



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

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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

August 21, 2025

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer (CAO)

Via email

Via email

Re: WRAC Requests Regarding Inside Safe: Consent to Controller's Audit; Disclose Sources of Funding for the Program

Dear Mayor Bass and CAO Szabo:

As you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition, founded in 2009, of all fourteen neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, located in Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Districts 4 and 10. Collectively, WRAC's Member Councils represent over 500,000 Angelenos.

Background:

WRAC's communities have had decades-long experience with homelessness. The problem continues despite the billions of dollars purportedly spent to solve the crisis. While WRAC recognizes the complexity of the issues and appreciates well-meaning efforts by officials to attempt to address the crisis, the fact that homelessness persists in large numbers is unacceptable. As we explained in our 12/10/24 letter requesting a federal investigation into the use / misuse of taxpayer funds for homelessness, 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, county and city.¹

More recently, in connection with the federal *LA Alliance* case, Judge Carter has called the City's spending for homelessness programs "a train wreck," and has now appointed a monitor to oversee the Inside Safe program. As you also know, in that case a Court-ordered assessment revealed that more than \$2 billion of the City's spending on homelessness programs could not be properly tracked, and Mayor Bass reportedly refused to consent to the Controller's audit of the Inside Safe program.²

Meanwhile, the City has inexplicably decided to retain an expensive outside law firm at rates exceeding

¹ See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WRAC-Letter-Investigate-HomelessFundingF.pdf>.

² We respectfully contend that 1) nothing in the City Charter or otherwise prevents the Mayor from *consenting* to a Controller's audit; and 2) the assessment ordered in the *Alliance* case was *not a full audit*, as recognized in Court by all parties, including by the outside law firm representing the City.

\$1,000 per hour to represent the City (along with the City Attorney) in the *Alliance* case; that firm has reportedly billed the City the shocking amount of \$1.8 million for two weeks of legal work, and has filed an appeal of Judge Carter's orders, apparently seeking to avoid insight into the status of the Inside Safe program or oversight of its operations. We assume the outside firm will continue to represent the City in connection with the appeal and will bill the City for substantially more legal fees, all ultimately at taxpayer expense.

WRAC's Member Councils are very concerned with the current situation as described above.

WRAC Motions/Requests:

Westside constituents and all Angelenos deserve transparency into how the Inside Safe program has been operated and funded. As a result, a supermajority, ten (10), of our Member Councils have passed the following two motions:

Request Mayor's Consent to Controller's Audit of Inside Safe:

"The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), urges Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to immediately consent to a full audit of the City's Inside Safe program by Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia."

The above motion, or modified versions in keeping with its spirit,* has been passed by the following ten WRAC Member Councils: Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC, Brentwood CC, Del Rey NC, North Westwood Neighborhood Council,* Pacific Palisades CC, Palms NC,* South Robertson Neighborhoods Council,* West LA-Sawtelle NC, Westside NC, Westwood NC.

Request Mayor and CAO Disclose Sources of Funding for the Program:

"The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) urges Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and/or the City Administrative Officer Matthew Szabo to disclose the full extent of all sources of funding for the City's Inside Safe program."

The above motion, or modified versions in keeping with its spirit,* has been passed by the following ten WRAC Member Councils: Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC, Brentwood CC, Del Rey NC, North Westwood Neighborhood Council, Pacific Palisades CC, Palms NC,* South Robertson Neighborhoods Council,* West LA-Sawtelle NC, Westside NC, Westwood NC.

No WRAC Member Councils have opposed either of these motions.

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For all these reasons, we urge Mayor Bass to immediately consent to the Controller's audit of Inside Safe, and the Mayor and CAO to disclose the sources of funding for the Inside Safe program as soon as possible.

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

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz

Robin Greenberg, Chair

Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc (via email):

Hon. Kenneth Mejia, Los Angeles City Controller

Hon. Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney

Hon. Heather Hutt, Traci Park, Nithya Raman and Katy Yaroslavsky, City Councilmembers