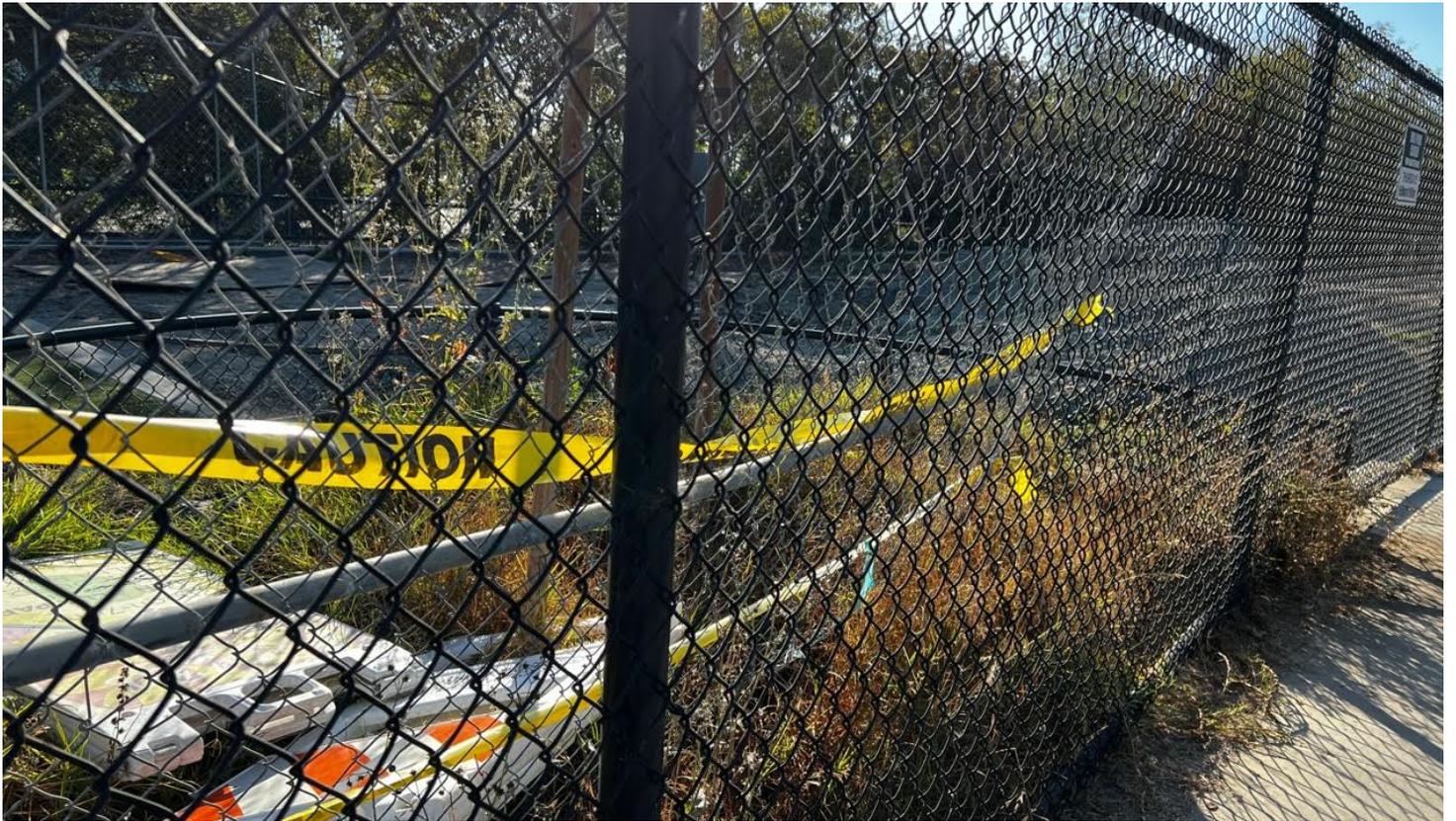
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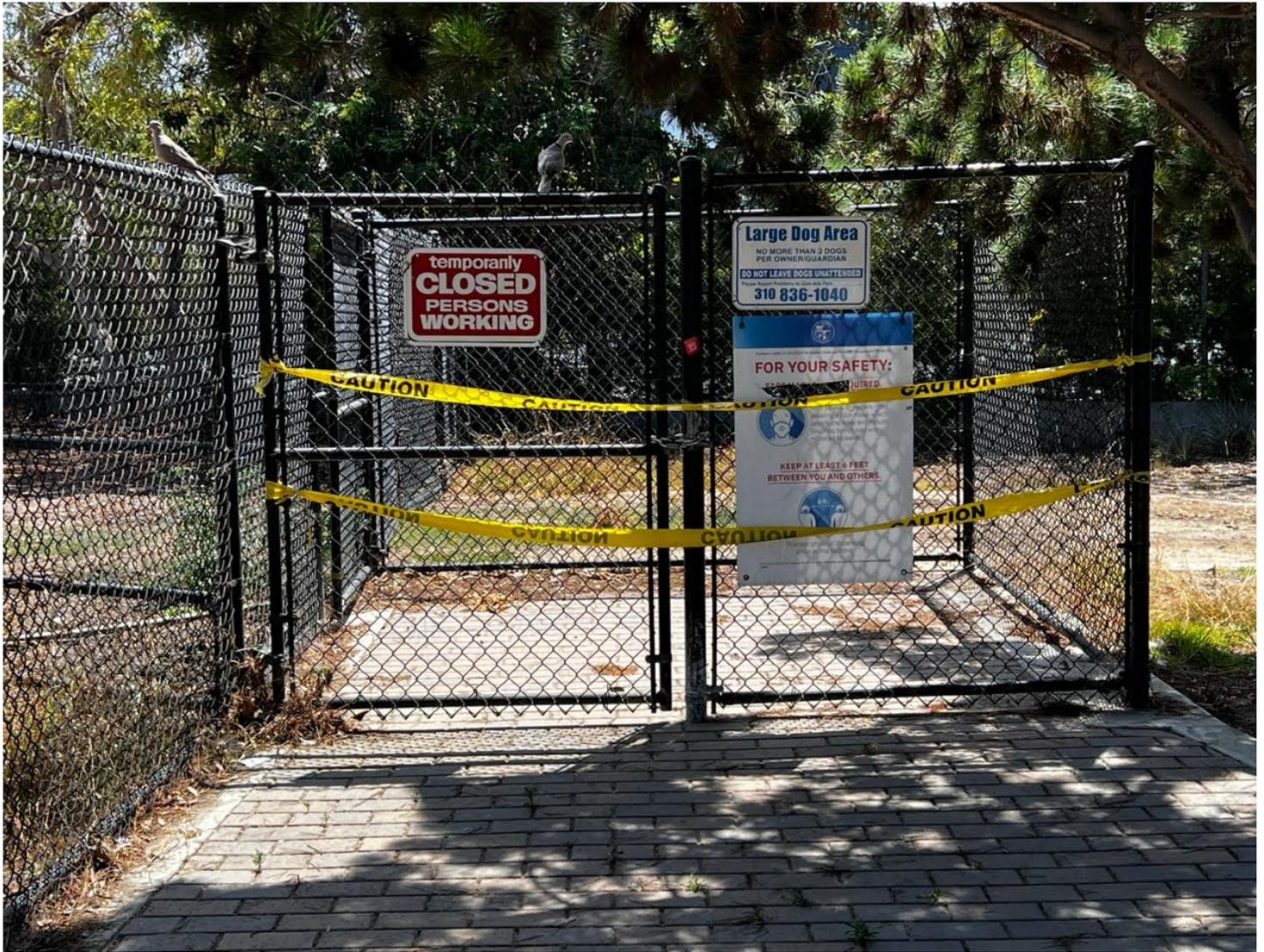
Thanks again for your help!

