

**Background Information: Motions by the Executive Committee**

**1) To support the resolution in CF 21-0929; and**

**2) For Board approval of letter to CM Bonin re sensitive uses**

On September 3, 2021, the so-called “anti-camping” ordinance, recently passed in City Council, goes into effect. See: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-1376-S1\\_ord\\_187127\\_09-03-21.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-1376-S1_ord_187127_09-03-21.pdf).

The ordinance provides for certain limited areas (for example, near driveways and fire hydrants) where individuals are banned from using the sidewalk or other public-rights-of-way (PROW) to “sit, lie, sleep, store, use, maintain or place personal property,” i.e., to set up homeless encampments.

It also provides that in some areas near sites that are designated as “sensitive” (schools, day care centers, public parks and libraries), this activity (camping in the PROW) may be banned up to 500 ft from the sensitive site, but *only if* the Councilmember first brings a resolution in City Council to designate the site as sensitive; the Council passes the resolution; and signs banning the activity are then posted at the site, with enforcement (mainly issuance of citations) to occur 14 days after signs are posted.<sup>1</sup>

On August 17, 2021, Councilmember Joe Buscaino brought a resolution in Council (second by Paul Koretz) seeking designation of **all public (LAUSD) schools in Los Angeles** (including all public schools in Pacific Palisades) as sensitive sites where homeless encampments could be banned within a 500 ft. radius. The schools are listed in an attachment to the resolution. See: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0929\\_misc\\_08-17-21.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0929_misc_08-17-21.pdf).

The Executive Committee regards this resolution as a reasonable, common-sense approach. The City’s public schools are known and easily identified; it would be a waste of time and public resources for Councilmembers to bring scores of resolutions in Council in order to designate individual public schools as sensitive, as would otherwise be required under the anti-camping ordinance.

The existence of widespread homeless encampments, particularly those in the PROW throughout the City, has been THE presenting issue in Los Angeles for at least the past year. We are advised that encampments have grown in the PROW adjacent to school property at many LAUSD schools throughout the district and the City, presenting dangerous conditions unacceptable for students and school staff. Here is one example in South LA: <https://abc7.com/south-los-angeles-homeless-elementary-school-gerald-a-lawson-academy/10565069/>. Recent reports and commentary about a dangerous encampment outside of Westminster School in Venice can be found in: <https://www.westsidcurrent.com/brentwood/>. See also the Venice NC position regarding Westminster School: <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/westminster-school-safety.pdf>.

Although the Palisades hasn’t yet seen tent encampments near our schools, we do observe unhoused individuals sleeping in the PROW and other public areas in the vicinity of schools. We know from PPTFH reports that homeless persons are making their way to Pacific Palisades in increasing numbers. The community’s deep concern about the overall issue – including where and how homeless housing/shelter/encampments should be sited -- was made evident in the near-universal opposition to the ill-conceived idea to use Will Rogers State Beach for homeless housing. It is clear that protecting our children and supporting our schools, both public and private, are priorities for Palisadians. Passage of motion #1 – support for the resolution in CF 21-0929 – would be consistent with these priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> Schools, day care centers, public parks and libraries are defined terms in LAMC Sec. 105.01 (a provision of the City cannabis ordinance which the anti-camping ordinance references). The definitions of these sensitive uses include private and public schools as well as open space areas. The cannabis ordinance prohibits certain cannabis-related activities within a radius of these sites. However, unlike the anti-camping ordinance, the cannabis ordinance does not require that Councilmembers bring “pre-enforcement” resolutions in City Council in order to designate individual sites as sensitive uses.

Palisadians also have an extensive history of protecting and preserving our wonderful public parks for the use and enjoyment of all – especially families and children. The Palisades branch library is a treasured resource that our community has long-supported. Unfortunately, unhoused individuals, often with mental health or substance abuse issues, are frequently found sleeping in or near the library and our parks. We are grateful for the continuing work of PPTFH and its partners in working to keep the community safe and to offer services and housing to these individuals. A ban on sleeping in the PROW within 500 ft. of these sites would assist PPTFH and serve to protect the community. Motion #2 – asking the board to approve a letter for our Councilmember bring a resolution in Council to designate our schools, day care centers, parks and libraries as sensitive uses – is a step in this direction. See: <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PPCC-Letter-Bonin-Sensitive-Uses.pdf>.

The proposed letter is an omnibus request similar to the resolution in CF 21-0929, but it is focused solely on sites *in our community*, which, per the ordinance, must be brought by our Councilmember for designation by the City Council. It also addresses sites which aren't addressed in the resolution in CF 21-0920 – private schools and day care centers, in addition to parks and libraries. Bringing one resolution to designate all of these sites in the Palisades would again avoid Councilmembers having to consider multiple individual resolutions for each of these sites.

In both the motion to support CF 21-0929 (motion #1) and the proposed letter (motion #2), we also request that the “radius” prohibition be specified as **500 ft. from the exterior boundary** of each of the sites. This would help ensure that the distance is not measured from interior locations within each site and the community would be afforded maximum protection.

*PPCC Executive Committee*  
*September 3, 2021*