



Westside  
Regional  
Alliance of  
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council	Palms Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council	South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council	Venice Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council	West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa	Westside Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council	Westwood Community Council
North Westwood Neighborhood Council	Westwood Neighborhood Council

Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mayor of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 3, 2010

***RE: Westside Recreation Centers as Temporary Shelter Locations for the unhoused***

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils met virtually today to discuss two major issues - one is the matter of NC funding being rolled over to the next fiscal year in order to preserve the ability of NCs to discharge their commitments, even after the current crisis ends (see letter sent on this issue), and the second was the matter of City Recreation Centers being repurposed to serve as temporary shelters for the unhoused population of Los Angeles.

Our meeting was one of board members representing the 14 Neighborhood and Community Council across the entire Westside of LA City, held knowing member representatives would not be able to take issues back to their councils for a full vote as is our normal practice. Councils are not currently holding regular meetings with the public, given the circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis and the social distancing guidelines laid out by the Mayor.

Nevertheless, we took up discussion of this pressingly important issue and reached an overarching consensus that I'd like to share with you, in my role as WRAC Chair.

Chiefly, everyone agreed that information must be made available to Neighborhood and Community Councils, particularly those that stand to be impacted by the policy. We understand that this is a policy directive which has largely been undertaken by the office of the Mayor, in urgent response to the Covid-19 crisis and the need to remove homeless individuals from insecure encampments on the streets. However, merits of the strategy notwithstanding, the impact will be felt by people in communities that will be hosting these ad-hoc shelters, and while these communities themselves are sheltering in place and practicing social distancing, they are defensibly alarmed by the infusion of new inhabitants among them and feel the need to be informed. I want to reiterate here that there was no general objection to housing the unhoused in all LA neighborhoods, even in an urgent way; but there was concern about the impact under these specifically unique circumstances involving a highly contagious and lethal virus.

Some common questions that arose were:

- How is the policy shifting or adjusting as various locations (now 13) are mobilized and lessons learned;
- Of the 42 originally intended sites, how many are still expected to be mobilized;
- How many people are currently expected to be housed using the Recreation & Parks building resources;
- How or from whom can NC or CCs obtain information as to when or whether recreation centers in their areas will be mobilized for this purpose;
- What other options are being considered, and to what degree of likelihood (ie – hotel and motel rooms, trailers, tents in parking lots, etc...)?

The general tenor of our discussions revealed that member representatives believe a strategy that would provide private space to the unhoused, versus a shared living scenario, would be more suited to the current crisis and more in keeping with health guidelines advocated by the City, County and especially the CDC.

I would like to ask that you, as Councilmembers of districts within which our member councils lie, make a commitment that you will keep us informed as best you are able, with new and timely information regarding this policy - and specific information that may impact our neighborhoods - as it becomes available to you.

We understand that these are difficult times for elected officials and city lawmakers, but we are with you in the collective service to communities and would like to be able to keep our neighborhoods informed and aware during these difficult and uniquely unprecedented times.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Best,

*Maryam Zar*

Maryam Zar

Chair

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC)

Cc:

Mike Shull (GM LA Department of Recreation and Parks)

Aram Shakian (GM LA Department of Emergency Management)

Lisa Payne (Director of Public Engagement, Office of Mayor Garcetti)

Tanaz Golshan (Mayor interim Westside Field Deputy)

Hon. Mike Bonin (City Councilmember CD11)

Hon. David Ryu (City Councilmember CD 4)

Hon. Paul Koretz (City Councilmember CD5)