All the best,

Eric Drachman













Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: YET ANOTHER FIRE IN THE ARROYO

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 8:09 AM
 To: Sandy Huse < >
 Cc: James Bean < >, Alfonso Mendoza <30905@lapd.online>, Adriana Smith <adriana.smith@lacity.org>, Alejandra Fiallos <31770@lapd.online>, Andrei Deocampo <andrei.deocampo@lacity.org>, Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org>, Bryan Volk < >, Chantal Thomas < >, Cynthia Cruz <cynthia.v.cruz@lacity.org>, Cynthia Gonzalez <cynthia.gonzalez@lacity.org>, Dwyer Kilcollin < >, Eva Ortega < >, Evy Bround < >, Fabiola Torres < >, Gabriel Buelna < >, German Hurtado <34865@lapd.online>, Gil < >, Harv < >, Jake Lanza < >, Jaun Alvarado < >, Jenna < >, Jessica Alvarado < >, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Johnny < >, Johnny Altamirano <38828@lapd.online>, Jose Pineda <jose.pineda@lacity.org>, Jose Rodriguez <jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org>, Joseph Fuentes <joseph.fuentes@lacity.org>, Joyce < >, Julio Torres <Julio.Torres@lacity.org>, Lorraine < >, Meade Robboi < >, "Nate Hayward@lacity.org" <Nate.Hayward@lacity.org>, Nicole Smith < >, Pae White < >, Pamela Bean < >, Patrick Joyce <pat.joyce@lacity.org>, Peter Delgadillo <peter.delgadillo@lacity.org>, Raquel Zamora < >, Ricardo Huerta <34863@lapd.online>, Richard Stabile <26260@lapd.online>, Roseann Gentry < >, Sarah Flaherty <sarah.flaherty@lacity.org>, Seth Cuddeback <secuddeback@gmail.com>, Stephen Sabatella < >, Sweet P Vaughn < >, Tashi < >, Tatianna Roche < >, Teresa S < >, Thomas F Marble < >, Tim Jordan < >, "Trinidad, Marcos" < >, Yves Spinelli < >, joe.losorelli@lacity.org, "kevin deleon@lacity.org" <kevin.deleon@lacity.org>, lindatorn@gmail.com, ralph.terrazas@lacity.org, tswida@hotmail.com, wendy.castro@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 9:09 AM Sandy Huse > wrote:

As seen this morning around 7 a.m: Fire Guy at it again in the Arroyo drainage ON TOP OF A PILE OF BRUSH. Called 911 and also created a MyLA311 service request since there also a pile of tires and rubbish accumulating again.

The arroyo encampments continue to grow daily, with smoke smells wafting about almost every morning.

What is the update on getting this cleaned up and safe?

Sandy.
Sandy Huse





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Yet Another Example of Bonin's Favorite PR Plan..... Create a Crisis. Pretend to Solve a Crisis. Try to Get a Bunch of PR.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: kip pardue <

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:49 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 9:16 AM kip pardue < > wrote:
Please let me fill you in on my day yesterday (September 15th) in Venice.

I walked my 7 year old to school at 7:45 where we were followed by a shirtless man who was screaming at nothing our entire walk. I contacted CIRCLE who made contact with the man just steps from Westminster Elementary. As I told the CIRCLE TEAM - this is a tough walk to school. We stepped around 3 other sleeping folks along the walk.

I currently am surrounded by tents and encampments on all sides of my home. My ability to work from home is completely dependent on the will of these folks - yesterday they decided to scream at each other for an hour while they drank and grilled breakfast.

As I went to pick up my son I couldn't access the usual school pick up zone because there was a "suspicious device" found near the school. Turns out a transient had blown up their own vehicle "cooking" just 25' from my son's school.

I was unable to park near my home in the evening because two vehicles - one a mobile pet grooming vehicle with Ohio plates and the other a small school bus with no plates or windshield - have been parked for weeks on my street (OVO signs ignored).

More screaming as I ate dinner with my family and the smell of drugs, the sounds of whispering dogs, and an open fire wafting through my house.

Sleep is impossible as night time is when the "campers" decide to rebuild and reorganize their camps. With the requisite screams and tossed tools and shopping cart pushing.

It's never ending.

Help us in Venice.

This is not acceptable.

KP

On Sep 9, 2022, at 2:19 PM, kip pardue < > wrote:

And now we are seeing the same problems - from many of the exact same homeless - on S Venice Blvd between Pacific Ave and Dell Ave. LAPD - when allowed - has done great work helping residents...but there is ZERO COOPERATION from CD11 so vehicles are now parked in the lot 24/7 (illegal and enforceable), homeless folks sell to tourists (all manner of things), noise, fights...all on private property. The entire stretch of tents works together - using vehicles, drop offs, rides in and out of Venice...they work with the RV camp along N Venice near the farmers market lot. This is all a playground to the drug addicts and freeloaders and folks like me and my family suffer. To say that there has been ANY improvement is not only ridiculous it's dangerous. It's the same as it was near Penmar, in Centennial



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Rule 38 Letter - LAMC Section 71.31 - Mobility Devices

1 message

Athena Chenoweth <athena.chenoweth@lacity.org>
To: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 10:11 AM

Please find attached a Rule 38 Letter and draft ordinance related to mobility devices at or near Venice Beach. The draft ordinance was transmitted to the Clerk's Office on September 7, 2022.

Thank you.

Athena Chenoweth
Legal Assistant
Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
CHE, 200 North Main Street, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 978-8130

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2 attachments

 **R22-0302 Ordinance (3).pdf**
244K

 **SKM_C550i22091310050.pdf**
64K



MICHAEL N. FEUER
CITY ATTORNEY

September 12, 2022

VIA EMAIL ONLY: rap.commissioners@lacity.org
Sylvia Patsouras, President
Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, California 90086-0328

Re: Draft Ordinance Adding Section 71.31 to the Los Angeles
Municipal Code to Regulate Mobility Devices near Venice Beach

Dear Ms. Patsouras:

Pursuant to City Council's request, this Office has prepared and now transmits for Council's consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance adds Section 71.31 to, and amends Subsections 3 and 4 of Section 56.15 of, the Los Angeles Municipal Code to create regulations and mandate specified disclosure requirements for people and companies who rent electric bicycles, scooters, and other similar mobility devices at or near Venice Beach, if the devices being rented cannot legally be operated on Ocean Front Walk or on Venice beach paths, sidewalks, and walk streets.

Please review the enclosed draft ordinance and make comments, if any, directly to the City Council when this matter is considered.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By *Michael Dundas*

MICHAEL DUNDAS
Assistant City Attorney

MD:ac
Transmittal

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance adding Section 71.31 to Article 1, Chapter VII of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to regulate rentals of electric bicycles, scooters, and other similar mobility devices near Venice Beach; and amending Subsections 3 and 4 of Section 56.15 of Article 6, Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit the riding of electric bicycles on the beach paths at Venice Beach.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 71.31 is added to Article 1, Chapter VII of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

**SEC. 71.31. RESTRICTIONS ON ELECTRIC BICYCLES, MOTORIZED SCOOTERS,
AND OTHER MOBILITY DEVICE RENTALS AT VENICE BEACH.**

(a) Definitions.

1. **"Mobility Device,"** as used in this section, shall mean bicycles, electric bicycles, motorized scooters, electric scooters, and any other electric personal assistive mobility device.

2. **"Rental,"** as used in this section, shall mean the transfer of possession or control of a Mobility Device from a Vendor to a customer, for a temporary period of time, whether or not that transfer involves an exchange of money.

3. **"Vendor,"** as used in this section, shall mean any person who is engaged in the Rental of a Mobility Device within 1 mile of the legal boundaries of Venice Beach.

4. **"Venice Beach,"** as used in this section, shall mean all park land, beach lands, or beach properties adjoining the waterfront of the Pacific Ocean between the southerly boundary of the City of Santa Monica and the North Jetty of Marina Del Rey, including the area known as Ocean Front Walk.

(b) Vendor Requirements. Every Vendor shall do all of the following:

1. Notify each customer, prior to the Rental, both verbally and via written notice that is not less than 14-point font printed on paper that is not less than 8.5" x 11" in size, of the legal limitations on the use of the Mobility Device on Ocean Front Walk and any beach path at Venice Beach, and on Venice neighborhood walk streets and sidewalks;

2. Include, in any written or digital agreement for the Rental of a Mobility Device, a provision setting forth all legal limitations on the use of the Mobility Device on Ocean Front Walk and any beach path at Venice Beach, and on Venice neighborhood walk streets and sidewalks;

3. Require, in any written or digital agreement for the Rental of a Mobility Device, the customer to specifically acknowledge, by separate signature or initial, receipt of the advisory provision described in Subdivision (b)(2).

(c) Ocean Front Walk Vendor Requirements. Every Vendor offering Mobility Devices for Rental within 500 feet of Ocean Front Walk shall do all of the following:

1. Require each employee and agent of the Vendor to transfer physical possession or control of the Mobility Device to the customer at a location not less than 300 feet inland from Venice Beach.

