

WRAC Homelessness Committee

The following four motions are recommended by the WRAC Homelessness Committee for consideration by the WRAC Board. Action taken by HOC on 4/13/21.

I. Motion to Abate and Correct Unsafe and Unhealthy Conditions in Homeless Encampments

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to immediately direct the Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation (“LA Sanitation”) to undertake site clean-ups, trash collection, and sanitizing of all homeless encampments located in the neighborhoods represented by the WRAC on the Westside of Los Angeles, in order to abate, correct, and remove hazardous, unsafe, unhealthy, and unsanitary conditions at all homeless encampments forthwith.

Background information:

The following facts and existing conditions compel immediate action by the City to clean up, abate, and correct unsafe and unsanitary conditions that are commonly found in homeless encampments on the Westside:

Homeless encampments are pervasive in all neighborhoods on the Westside of Los Angeles including: Bel-Air–Beverly Crest, Brentwood, Del Rey, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, Palms, South Robertson, Venice, Westchester-Playa, West L.A.-Sawtelle, Westside, and Westwood.

Venice has the second largest homeless population in the City of Los Angeles after Skid Row.

Various items of trash, open containers of spoiled and rotting food, human waste, detritus, and other hazardous materials are commonly found in homeless encampments, which materials attract rats, cockroaches, and other disease-carrying vermin, and which cause significant health hazards, can be found in homeless encampments on the Westside.

Sanitary facilities, including toilets, handwashing sinks, showers, running water, and soap are not readily available at most homeless encampments. As a result, human waste, excrement, urine, filth, and other biohazard materials are commonly found deposited on public sidewalks, streets, alleys, parkways, and on bluffs, hillsides and beaches in or near homeless encampments.

The Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation (“LA Sanitation”) had previously instituted “Operation Healthy Streets” and the “CARE Program” to conduct a “robust homeless community outreach program,” to provide information and services to homeless individuals and to clean encampments in the Skid Row area and other neighborhoods of Los Angeles that are “hit hardest” by homelessness.

These existing unsafe, unsanitary, and unhealthy conditions pose a significant and immediate risk to public health and safety, not only to those individuals living in these encampments but also to neighboring residents, and the general public, including, but not limited to the spread of disease, contamination, and infection, including COVID-19, due to the unsanitary, unsafe, crowded, and unhealthy conditions found in these homeless encampments.

2. Motion to Enforce Laws Prohibiting Illegal Drug Sales, Human Trafficking, and Other Serious Crimes in Homeless Encampments

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the sale, distribution and use of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and other serious crimes taking place in or near homeless encampments on the Westside of Los Angeles.

[Amended by WRAC Board 4/19/21]

Background information:

The following facts and existing conditions compel immediate action by the City to enforce all existing laws prohibiting the sale, distribution, or use of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and other serious crimes taking place in or near homeless encampments on the Westside:

Homeless encampments are pervasive in all neighborhoods on the Westside of Los Angeles including: Bel-Air–Beverly Crest, Brentwood, Del Rey, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, Palms, South Robertson, Venice, Westchester-Playa, West L.A.-Sawtelle, Westside, and Westwood.

Neighbors, residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders frequently observe the sale, distribution, and/or use of illegal drugs in or near homeless encampments on the Westside.

Neighbors, residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders have reported to LAPD and others that they have witnessed other serious crimes, including, but not limited to, human trafficking, taking place in or near homeless encampments on the Westside.

3. Motion to Enforce Laws Prohibiting Blockage of the Public Right of Way by Homeless Encampments

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the blockage of the public right of way on the Westside of Los Angeles, including all applicable provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). [Amended by WRAC Board 4/19/21]

Background information:

The following facts and existing conditions compel immediate action by the City to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the blockage of the public right of way, including, but not limited to blockages in or near homeless encampments on the Westside of Los Angeles, including all applicable provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA):

Homeless encampments are pervasive in all neighborhoods on the Westside of Los Angeles including: Bel-Air–Beverly Crest, Brentwood, Del Rey, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, Palms, South Robertson, Venice, Westchester-Playa, West L.A.-Sawtelle, Westside, and Westwood.

Neighbors, residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders have reported numerous instances in or near homeless encampments, where large tents, abandoned bulky items, discarded furniture, trash, and other large objects, frequently block the public right of way, thereby preventing pedestrian and wheelchair passage on sidewalks, in direct violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), thereby preventing members of the public for using, traversing, and safely walking along public sidewalks, often creating hazardous and dangerous conditions. These illegal conditions have resulted in numerous traffic accidents, liability for the City of Los Angeles, and which have caused serious injury and even death to innocent bystanders as well as those individuals living in or near homeless encampments.

4. Motion for Increased Funding to Support Additional Safe Parking Programs

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls for additional funding and resources, from all available sources, in order to implement more Safe Parking Programs and to support existing, reputable safe parking programs, including those operated by organizations such as Safe Parking LA, throughout the Westside of Los Angeles.

Background information:

The following facts and existing conditions support additional funding and resources to enable the expansion of Safe Parking Programs in the City of Los Angeles:

Homeless encampments are pervasive in all neighborhoods on the Westside of Los Angeles including: Bel-Air–Beverly Crest, Brentwood, Del Rey, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, Palms, South Robertson, Venice, Westchester-Playa, West L.A.-Sawtelle, Westside, and Westwood.

An increasing number of people are living in vehicles on public streets on the Westside of Los Angeles, causing health and safety issues for those individuals living in vehicles as well as significant impacts for local neighbors, residents, and other community stakeholders.

There are a number of reputable non-profit and social service agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, Safe Parking LA, that successfully operate Safe Parking lots for people living in vehicles throughout the Westside, including on-site security and on-site portable sanitary facilities, and these agencies and organizations require sustained funding and support to expand these programs in the City of Los Angeles.