



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 16, 2019

Michelle Bisnoff, Chair, Brentwood Community Council (via email: info@brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org)

Re: PPCC Support for Brentwood Community Council (BCC) Amicus Brief in *City of Boise v. Martin, et al.*
(Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the Supreme Court of the United States)

Dear Ms. Bisnoff:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the most broad-based organization and voice of the Palisades community since 1973. As you know, Pacific Palisades is a community of about 25,000 bordered by the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Monica Mountains and located to the west of the community of Brentwood within the City of Los Angeles. Brentwood and Pacific Palisades are in effect sister communities which share many of the same concerns and goals.

The PPCC Executive Committee has reviewed the Amicus Brief to be filed by BCC (Amicus Brief) as well as the Petition for Writ of Certiorari filed by the City of Boise in the above referenced case (Petition). On behalf of PPCC, the Executive Committee expresses PPCC's strong support for the Amicus Brief.¹ Specifically, we agree with the argument that review by the Supreme Court of the United States is necessary to provide clarity in light of apparent conflicts with United States Supreme Court precedent and federal appellate and state supreme court opinions, as noted in the 6-judge dissent to the opinion of the Ninth Circuit in the underlying case (*Martin v. City of Boise* (9th Cir.), __ 3rd WL 143404, April 1, 2019).

It is a matter of public record that a severe homelessness crisis exists in Los Angeles, with burgeoning overnight camping and sleeping on sidewalks and other public property throughout the City and attendant trash, drugs, vermin and disease. We are familiar with the deplorable conditions in Brentwood and elsewhere as described in the Amicus Brief and the Petition -- conditions that have been the subject of national attention and clearly present major public health and safety challenges. As noted by BCC, regulation of such activity may be an effective tool to encourage service-resistant homeless individuals to accept services and housing (which Los Angeles is seriously addressing through voter-approved measures to facilitate construction of supportive housing).

The Palisades community has also been severely impacted by homelessness. Homeless individuals sleep on our sidewalks and camp in our ocean bluffs and park areas in the midst of residential neighborhoods (all of which are designated High Fire Hazard Severity Zones), resulting in dangerous fire conditions and other threats to public health and safety. While our respected local volunteer organization -- the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness -- has had some success, due to our unique conditions, in reducing hazardous encampments, we remain concerned with ongoing impacts on public health and safety should there be a future determination that our bluffs and park areas (public property) are not subject to regulation of overnight camping under the Ninth Circuit decision in *Martin v. City of Boise, supra*. For all of these reasons, PPCC supports the BCC Amicus Brief and respectfully urges review by the United States Supreme Court of the underlying Ninth Circuit decision.

Sincerely,

Christina Spitz, Secretary, for George Wolfberg, Chair, Pacific Palisades Community Council

¹ Acting pursuant to PPCC's Bylaws, Art. V, Sec. 3(B).