2. Only display, park, or otherwise store all Mobility Devices inside of a building, unless the Mobility Device has a prominent sign posted upon it advising potential customers of the legal limitations on the use of the Mobility Device on Ocean Front Walk and any beach path at Venice Beach, and on Venice neighborhood walk streets and sidewalks, in which case the Mobility Device with the sign posted upon it may be displayed, parked, or otherwise stored outside. Nothing in this section shall limit or otherwise create an exception to Section 56.12 of this Code, prohibiting Mobility Devices from being displayed, placed, or stored in or on a public right-of-way, including a street or sidewalk. For purposes of the posting requirement in this Subdivision (c)(2), one sign shall be placed in a conspicuous location on each Mobility Device displayed, parked, or otherwise stored outside. The requirement for a prominent sign shall be met if the sign is not less than 8.5" x 11" in size and legibly states, in not less than 48-point font, "This device may not be ridden on Ocean Front Walk and is also subject to other legal restrictions. Learn more prior to rental."

3. For purposes of this Subdivision (c), any provider, as that term is used in Section 71.29 of this Code, that has a valid permit under the Shared Mobility Device Permit Program, shall be deemed compliant with this subdivision, if the provider prohibits its Mobility Devices from ending any trip within 300 feet of Venice Beach.

(d) Penalty. Violation of any provision this section above shall be punishable in accordance with Subdivision (m) of Section 11.00 of this Code.

(e) Compliance. Compliance with this section shall in no way relieve a Vendor of the responsibility to comply with any other applicable city, state or federal law, including the Department of Transportation's On-Demand Mobility Rules and Guidelines.

(f) **Severability.** If any provision of this section is found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, that invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this section which can be implemented without invalid provisions, and to this end, the provisions of this section are declared to be severable.

Sec. 2. Subsections 3 and 4 of Section 56.15 of Article 6, Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code are amended in their entirety to read as follows:

3. No person shall operate on a beach bicycle path, or on an area of a beach which is set aside for bicycle or unicycle use, any electric bicycle, or any bicycle or tricycle which provides for side-by-side seating thereon or which has affixed thereto any attachment or appendage which protrudes from the side of the bicycle or tricycle and is used or designed to carry another person or persons thereon.

4. For the purposes of this section motorized bicycles as defined by Section 406 of the California Vehicle Code shall be included within the terms "**motor vehicle**" as defined in Section 415 of the Vehicle Code and as used in Section 21663 of the Vehicle Code. As used in this section, electric bicycle shall have the same meaning as defined in Section 312.5 of the Vehicle Code.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with City Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.
Approved as to Form and Legality

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By 
MICHAEL DUNDAS
Assistant City Attorney
Date 9/2/22

File No. 21-1119

M:\GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION\ORDINANCES AND REPORTS\ORDINANCES - FINAL YELLOW\LAMC 71.31 - Mobility Devices - Venice Beach.docx

The Clerk of the City of Los Angeles hereby certifies that the foregoing ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

Ordinance Passed _____

Approved _____



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request For Constituents Assistance -- 13 September 2022

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:22 AM

To: "Mr. Rob Drew-Barnes" <...>
Cc: "heather.hutt@lacity.org" <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, "QUEENANNE.RECREATIONCENTER@LACITY.ORG" <QUEENANNE.RECREATIONCENTER@lacity.org>, "danielle.mero@lacity.org" <danielle.mero@lacity.org>, "kimani.black@lacity.org" <kimani.black@lacity.org>, "CD10ConstituentServices@lacity.org" <CD10ConstituentServices@lacity.org>, "RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org" <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 11:28 PM Mr. Rob Drew-Barnes

> wrote:

Greetings and Congratulations!!

Pursuant to published City website data (see following excerpt), we request an "on-off" timer be repaired (replaced or installed??) for tennis court lights at Queen Anne Park.

Tennis Courts

There are two types of courts: Open Play which are free and available on a first come first serve basis; and Reservation / Pay Tennis where hourly fees apply per court and reservations are required. For Pay Tennis information call (323) 644-3536. For Pay Tennis Registration and Reservation please use Webtrac. Lighted courts are open from 7am to 10pm. Unlighted courts are open from dawn to dusk. Municipal Sports does not reserve courts.

We play at various City tennis courts and on-off light timers function at almost all of them. We use published e-mail addresses "from the street to the suite" in order to get a prompt response and results as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and cooperation. Enjoy the day.

Rob Drew-Barnes 🗑️Emoji

P.S. Remember to PLAN your work and WORK your plan. 🗑️Emoji



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Community Impact Statement - Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:24 AM

To: President@soronc.org

Cc: President@soronc.org

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM <Clerk.CIS@lacity.org> wrote:

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: South Robertson Neighborhood Council

Name: Michael Lynn

Phone Number:

Email: President@soronc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(5) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/28/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 09/14/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number:

Agenda Date: 04/28/2022

Item Number: GB042822-26

Summary: The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) after considering the potential sale of this property does not believe that a potential sale of city owned property at this location is justified. We feel that it is a better public policy to retain property that has inherent value and for which there is a foreseeable need. There are few open spaces in all of SORO that can be used for recreation. This specific property is small and could probably not be developed commercially. However, it could be used for a myriad of recreational purposes. Amongst them are: 1. Expansion of Irving Schacter Park. 2. A small specialty park like Holmby Hills which has an extremely small pitch and putt golf course. 3. Keep the property in its natural condition, clean it up, add a few benches and have a nature center and meditation park. 4. A skateboard park. 5. A Dog Park. Any and all of these options should be considered prior to even contemplating the sale of this property. It needs to be understood by the City that any property that would be required in the future would have to be purchased at current market rates. Here we have property that was purchased decades ago at a relatively inexpensive cost as compared to what the cost to replace this land would be at today's market rates. For all of the above reasons we ask that the City reconsider its position and find an appropriate use for this property.

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City of Los Angeles

Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Figueroa Plaza

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment from Alta Loma Students

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Liebe-Zelazny, Jennifer" >

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 8:18 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 11:24 AM Liebe-Zelazny, Jennifer < > wrote:

Hello Commissioners,

Our students waited over an hour to make public comment and we had to give up and get them back to class. These are their prepared statements.

My name is Dior. I go to Alta Loma EL. I want to know how Recs and Parks will bring shady places to play in our community? It is very far for us to walk to a park with a playground **and** shade. Please keep Alta Loma in your plans for the community school parks. Dior, grade 4

My name is Cesar. I am also a 4th grader from Alta Loma. It is already unfair that middle schools have grass fields and we don't. Now they are going to be open on Saturdays too. You didn't even pick a middle school near us. My friends have been working to get park space for years. Where were the middle school kids making public comment? Are they fighting for parks space at their schools like us? Please keep us in your plans for community school parks.

Cesar- Grade 4

My name is Angela. I am in the 4th grade at Alta Loma. It is unfair that our school was not named as a Community School Park. We don't have grass like a middle school and we are small. We feel like the middle schools already have more than us. We still need a park near us. Please keep us in your plans for a park. Angela, Grade 4

My name is Julius. I am in 4th grade at Alta Loma Elementary. I am sad that we didn't get picked to be a Community School Park. We live in a hot spot. There is no shade at my school and no safe playgrounds near our house. How will you help us cool off our community? Please keep us in the Community School Park plan. Cesar

As for me, I am glad to see the program start again. I am not in competition with the middle schools. AND, I urge you to consider elementary schools as well. We may not have grass and large populations, but there are so few safe playgrounds for young children. They can not can not walk, ride or skate as far as older students. Their parents are more likely to have babies and toddlers that impact how far they can walk to get their children to a park. Additionally, so many commenters at today's meeting have talked about the impact of the unhoused on other open parks. Elementary playgrounds would be much safer for young children to visit. The Alta Loma Community and Principal, Heather Mura do not need to be talked into the concept of Community School Parks. Our school has been campaigning for this since 2019. We

are ready to go! I am encouraged to hear that Alta Loma may still have the opportunity to become a Community School Park and urge you to consider our community which is in desperate need of safe playground space for our young children. Thank you.

Jennifer Liebi Zelazny

Jennifer Liebi-Zelazny
Community School Coordinator
Alta Loma Elementary



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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Hollywoodland: Another Public Safety Concern

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:06 AM

To:
Cc: "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "helene.rotolo@lacity.org" <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>, "xanthe.scheps@lacity.org" <xanthe.scheps@lacity.org>, "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "stefanie.smith@lacity.org" <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, "tracy.james@lacity.org" <tracy.james@lacity.org>, "40988@lapd.online" <40988@lapd.online>, "lafdfirecommission@lacity.org" <lafdfirecommission@lacity.org>, "lafdpau@lacity.org" <lafdpau@lacity.org>, "

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 3:58 PM

> wrote:

Dear City Officials,

I am now writing to you about a NEW public safety issue in regards to Hollywoodland.

Yesterday, Sunday Sept.18th, we had a power outage in Hollywoodland that seems to have taken out the entire neighborhood, around 600 homes.

It began in the afternoon and was fixed in the evening.

