



westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

December 10, 2024

To federal officials: Hon. Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California; Hon. Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator-elect for California and outgoing U.S. Representative, 30th District; Hon. Brad Sherman, U.S. Representative, 32nd District; Hon. Ted Lieu, U.S. Representative, 36th District; Hon. Sydney Kamlager-Dove, U.S. Representative, 37th District; Hon. E. Martin Estrada, U.S. Attorney, Central District of California

To state officials: Hon. Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California; Hon. Ben Allen, California State Senator, SD 24; Hon. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, California State Senator, SD 28; Hon. Jacqui Irwin, California State Assemblymember, AD 42; Hon. Rick Chavez Zbur, California State Assemblymember, AD 51; Hon. Isaac Bryan, California State Assemblymember, AD 55; Hon. Tina McKinnor, California State Assemblymember, AD 61; Hon. Rob Bonta, Attorney General, State of California; Hon. Pedro Nava, Chair, Little Hoover Commission

To county officials: Hon. Kathryn Barger, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; Hon. Lindsey Horvath, County Supervisor, SD 3; Hon. Holly Mitchell, County Supervisor, SD 2; Hon. Nathan Hochman, District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

To city officials: Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles; Hon. Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney; Hon. Kenneth Mejia, Los Angeles City Controller; Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President, Los Angeles City Council; Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, City Councilwoman, CD 5; Hon. Traci Park, City Councilwoman, CD 11; Hon. Heather Hutt, City Councilwoman, CD 10; Hon. Nithya Raman, City Councilmember, CD 4

Via email to all addressees and/or via respective website message portals

Re: Request for federal, state, county and city investigations re use / misuse of taxpayer funding to address the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles

Honorable federal, state, county and city officials:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition, founded in 2009, of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, in City Council Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Council Districts 4 and 10. Our Alliance collectively represents over 500,000 housed and unhoused Angelenos.

WRAC's communities have had decades-long experience with homelessness, which continues to grow seemingly unabated, despite the billions of dollars in taxpayer funds purportedly spent to solve the crisis. While WRAC recognizes the complexity of the problem and appreciates well-meaning efforts by officials to attempt to address the crisis, the fact that homelessness persists in large numbers is unacceptable. Moreover, recent audit reports and investigative journalism have revealed *serious and widespread mismanagement, lack of accountability and possible corruption by officials, agencies and entities involved in spending taxpayer funds for homelessness* in the state of California and the county and city of Los Angeles. *See Resources below.*

Based on this disturbing information and our own experience with the systemic failure to meaningfully address the humanitarian crisis in Los Angeles (with over 75,500 unhoused individuals in L.A. County, according to the 2023 Homeless Count), *WRAC strongly believes that thorough investigations by relevant federal, state, county*

Page Two

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
Federal, state, county and city Officials
December 10, 2024

and city authorities into the use – and/or misuse – of taxpayer funds must be undertaken forthwith. Accordingly, a majority of WRAC Member Councils have passed the following motion or modified versions in keeping with its spirit:

“The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) urges (1) the federal government to intervene and conduct a federal investigation into the use by the city of Los Angeles, the county of Los Angeles, the state of California and all city, county and state agencies of federal funds received to address homelessness; (2) the state government to investigate the use of state funds for such purpose; (3) the county government to investigate the use of county funds for such purpose; and (4) the city government to investigate the use of city funds for such purpose, due to the mismanagement and non-accountability of taxpayer dollars being squandered while leaving a humanitarian crisis on our streets.

“WRAC further calls upon our City Councilmembers to communicate this request to the relevant respective federal, state, county and city authorities, including our U.S. Senators, Congressmembers, the U.S. Attorney General and Dept. of Justice; our Governor, state Senators, Assemblymembers and state Attorney General; our county Supervisors and District Attorney; and our Mayor and City Attorney.”

The above motion has been passed by: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, Brentwood Community Council, Pacific Palisades Community Council* (**modified version*), Mar Vista Community Council, Palms Neighborhood Council, West Los Angeles-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council, Westside Neighborhood Council and Westwood Neighborhood Council. No WRAC Member Councils have advised that they have voted to oppose this motion.

We respectfully urge that the requested critical investigations into the use of taxpayer funds to address homelessness be undertaken without delay, and that City Councilmembers representing WRAC Member Councils (CW Yaroslavsky, CW Park, CW Hutt and CM Raman) also communicate this request to all relevant federal, state, county and city authorities.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated prompt attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz

Robin Greenberg, Chair

Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

ccs (via email): James Schwab, State Dir., U.S. Sen. Padilla; Ann Peifer, Dist. Dir., U.S. Rep. & Sen.-elect Schiff; Sean Regan, Dist. Rep, U.S. Rep. Sherman; Janet Turner, Deputy Dist. Dir., U.S. Rep. Lieu; Jackson Benarroch, Dist. Rep, U.S. Rep. Kamlager-Dove; Vishesh Anand, Deputy Regional Dir., Gov. Newsom; Sam Liu, Dist. Dir., Sen. Allen; Yvonne Robertson, Dist. Dir., Sen. Smallwood-Cuevas; Anthony Avila, Field Rep, Asm. Irwin; Sherwin Shamoeil, Field Rep, Asm, Zbur; Michelle Persoff, Field Rep, Asm. Bryan; LaQuisha Bryant, Field Rep, Asm. McKinnor; Ethan

Resources on p. 3, following

ccs cont'd.:

Rarick, Exec. Dir., Little Hoover Commission; Dawyn Harrison, L.A. County Counsel; Anna Mouradian, Chief Deputy, Sup. Barger; Amanda Laflen, West Metro Deputy, Sup. Horvath; Tracy McGee, Constituent Engagement Deputy, Sup. Mitchell; Matt Szabo, Los Angeles CAO; Jared Rivera, Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement; Marian Ensley & Kenneth G. Miller, West Area Reps, Mayor Bass; Joanne Kim, Chief of Staff, CM Harris-Dawson; George Hakopiants, Dist. Dir., CW Yaroslavsky; Juan Fregoso, Dist. Dir., CW Park; Terrence Gomes, West Area Deputy, CW Hutt; Emma Taylor, Dist. Dir., CM Raman

Resources:

<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2023-102.1/index.html#section3>

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/exclusive-after-spending-550-million-over-70-percent-of-los-angeles-county-s-project-homekey/article_efe6bf0c-75bf-11ef-ab3c-9b098130204a.html

<https://www.foxla.com/video/1522264> (interview with Jamie Paige/Westside Current)

<https://www.circlingthenews.com/70-percent-of-project-homekey-homeless-rooms-remain-vacant/>

<https://www.circlingthenews.com/homelessness-and-the-failure-of-mainstream-media/>

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/las-costly-gamble-50-million-on-luxury-homeless-housing-amid-vacancies-and-red-tape/article_473f6a78-11e9-11ef-92b9-0b22ca012708.html

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-04-09/state-audit-california-fails-to-track-homeless-spending-billions-dollars>

<https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/audit-la-homelessness-spending-poor-accounting-inconsistent-care>

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-11-20/county-audit-finds-lax-accounting-at-l-a-homeless-authority>

<https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/los-angeles-homeless-services-authority-lahsa-audit-2024-november-county>