



MIKE BONIN

City of Los Angeles
Councilmember, Eleventh District

Dear PPCC:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the board and the Pacific Palisades community regarding my recent proposals to confront the unprecedented homelessness crisis facing our neighborhoods and our city. The severity of this crisis demands we act urgently, compassionately, and in all parts of Los Angeles.

I have heard the significant opposition to my motion asking City departments to evaluate a variety of locations throughout the Westside as temporary sites for safe camping, safe parking, or a cabin community. In response to that opposition, I understand the Pacific Palisades Community Council has taken a straw poll and is considering a formal action opposing evaluation of a part of the parking lot at Will Rogers Beach in Pacific Palisades, and also opposing evaluation of locations in other neighborhoods.

Homelessness is the biggest crisis Los Angeles has faced in generations. We need a wide menu of solutions, and we need to implement them anywhere we can. We need thousands of beds in the 11th District alone. We have been opening permanent supportive housing, interim or bridge housing, safe parking, safe camping and other programs in various parts of District 11 -- in Venice, Del Rey, West LA, Westchester, and at the VA in Brentwood. My motion proposes that Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, and Mar Vista also be a part of the solution.

To respond to the current crisis, and while we build, rehab or locate sufficient long term housing, we need emergency measures to save lives and get people off the streets. We are seeking locations for sites, with security, sanitation and necessary services, where unhoused people could sleep in either small cabins, tents, or their vehicles. Whether it be cabin communities, safe camping, or safe parking, the sites would be managed by service providers -- unlike the unregulated sidewalk encampments that will persist throughout Los Angeles if we do nothing. Finding locations on the Westside for such programs is challenging, and it leaves us to examine the limited inventory of property owned by government agencies, such as the city, the county, the state, and LAX.

In 2018, I wrote to each neighborhood or community council in the 11th District, asking for help identifying locations for homeless housing, shelter, or services in each council's

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respective community. PPCC made no recommendations. In March 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the City announced plans for an emergency homeless shelter at the Pacific Palisades Recreation Center, many people, including members of the PPCC, strongly objected and instead suggested use of the beach lots. While the City ultimately opted not to open the emergency shelter during the Stay at Home order, the homelessness crisis has only worsened, and the urgency for a solution is greater today than ever.

No location is ideal. Any location will face challenges and opposition. But that does not reduce the urgency or diminish the need to act. Tens of thousands of people live on our streets. Five of them die there every day. Economic forecasts predict homelessness, nationally and locally, will increase significantly. We must act.

As I stated at your April 8 meeting, I am happy to consider alternatives to the Will Rogers parking lot. Three years ago, my then colleague Herb Wesson proposed bridge housing in Koreatown, and the idea was met with fierce opposition. Members of the community, recognizing the extent of the crisis and acknowledging they needed to respond in their neighborhood, worked with Mr. Wesson to find a different location in Koreatown.

I trust that residents of Pacific Palisades understand the severity of this crisis, and that the collective wisdom and heart of this amazing community can help craft a preferred alternative. ***Accordingly, I respectfully request that PPCC form a task force to identify potential locations, in Pacific Palisades, for use as homeless housing or temporary shelter.*** I will gladly entertain and seek evaluation of any locations suggested, and I look forward to solutions we can jointly support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bonin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Bonin".

MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District