This was a major safety concern because when we had no power, residents with a few exceptions had no internet or cell phone service in our hillsides.. This is made worse because many residents have cancelled their landlines, so they are dependent on cell phones. In addition, some landlines were not even working if people had remote handsets. In other words communications throughout Hollywoodland were severely compromised!!

This again occurred when fire dangers are severe in our very high fire severity zone during a drought, with our substandard infrastructure on a weekend. The only thing missing for a disaster was high winds.

It being a Sunday, tourists by the hundreds with their gridlock and smoking continued to stream into our neighborhood. I tried to contact Heather Mata and Station 82 fire department.

I called, and was forced to leave messages as no one picked up. I requested that during the power outage, Hollywoodland be closed to tourism, because if there were an emergency, it would be impossible to communicate with and evacuate the residents and visitors. It seemed like a reasonable request. Not only did no one pick up, but no one ever returned my calls.

While DWP was working near one of our streets, an officer from LAPD was near the workers. I tried to explain to him that the situation was not one of inconvenience as he characterized it, but of public safety. He said there was nothing he could do and did not consult with higher ups as I suggested. (In addition he stayed by the truck rather than trying to keep traffic away at an intersection, where there's room to turn around because once you start up this very narrow street with DWP equipment blocking the road, it is almost impossible.)

This power outage is another situation that needs protocols, so we are not left alone, begging for help and then ignored again.

This new problem was caused by the same OLD problem. We are an extremely substandard residential neighborhood with 100 year old infrastructure that just barely services the needs of residents. We also have major fire issues. You have illegally made us into a major international tourist destination because there never was a proper public review process. Not only would our streets and layout never be approved today, neither would our being a tourist magnet pass standards. So this is another public safety issue with no mitigations because there never

was proper planning. Usually when other tourist locations have no power, they are shut down. Again we have no infrastructure for tourists! We have our homes and our lives.

WHAT IS YOUR PLANNING IF THIS HAPPENS AGAIN?

I WANT THIS LETTER TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

I am waiting for a response.

Sarajane Schwartz
Safety Chair
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figuroa Plaza
221 North Figuroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Penmar Park homeless encampment

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 8:41 AM

To: Aaron Weisblatt <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 10:07 PM Aaron Weisblatt <

> wrote:

We have a situation building in Penmar Park with a crazed homeless woman setting up an encampment. She started yelling at children that were playing near by. Police were called but did not remove her. This is outrageous. Please do something! Sending pictures.

Thank you.

Aaron Weisblatt

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nouns: writer. director. producer. aviator. dog lover.





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nouns: writer. director. producer. aviator. dog lover.

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
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Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GPAB response to LA Zoo Vision Plan FREIR

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 10:32 AM

To: Jason Greenwald <

>

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, AP Diaz <ap.diaz@lacity.org>, "cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org" <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, "darryl.ford@lacity.org" <darryl.ford@lacity.org>, Stefanie Smith <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Sep 20, 2022 at 11:02 AM Jason Greenwald <

> wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners and Executives,

As you know, the Griffith Park Advisory Board has spent a great deal of time reviewing and considering the LA Zoo's Vision Plan EIR -- both last year, when it was first proposed, and more recently, when the Zoo revised its proposal. Attached is our formal response to the Zoo's latest, which we have also sent to the Zoo and the Bureau of Engineering. Of particular note, we believe it is essential for the Zoo to properly mitigate the impacts from an additional 750,000 visitors per year -- especially since those visitors will impact the rest of Griffith Park.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Jason Greenwald
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

September 20, 2022

Mr. Norman Mundy
Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
Via email to: norman.mundy@lacity.org

Re: LA Zoo Vision Plan FREIR Comments

Dear Mr. Mundy,

For more than 18 months, this board has focused deeply on the Zoo's Vision Plan EIR and its impacts on Griffith Park. Early on, we decided to focus primarily on transportation issues, as they have the greatest impact beyond the Zoo's direct footprint. Our overarching goal is to enlist the Zoo, along with other City of LA departments and policy-makers, in furthering a vision of Griffith Park with fewer cars, more transit, and greater accessibility for all Angelenos.

Zoo officials have correctly pointed out that they cannot, on their own, be asked to solve the many issues related to transportation in and around Griffith Park. Yet by their own estimate, they intend to add 750,000 visitors per year, *nearly all of whom will arrive by private vehicle*. As such, the Zoo has an obligation to offer meaningful solutions and commitments beyond those contained in its Focused Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (FREIR).

The Zoo's latest proposal – known as Alternative 1.5 – includes a number of positive changes: The development footprint has shrunk, an aerial tram is no longer featured, and a parking structure is no longer being considered. These and other revisions are clearly in response to feedback received during the EIR process. Yet further changes are needed. Given our ongoing dialogue with the project team, we remain hopeful that Zoo officials will take this opportunity to better address the fundamental problem of adding too many cars, without sufficient transit commitments, to an already-stressed regional park at the edge of an urban wilderness area.

This board has previously shared concerns about habitat loss related to Zoo development and wildlife impacts from nighttime events. We wish to re-state these and other ecological concerns grounded in our mission to provide stewardship for Griffith Park's great urban wilderness – and directly tied to "[A Vision for Griffith Park](#)," approved by City of Los Angeles officials in 2014, which remains the clearest expression of community intent for our city's greatest park.

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Jason Greenwald; Vice Chair – Michelle Cramés; Secretary – Chris Laib; Aida Ashouri; Aaron Chung; Alex Crow; Gene Gilbert; Alex Phillips; Karen Thornton

Our detailed comments are laid out immediately following this letter, and seek to articulate the Zoo's obligation to better address transportation and ecological issues related to its renovation, and to make firm commitments to back its claims. In our view, any plan to add three-quarters of a million annual visitors must be backed by adequate mitigation. After a great deal of study, we find that Alternative 1.5 does not currently meet this standard.

Our primary critique of the transportation plan is that it is based on estimates rather than commitments, and that the analysis provided in Appendix P fails to support its conclusions. In fact, its central feature is an online reservation system designed to “maximize visitation and efficient use of the parking supply” (p. 306, FREIR). We are not convinced that such a program will lead to the reduction of hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, as claimed in the FREIR. We seek specific commitments and firm mandates to limit the increase in private vehicles while adequately supporting shuttles, buses and active transportation.

Other organizations have shared their analysis of ecological issues, which we wish to elevate – along with our primary focus on transportation – as City of Los Angeles officials consider the LA Zoo Vision Plan FREIR.

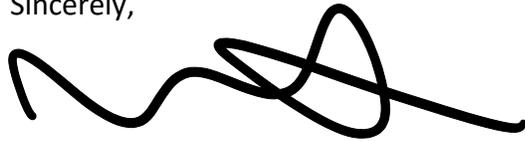
Therefore, as the Zoo completes the EIR process, we respectfully seek the following:

- Specific multi-modal commitments – beyond language already included in the Project's mitigation measure MM T-2 – for Parkline Shuttle, Metro buses & bike infrastructure.
- Significant Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reductions, ideally 15 percent as [outlined in Alternative 2](#), or some reasonable compromise if policy-makers determine that is truly not possible.
- Maximum car capacity limits – with input from the LA Department of Transportation (DOT) – to support the Zoo's claims regarding the overall vehicle impacts under the Peak Visitation Management Program (PVMP); far greater specificity regarding commitments to be made under this program.
- Oversight from LA DOT in guiding and assessing both the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program and the PVMP.
- Meaningful response to ecological concerns laid out in greater detail later in this document.
- Additional accountability measures to give this board and the public confidence that the Zoo is doing its part to contribute to alternate transportation and adequately mitigating the impact of hundreds of thousands of additional private-vehicle trips each year.

We approach transportation from the standpoint of equity, accessibility and sustainability. The City of Los Angeles aspires to greatness in each of these areas. Here in Griffith Park, big changes are underway: bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; fewer lanes of vehicle travel; an emphasis on transit options for all Angelenos. We urge the Zoo to join our efforts, and we offer our partnership in finding solutions. With that said, our support of Alternative 1.5 will be possible only if Zoo officials revise their plans in line with the principles outlined in this letter.

Specific comments and questions may be found on the following pages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Greenwald', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Jason Greenwald
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc:

Hon. Nithya Raman and staff
Recreation and Parks Commissioners
RAP: Jimmy Kim, Matthew Rudnick, AP Diaz, Cathie Santo Domingo, Darryl Ford, Stefanie Smith
Mayor's Office: Ana Guerrero, Mary Hodge
City Administrative Officer Matt Szabo
Assembly District 43: Seamus Garrity
Zoo Commission President Karen Winnick
LA Zoo CEO Denise Verret
LA Zoo Director of Sustainability & Capital Programs Carol Armstrong
Wood Consulting: Erika Leachman

Alternative 1.5 does not sufficiently incentivize or require multi-modal transportation

The City of Los Angeles aspires toward the goals of fewer cars, more transit and enhanced active transportation, yet the Zoo's Alternative 1.5 sets no firm mandate for visitors arriving by means other than private vehicle – despite adding 750,000 visitors per year by completion.

