



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

April 19, 2021

Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Hon. Nury Martinez, President, Los Angeles City Council

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, City Council Homelessness & Poverty Committee (HPC)

Hon. Kevin de León, Hon. Joe Buscaino, Hon. Monica Rodriguez and Hon. Nithya Raman, Members, HPC

Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, CD 11

Via email to each official and submission to the Council File public comment portal

Re: Use of beach parking lots and parks for homeless housing -- Council File #21-0350 and CD11 Sheltering Plan (Ex. C to 4/15/21 Quarterly MOU Status Report)

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Council President Martinez, HPC Chair Ridley-Thomas, HPC Members de León, Buscaino, Rodriguez and Raman, and Councilmember Bonin:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the most broad-based organization and voice of the Palisades community since 1973. On April 8, 2021, PPCC held a public Board meeting, with over 475 persons in attendance, regarding the motion by Councilmember Mike Bonin in the above-referenced Council File.

Councilmember Bonin also attended, explaining that the use of the beach parking lot was a possible idea to be considered and evaluated by the City; that no decisions had been made; that a long process would have to be undertaken in order to study the proposal and receive further input from the community; that approvals would be required from several jurisdictions; and that details such as the precise location of the sites and the types of housing or shelter capacity would still need to be determined.

Meeting attendees were overwhelmingly opposed to the use of beach parking lots and parks for homeless housing. Many speakers emphasized the fact that **the beach is a regional, shared public resource** that is visited and enjoyed by millions of beachgoers from the entire City, County and beyond. The need to protect and preserve public access to this beloved public resource – *the backyard of Los Angeles* -- was viewed as paramount. In a straw poll, Board members unanimously agreed that the proposed use of our beaches and parks for this purpose should be opposed; a formal Board vote will be taken on April 22, 2021.

As our elected officials know, it is a core mandate of the Coastal Act to **protect public access** (*see also proposed Position Statement linked below*). Supervisor Sheila Kuehl recently stated the following regarding the addition of an “access mat” on Venice Beach to *increase beach access*:

“One of the major draws for those of us who live in or visit LA is, of course, to be close to the fabulous Pacific Ocean and our gorgeous, sandy beaches. But, for people with disabilities, all that sand can be nothing but a barrier to enjoying a beach day with their family, so LA County is once again acting to **make sure our beaches are ever more accessible and inclusive.**” (Kuehl Happenings, April 17, 2021; emphasis added)

Since the April 8th PPCC meeting, the PPCC Executive Committee has learned that under the terms of the settlement under discussion in *Alliance for Human Rights v. City of Los Angeles* (the *Alliance* case), the **State**

beach and County-operated parking lots would not fall within the scope of potential court-mandated sites because the City would only be obligated to contribute *City-owned land*. Councilmember Bonin is very familiar with Pacific Palisades and should know that there are no feasible City-owned sites in our community; *if there were, he would have proposed them*.

We have also learned that: 1) on April 15, 2021, the City submitted a Quarterly MOU Status Report in the *Alliance* case, specifically listing the *State-owned* parking lots at Will Rogers State Beach and Dockweiler Beach, with “50 shelters” at each site, as part of CD 11’s participation in the Sheltering Plan for each Council District (“Proposed Additional Interventions”); and 2) as early as November and December, 2020, Councilmember Bonin and/or staff may have engaged in communications with Coastal Commission staff and one or more County Supervisors regarding use of the state beach parking lots to shelter homeless individuals.

Councilmember Bonin should have known that any proposed use of the state beach parking lots would be strongly opposed (indeed, over 1000 written public comments in opposition have been submitted to date in CF 21-0350). He was less than forthright with his constituents about the actual plans when he failed to mention prior communications with relevant parties.

The PPCC Executive Committee decries this lack of transparency from our elected City representative in the strongest possible terms.

At this time, we respectfully urge that the Will Rogers State Beach and Dockweiler Beach parking lots be removed as proposed locations for homeless housing in connection with ongoing settlement negotiations and/or as part of the Sheltering Plan for CD 11 proposed by the City in the *Alliance* case.

PPCC will submit its Position Statement regarding CF 21-0350 to the HPC shortly after the April 22, 2021 Board meeting, when an overwhelming Board vote in opposition to the proposed uses is fully expected. See proposed Position Statement at: <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PPCC-Position-Statement-CF21-0350R.pdf>.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this serious concern.

PPCC Executive Committee

David Card, Chair	Christina Spitz, Secretary
David Kaplan, Vice Chair	John Padden, Organization Representative (PRIDE)
Richard Cohen, Treasurer	Joanna Spak, Area Representative (Area 1, Castellammare, Paseo Miramar)

cc (via email):

Hon. Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney
Scott Marcus, Sr. Assistant Los Angeles City Attorney
Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor, CSD 3
Hon. Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County Supervisor, CSD 4
Gary Jones, Director, Los Angeles County Dept. of Beaches & Harbors
John “Jack” Ainsworth, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission
Steve Hudson, District Director, South Coast District, LA County, California Coastal Commission