

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
RESOLUTION

Support for the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act of 2015
S. 2013 and H.R. 3484

WHEREAS, the Westwood Neighborhood Council includes (x number) of members/families, who reside in the neighborhood(s)/communities of x. We are neighbors of the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center (West LA VA) and support the use of the property to directly benefit our nation's Veterans.

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County has the highest number of homeless Veterans in the nation. According to the most recent homeless count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, there are 4,363 homeless Veterans in the county.

WHEREAS, in order to address this crisis, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is currently implementing a Homeless Plan and developing a Master Plan which will serve as a roadmap for housing and programs at the West LA VA.

WHEREAS, the current best practices for housing homeless Veterans is to offer Permanent Supportive Housing with comprehensive services. There is strong evidence-based data confirming a high rate of success and stability using this Housing First model.

WHEREAS, the VA would like to build an appropriate number of Permanent Supportive Housing units on the West LA VA based on the needs of the most chronically homeless Veterans, including women, aging and disabled Veterans. Permanent Supportive Housing requires a vehicle called an Enhanced Use Lease. The West LA VA does not currently have Enhanced Use Leasing authority and therefore cannot build Permanent Supportive Housing.

WHEREAS, Senator Feinstein and Congressman Lieu have introduced companion bills known as the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Acts of 2015. This Act gives the VA the authority to enter into Enhanced Use Leases for the sole purpose of providing supportive housing. The authority has a number of safeguards, including the prohibition against selling or disposing of the land for private development. There are also regular reporting requirements to Congress about the status and success of the supportive housing.

WHEREAS, we are pleased the VA is striving to transform the West LA VA into a Veteran-centric property and we support their efforts to use the property to serve our nation's Veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Westwood Neighborhood Council unanimously adopts this resolution in support of the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Acts of 2015.