While it is true that behavior change is challenging and transit involves multiple other agencies, those facts do not alleviate the Zoo's responsibility to commit to a viable transportation plan as part of its Vision Plan EIR. Our board previously [endorsed Alternative 2](#), which sets firm targets to reduce vehicular impacts for both employees and visitors, and which allows flexibility for the Zoo in reaching those targets. While Zoo officials have stated that Alternative 2 is not practical, they have not produced a plan that would sufficiently incentivize alternate means of transit.

We believe, as a fundamental matter, that any major development in or around Griffith Park must require multi-modal improvements with specific targets and firm mandates.

Among the first three “areas of known public controversy” [Section 1 - Page 3, FREIR] is improved multi-modal access. What, if anything, does Alternative 1.5 do to improve access beyond what is in the proposed Project?

Multi-modal access is stated as one of 14 project objectives [4-4], yet the Zoo has rejected the multi-modal Transportation Alternative (Alternative 2) as being infeasible. What specific commitments is the Zoo willing to make, beyond Mitigation Measure MM T-2, for multi-modal?

Does this FREIR consider any new projects in its cumulative project analysis? For example, the proposed Crystal Springs Drive & Griffith Park Drive Safety and Active Transportation Improvements Project, whose scope was presented publicly on May 24, 2022. [1-9]

The FREIR acknowledges that Alternative 1.5 is likely to continue the trend of “limited facilities and support for multi-modal transportation” and states that this situation “does not comport with adopted and emerging state, regional, and local policies and regulation to transform travel behavior, reduce VMT, and provide non-vehicular options for daily commuting and regional trips.” [4-156] We wish to restate our deep concern that approval of this EIR without sufficient multi-modal commitments is in direct conflict with City of Los Angeles policy goals.

Appendix P recommends extended hours of operation for the Zoo. What analysis has been made of additional rush-hour trips on traffic congestion in and around Griffith Park? [P-10]

Appendix P recommends discounts for rideshare visitation to the Zoo [P-10]. What analysis has been made of the additional transportation impacts of rideshare, particularly since a single visit would then require two car-trips per party, rather than one?

An overall increase in vehicles, particularly during evening events when there are currently few vehicles on park roadways, will likely lead to an increase in hazards to park goers, cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, there will be an increase in potential for drunk-driving collisions. How have these risks been considered and evaluated?

Given that City of Los Angeles officials are prioritizing active transportation throughout the Griffith Park area, will the Zoo consider revising its roadway plans to augment active transportation infrastructure as part of its planned Crystal Springs rerouting?

Alternative 1.5 lacks firm Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) commitments

The primary means of addressing vehicular impacts for development projects is Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – a statewide standard that can reduce private-vehicle use, while increasing other transportation such as buses, shuttles, bikes and pedestrians.

Alternative 1.5 claims a 16.7 percent VMT reduction compared to the proposed Project. Yet unlike Alternative 2, which mandates a 15-percent reduction, Alternative 1.5 merely estimates its visitor VMT total. Lacking a firm commitment, it cannot be relied upon for mitigation.

Page 4-6 makes plain the problem: “There would be no quantified reduction afforded in MM T-2 for visitor VMT ...” [4-6] We believe it is essential for the Zoo to commit to some quantified VMT reduction, even if it will not accept the 15 percent reduction under Alternative 2. Will the Zoo commit to a specific numeric reduction in visitor VMT as a good-faith effort to limit impacts from the large increase in vehicles?

Page 4-109: “Alternative 1.5 would *have the potential* to reduce visitor VMT by an estimated 16.7 percent less than projected VMT levels under the proposed Project” (emphasis added).

- Is the Zoo willing to commit to these figures?
- If not, what guarantees are offered to ensure that this reduction comes to fruition?

Table 4-13 on page 4-101 shows Phase 1 attendance of 1,910,771, as compared to a total of 2,218,025 for the proposed Project (Final EIR, 2-73). Basic arithmetic shows Alternative 1.5’s attendance being roughly 14 percent lower than the Project. Given that attendance figures appear to be driving the Zoo’s VMT reduction estimates, is the project team asserting that VMT will be 14 percent lower under Alternative 1.5 after Phase 1? Will the Zoo commit to this reduction – for visitors and/or VMTs? If not, what guarantees are offered for either?

“[D]aily visitor VMT on weekends (the highest attendance days) in 2038 is anticipated to be reduced from 136,527 under the proposed Project to approximately 113,527 under Alternative 1.5 ...” [4-143]

- Please provide the underlying analysis/modeling/data used to arrive at these figures as our own analysis finds there are some problematic errors in assumptions/calculations.

The showcase transportation program – PVMP – cannot be relied upon to reduce attendance; in fact, its stated objective makes this goal contradictory

The FREIR's introduction states that attendance estimates – and, therefore, vehicle impacts – will be far lower under Alternative 1.5 than under the proposed Project. Yet these figures are illusory. To say that attendance will be 2.5 million per year rather than 3 million is a bold statement requiring deep analysis. Yet Appendix P provides no such analysis for review.

Of particular concern, the primary means to arrive at the new target is an online reservation system, the Peak Visitation Management Program (PVMP), whose stated objective is to “maximize visitation and efficient use of the parking supply” [P-10]. Logically, how can a program to increase visitors be relied upon to reduce visitors by such large numbers?

The explanation given by the project team is that the existing parking supply will serve as a check on visitation and, therefore, vehicles. Yet that supply is the same as the Project in Phases 1 – 6 – in other words, for nearly the entire lifespan of the Vision Plan. How, then, can this program achieve its objectives?

Given these questions, please provide modeling, data and methods used to reach Appendix P conclusions – as offered by the project team – so we can better analyze PVMP's impacts.

“This program would also optimize visitation during non-peak conditions to support the Zoo's goals for annual visitation through Vision Plan implementation ... [including] techniques that could be employed to shift visitor demand away from peak periods to times when the Zoo's parking lot would have capacity.” [4-100]

- If visitor demand is elastic and PVMP is effective, how can this possibly lead to a decrease in attendance relative to the Project, particularly in the short term?
- If the Zoo has become more efficient during Covid at shifting demand to avoid parking issues, and they have several new large event spaces, and the parking constraints are the same (2,444 spaces in both Project and Alternative 1.5 through Phase 6), how is it possible that visitation growth would be anything but the same or higher under Alt. 1.5?

If the parking demand model shows that demand will exceed capacity on days when attendance is 12,600 or higher, does that mean the Zoo will commit to 12,600 visitors as a daily maximum as part of this FREIR approval? [0-9]

- If not, and if the Zoo succeeds in shifting demand through PVMP, then how does this program achieve the promised VMT reduction of 16.7 percent?

The FREIR states, “Zoo parking demand is expected to exceed supply for at least a portion of one hour on 15 days in 2025, 25 days in 2027, 42 days in 2030, and 53 days in 2040.” [O-9 – 10] Please quantify the number of visitors who would be turned away as a result of PVMP for each of those four points in time, so that we can better understand how this limited number of peak days accounts for projected reductions of hundreds of thousands of visitors per year.

Would the online reservation system be in place on all days, or only during peak times? [0-10]

Three large event spaces may add significant numbers of visitors – more than the FREIR states

The Zoo entry garden and park is now being prominently featured in this FREIR and seemingly folded into the phasing of Alternate 1.5:

“This alternative would develop a publicly accessible entry garden and park space near the Zoo entrance as part of the Project, effectively incorporating the Angela Collier Gardens project described under Section 3.18 Cumulative Projects with slight modification.” [4-8]

However, the Angela Collier Garden and Event Space was only mentioned in last year’s Final EIR in passing as an already approved project. The only details we could find were that the Angela Collier Gardens (as articulated in GLAZA Zoo View – Winter 2018) were expected to have “two event spaces, one stage, a covered patio, and an amenities building that can serve as a meeting space, a staging area, or a bride’s room.” This illustrates the overarching issue of lack of details and granularity regarding both this and other event spaces.

While the proposed Zoo entry space is defined as a 1.87-acre “gathering space” with 60,000 square feet of “new visitor-services space” [4-98], numerous unanswered questions remain:

- Please detail specifics (including any schematics, figures, descriptions) of how this roughly 2 acres of planning area has changed from the little mention in the Final EIR.
- Exactly how much of this space can be used for events and at what capacity?
- How much of an increase in visitation is the Zoo attributing to this new space? Have these assumptions been factored into Alternative 1.5?
- Will limits be set on the frequency of private events so this park can be enjoyed by regular Zoo patrons and the public?

LA Zoo Lights helped achieve an increase in attendance by more than 200,000 people per year. The FREIR notes: “Expansion of facilities and spaces that can accommodate new events, more frequent events, or larger events would contribute to increases in annual attendance.” [4-43] Compared to the original Project, Alternative 1.5 has the same amount of event space during early phases and only slightly less event space by completion (though the FREIR notes the loss of Safari being accommodated by the Zoo Entry Space).

If most events are not constrained by PVMP, because they happen at non-peak times or evenings, would that impact the projected growth calculations that decrement Alternative 1.5 below the proposed Project?

Do the VMT calculations include visitors for special events or solely for regular Zoo attendees? What would the VMT calculations look like if including all proposed special events, utilizing all event spaces at capacity, annually?

The total proposed Project (Final EIR 2-36) visitor space square footage breakdown was 31,800 for Africa; 24,000 for Treetops; and 18,000 for California. Please elaborate on details and capacity on all available event spaces including, but not limited to, the three main visitor centers (Africa, Treetops, California) as well as the Zoo Entry. Furthermore, exactly how much event space was lost with the removal of Safari Picnic in the Africa area?

Alternative 1.5 does not sufficiently address critical ecological concerns

While our board has focused primarily on transportation during our 18 months of review, we have heard from many Griffith Park stakeholders about their concerns regarding the ecological impacts of the Vision Plan EIR. We therefore wish to elevate those concerns, which in many cases are based on far deeper analysis than our own ecological review. Yet we wish to place these concerns in the context of Griffith Park's role in our city, and its mandate.

For more than 100 years, Griffith Park has been viewed as an oasis from the surrounding city and, in fact, its donation by Col. Griffith specifically stated this goal. Much more recently, a visioning process known as "[A Vision for Griffith Park](#)" underscored the park's urban wilderness identity, and the community's desire that it remain, first and foremost, a place where the existing plant and animal life could live in concert with the many people who enjoy the park.

While the Zoo is administratively separate from the Recreation and Parks Department, the wild lands of Griffith Park know no such boundaries. Park visitors and residents of surrounding neighborhoods are also affected; so too is wildlife throughout the park. Please review and respond to ecological analysis made by other organizations including, without limitation, the Community Forest Advisory Committee; Friends of Griffith Park; Los Angeles Audubon Society; and Los Feliz Neighborhood Council.

Please consult with the City of Los Angeles Urban Ecologist, whose portfolio at the Recreation and Parks Department includes a primary focus on Griffith Park, in assessing the following impacts and appropriate mitigation strategies for each:

- Potential impacts of the proposed Condor Canyon development on wildlife movement within Griffith Park, in particular whether this area may be a wildlife corridor or migration route.

- Surveys of sensitive/special species within both the Zoo's proposed development area and the rest of Griffith Park, in order to more properly assess strategies to preserve and protect these species prior to development plans being approved.
- Nighttime event impacts on the wider park area, with a particular focus on both light and sound, given the known impacts on a range of species including birds, large and small mammals, and reptiles.
- Wildlife movement across Zoo Drive and surrounding roadways, in particular impacts and mitigation related to the large potential increase in nighttime vehicles on these roadways as a result of both expanded Zoo hours and a large increase in events.
- Biodiversity in Griffith Park as a result of any and all of the above impacts.

Please explain the disparity between language on the Zoo's website, in the Vision Plan EIR FAQ section, which states, "The Zoo does not plan to blast land in the Zoo or Griffith Park," and the FREIR, in NOI-2, 4-137, which states, "Alternative 1.5 would implement similar construction and blasting activities as the proposed Project."

The FREIR requires clarification and, in some cases, correction of factual errors

In numerous instances, the FREIR is unclear about specific points, and/or makes factual errors that undercut its analysis. We respectfully ask that these clarifications and corrections be made, and any resulting conclusions be adjusted. Only then can we and others make a fully informed analysis of Alternative 1.5.

Given that the FREIR findings for Alternative 1.5 are based on a maximum of 2.5 million visitors per year, would the Zoo be willing to commit to that figure (and all projected growth figures for all Phases along the way) as a limit beyond which any further development would require additional transportation study and subsequent approval by the City Council? [1-10]

1-13: How does Alternative 1.5 achieve more Project objectives than Alternative 2 given that Alternative 2 achieves all stated Project objectives? (See also 4-9, 4-20, 4-205 and 4-207.) Please correct all such references, as appropriate.

4-195: Section T-2 contains a factual error regarding Alternative 2's reductions. Although its requirement does in fact represent a "5 percent greater" reduction for employee VMT's (vs. 10 percent baseline in Project), it is actually "15 percent greater" for visitors (vs. no specific numeric reduction in Project). Please correct.

Please confirm that the figure of 2,500 surface parking spaces [4-96] is accurate, as it appears to represent an increase from the previously stated total of 2,444 [4-99], and which was based on 2,144 existing spaces and 300 spaces added as part of Phase 1.

Regarding the 56 new employee spaces in phase 3 and the 92 repainted spaces at Gottlieb/Condor West in phase 4 [4-46], while both exist in the proposed Project, please clarify:

- How do these factors specifically impact visitor parking, as all of the estimates for PVMP in Appendix P appear to be based on the assumption that visitors have complete access to all 2,444 spaces? [Appendix P, attachment A]
- Are visitors competing with employees on peak days until phases 3 and 4?

The FREIR states Alternative 1 attendance would max out at 2,525,775 persons; however, this number conflicts with the figures from the Final EIR, which maxed at 2,646,984 – why the difference? Was a new study conducted or were the figures revised for some reason? [1-10]

Alternative 1.5 is declared the Environmentally Superior Alternative (ESA) because it purportedly has the lowest growth figures, a point that was repeated at the Zoo’s public meeting on August 15th. However, if the Zoo is able to hit higher attendance figures than outlined in the growth tables or if PVMP doesn’t mitigate attendance to the extent anticipated, wouldn’t that change its ESA designation? [1-13]

- If Alternative 1.5 generates attendance over the projected 1.9 million in phase 1, thus undermining its ESA status, what actions will the Zoo take to rectify this assessment?

Alternative 1.5, at 2.5 million visitors per year, generates “adequate visitation to support the economic viability of the Vision Plan, as analyzed by the 2017 AECOM economic feasibility study, which informed the Vision Plan (Appendix A).” [4-154] Yet the FREIR states that Alternative 1 (at 2.5 - 2.6 million visitors) “would likely not generate as much revenue as the proposed Project and could undermine the economic viability of the Vision Plan.” [4-92]

- Does that mean anything less than 2.5 million visitors would be insufficient?
- What explains the disparity in considering these two Alternatives’ economic viability where in one case 2.5 million is sufficient but in the other it will undermine viability?
- If 2.5 million visitors is the razor’s edge of economic viability, what incentives does the Zoo have to limit visitation (and related VMTs) to 2.5 million, as opposed to a greater figure if it is able to shift demand or find additional growth without PVMP constraints?

The Zoo uses the term “accessibility” frequently in its explanation of its plans, and states that Alternative 1.5 would increase accessibility. For whom would the Zoo be more accessible with Alternative 1.5?

###



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fwd: Community Impact Statement - Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

1 message

Thomas Soong <thomas.soong@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 8:05 PM

To: Rap Commissioners <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>, Lorenzo Briceno <lorenzo.briceno@lacity.org>

Hello,

Forwarding you a CIS from the Hollywood Hills West NC.

Thomas Soong
Director of Policy and Government Relations

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Office | 213-978-1551 Fax | 213-978-1751

Email | EmpowerLA@lacity.org Web | www.EmpowerLA.org



Empower Yourself. Empower Your Community. Empower LA.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <Clerk.CIS@lacity.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 9:29 AM

Subject: Community Impact Statement - Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

To: <commissions@rap.lacity.org>

Cc: <president@hhwnc.org>

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council

Name: Anastasia Mann

Phone Number:

Email: president@hhwnc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(18) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/16/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 03/17/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: March 16, 2022 City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks 221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: Shielding commercial operations inside Runyon Cyn Park within the parameters of SB 946

The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council is one of the certified Neighborhood Councils in the City of Los Angeles. At a regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, the topic of shielding commercial operations inside Runyon Cyn Park within the parameters of SB 946 was considered and the following motion passed 18 yay -0 nay. Motion: In order to ensure that Runyon Cyn Park remains an urban wilderness area park, the HHWNC requests that the Los Angeles Rec & Parks advocate, via a motion to the LA Parks Commission, a restriction / prohibition on Park Vending within Runyon Cyn Park, based on the provisions of LA City Ordinance 185900, specifically that 1) vending restrictions are directly related to objective health, safety or welfare concerns for parkgoers (vending activities often literally block emergency egress, ingress); 2) they are necessary to ensure the public's use and enjoyment of natural resources and recreational opportunities which would be impacted without them; 3) that these restrictions are necessary to prevent an undue concentration of commercial activity that unreasonably interferes with the scenic and natural character of the Park, and 4) that vending restrictions follow the [1986 Runyon Canyon](#) Master Plan and Design Guidelines requiring the park be foremost a place for a wilderness experience. This motion is made with the support of the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks. Respectfully submitted, Anastasia Mann, President Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: AVNC response to the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Sep 23, 2022 at 7:34 AM

To: Josh Hertz <

>

Cc: Norman.Mundy@lacity.org, Denise.verrett@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, Councilmember.OFarrell@lacity.org, ContactCD4@lacity.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Matthew Guerrero <matthew.guerrero@lacity.org>,

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 9:35 PM Josh Hertz

> wrote:

Dear Mr. Mundy,

Attached is the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council's response to the Los Angeles Zoo DEIR.

Best,

Josh Hertz

Atwater Village Neighborhood Council Board Member

Co-Chair / South Atwater Representative

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



3371 Glendale Blvd.
P.O. Box 105, Los Angeles, CA 90039
Email: Board@AtwaterVillage.org
Message Phone: 323 230-3406
Website: www.AtwaterVillage.org



AVNC Officers Co-Chairs: Josh Hertz, Edward Morrissey • Treasurer: Anthony Forester • Secretary: Brett Kushner

September 8, 2022,

City Council Members and Arts, Parks, Health, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 275
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File: 21-0828 (For if amended)

Title Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan / Environmental Impact Report / Infrastructure and Animal Facility Improvements

Dear Honorable Council Members,

The Los Angeles Zoo is an essential resource for all residents of Los Angeles. Most community members have wonderful memories of the Zoo visits with family, friends, or school. We appreciate the efforts to reduce the impacts of the initial 2021 proposals with the following changes.

- Eliminating the Africa Area (saves 6 acres of open space & 201 Protected Trees)
- Eliminating the aerial tram
- Eliminating the multi-story parking structure (replaced with solar panels)
- Eliminating the vineyard in the California Area

These changes are important because of our local drought conditions and the potential lack of sustainable access to water in the future. Because of regional and worldwide impacts of climate change, keeping established wooded areas is a positive direction for Griffith Park and residents of Los Angeles. These changes aligned with the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission's adopted characterization of the park as an "urban wilderness" on January 8, 2014.

We do question some of the changes in Version 1.5 and ask for further clarification and assessment of the following issues:

Crystal Springs Drive & Griffith Park Drive Safety and Active Transportation Improvements Project: speeding, cut toughs, and safety issues

(<https://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/pdf/agenda/2022-07-28-GP-SATIP-GPAB-Meeting.pdf>)

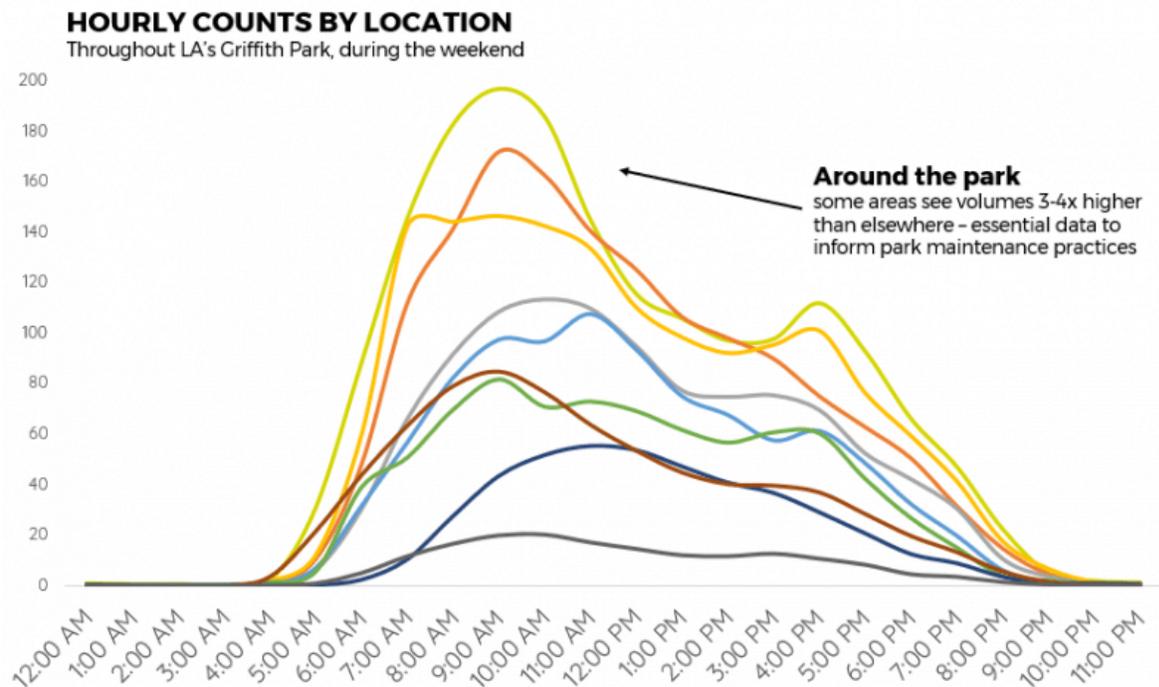
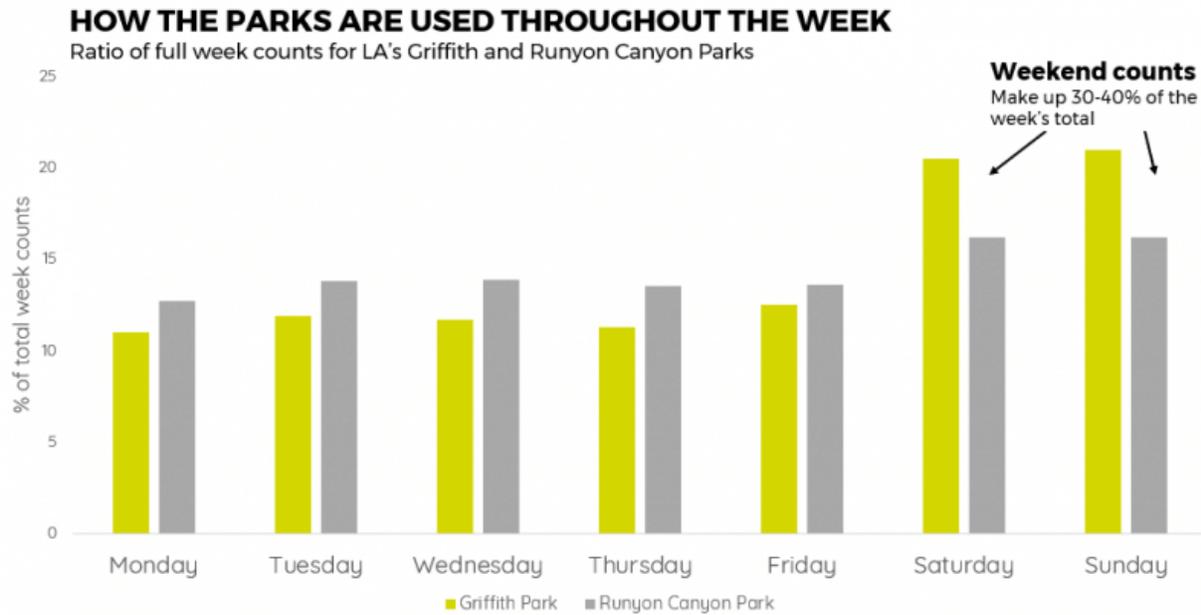
Currently, Griffith Park has 10 million visitors annually. Alternative 1.5 would bring 750,000+ to the current annual total of 1,743,800 Zoo visitors. The Zoo exists within Griffith Park. The Zoo's plan doesn't analyze the full impact of access and traffic for the other 8-9 million visitors. In addition, we don't see an analysis that includes the 2022 road closure along Griffith Park Drive. This closure cuts vehicular circulation options. All visitors to the Zoo and this section of Griffith Park have to use Crystal Springs Drive. We predict more traffic issues at entrances, exits, and Park intersections. The City and the Zoo should budget for traffic personnel at entrances, exits, and critical intersections on the weekends, which are the highest visitation time for Griffith Park, along with park-wide special and seasonal events which impact adjacent neighborhoods (Los Feliz Blvd entrance. and I-5 exits).

During the summer of 2020, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks – the Runyon Canyon and Griffith Parks managers – kicked off an extensive count program to understand how

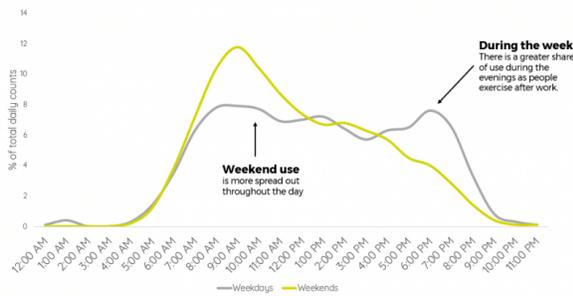
and when the parks were being used. In Griffith Park, 17 [Recycled Post PYRO people counters](#) were discreetly installed around the Griffith Park, on a mixture of trails, connectors, and trailheads.

We recommend that the Zoo look into this program for the overall Griffith Park traffic entrances in conjunction with their planned Peak Visitation Management Program”(PVMP). Since the park has 10 million annual visitors, increasing attendance for the Zoo and Zoo events would impact overall park users and facilities. Example of Griffith Park data from May 2021:

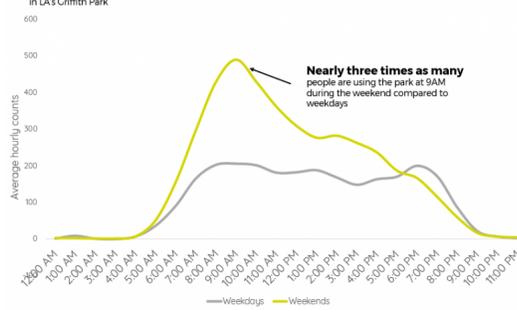
<https://www.eco-counter.com/blog/one-year-in-counting-a-million-visitors-in-los-angeles-parks>)



HOW GRIFFITH PARK IS USED: WEEKDAY vs. WEEKEND



TOTAL COUNTS, WEEKDAY vs. WEEKEND



Lack of clarification on attendance increase:

How many visitors will attend the Zoo vs. how many visitors will be attendees of Special Events? Since there are four event spaces with unknown capacity, more information needs to be provided on those spaces, including how and when they will be scheduled and available. Currently, there is no way to assess the impacts on Atwater Village.

A proposed plan for the event venues has not been provided. Also, under land use, the document has combined Animal Conservation & Visitor Service Areas which further muddies the water. For instance, Alternative 1.5 proposes the development of a new Zoo Entry, which would entail developing an unimproved dirt lot into a new 1.87-acre public gathering space to include approximately 60,000 sf of new visitor-services space. That is a large space. How and when will it be utilized? There are four event areas with little to no information on possible events, days, and hours of operation. 2022 recirculated EIR refers to the 2021 version, section 2.3.9. for additional information.

Visitor-Serving Uses & Special Events

The Project would include substantial improvement to and expansion of visitor-serving facilities, particularly event rental space, broadening Zoo attractions and supporting increased attendance and an expansion of special events. These in turn would meet Zoo goals to become a world class Zoo and destination. The proposed improvements and expansion would provide increased revenues to support Zoo conservation, learning, and engagement programs, development, operations, and maintenance. Overall visitor-serving space would increase by 58,800 sf in 2034 with the development of three visitor centers. Major visitor serving improvements would include reconstruction of the iconic spires for the new Treetops Visitor Center and construction of major new visitor centers in California and Africa, with new restaurants, classrooms, and event spaces. Three additional visitor service areas, including the Nature Play Park, Rainforest Interpretive Center, and gift shop, are proposed as part of Vision Plan implementation. Expansion of the gift shop at the Zoo's entry would provide additional retail at the Zoo. With these venues and services, the Zoo could support and accommodate increases in educational programs, weddings, private corporate or civic events, birthday parties, and other private events. By 2034 (Phase 5 of the Vision Plan), the Zoo is projected to host an average of 210 events per year, including birthday parties, company picnics, evening events, and walks.

We understand the desire for the Zoo to host special events for increased revenue. The EIR should include a detailed plan on how the Zoo will utilize these new areas and how often. While the Zoo may not run special events, its supporting arm, The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) does. The 2021 and 2022 draft EIR Vision Plans are building out multiple event spaces for private

and public use. *The EIR should provide more information and details on "Zoo is projected to host an average of 210 events per year,"*

The EIR should include and disclose those projections. Atwater Village residents (and other adjacent communities) need a sufficient amount of information to comment on potential impacts from events for fundraising or other special events on the Zoo property.

Atwater Village is east of the Zoo and adjacent to Griffith Park East. North Atwater Village is a residential equestrian community directly across Griffith Park. Sound and light from the hillside and/or hilltop evening events will travel into the community. After-hours events would have an impact on our community members and animals.

Peak Visitation Management Program:

The Zoo is within Griffith Park. Therefore it should work with other Park facilities in overall traffic management. This should be in addition to the PVMP program. The Zoo needs to be accountable to other Park users, facilities, and adjacent neighborhoods. This could include data collection on overall park users and a budget for traffic personnel at entrances and key intersections.

Note: while alternative 1.5 states that parking for employees is reduced, fewer employees are needed with the smaller footprint. We are not sure if that includes "non-employee" staff that might be working in retail, service, or events areas.

Condor Corridor:

We supported Alternative 1 with hesitations. This alternative did not include the Condor Canyon.

At this point and time, we, as a society, seek to undo past man-made features such as a cemented LA River and various dams across the country. It seems counterintuitive to create a "natural" wildlife habitat by excavating the hillside/ridgeline to create a corridor (or canyon).

Could the Condor-focused educational direction of this "corridor" be made in a virtual format, to be placed in the section "Condor East"?

Removing the existing "urban wilderness" habitat would impact our heat mapping and natural views. The Condor Corridor, if built as shown, could affect Atwater Village with more noise and lights depending on Zoo hours and events.

We appreciate your Alternative 1.5 efforts. We hope you will address our concerns and provide information on events and attendance, reduce impacts of the Condor Corridor, and address traffic issues that would impact Griffith Park and Atwater Village

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Josh Hertz
AVNC Co-Chair



Edward Morrissey
AVNC Co-Chair

CC: Mayor's Office, Hon. Mitch O'farrell and staff, Hon. Nithya Raman and staff, Jimmy Kim (RAP), Denise Verret (Zoo), Stefanie Smith (RAP), RAP Commissioners, and other staff members.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Drive access to Wilson and Harding public golf courses from the 101

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Patrick Fedigan < >
Cc: RAP Golf <rap.golf@lacity.org>

Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 3:01 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 2:12 PM Patrick Fedigan < > wrote:
Hello Commissioners,

As a frequent visitor and member of the public Griffith Park Wilson and Harding golf courses I have been having an increasingly harder time to reach the facility travelling from Hollywood.

I was told that Giffith Park Drive is permanently closed. Could this decision be amended for the road to be accessible to only those visiting the golf course?
Has any other feedback been brought up from other park visitors?

Thanks for the time to read my note.

On Mon, Sep 26, 2022, 14:02 RAP Golf <rap.golf@lacity.org> wrote:
Hello

Unfortunately, Griffith Park Dr from Travel Town to Mt. Hollywood Dr has been permanently closed to vehicle traffic. This was done about a month or so ago by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners.

Thanks

On Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 1:25 PM Patrick Fedigan < > wrote:
Hello,

As a frequent visitor and member of the public Griffith Park Wilson and Harding golf courses I have been having an increasingly harder time to reach the courses travelling from the 101 and Zoo Dr.

Could Giffith Park Drive be accessible to only those visiting the golf course?
Has any other feedback been brought up from other park visitors?

Thanks for the time to read my note.

--

L.A. City Golf Division

Mail Stop #628-3
3900 Chevy Chase Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039
818-246-1135 • Golf Division Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please respond to LA Times Non-Endorsement of SP

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 28, 2022 at 3:37 PM

To: E Waldman < >

Cc: Eric Calhoun <eric.calhoun@lacity.org>, "RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org" <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Sep 28, 2022 at 2:15 PM E Waldman < > wrote:

Hello. I am a constituent and LA city resident, along with a proud Pan Pacific Park user. I urge you to respond to the LA Times' non-endorsement of ballot measure SP. I am trying to mobilize my faith community to vote for public green space, equity and health for all LA residents, but they listen to the Times' opinions in order to decide what to endorse.

Thank you.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org