



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 18, 2023

To: Carolyn Jordan, Chair, Brentwood Community Council (via email)

Re: PPCC Support for Brentwood Community Council (BCC) Amicus Brief in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* (Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the Supreme Court of the United States)

Dear Ms. Jordan:

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 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 Grants Pass in the above referenced case (Petition) expresses PPCC's strong support for the Amicus Brief.¹ Specifically, we agree with the argument that review by the US Supreme Court is necessary to provide clarity in light of apparent conflicts with Supreme Court precedent and federal appellate and state supreme court opinions, as noted in the 17-judge dissent to the opinion of the Ninth Circuit in the underlying case (*Johnson v. City of Grants Pass (9th Cir.)*, Nos. 2035752 and 20-355881 (9th Cir.), (July 5, 2023) (amended opinion upon denial of rehearing).

It is a matter of public record that a severe homelessness crisis exists in Los Angeles, with ever increasing numbers of encampments in neighborhoods across Los Angeles and on public property throughout the City. Since we last wrote, various ordinances have been drafted and earnest attempts made at addressing the crisis which grows in number each year. Still, the attendant trash, drugs, and disease continues unabated. 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 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, but to date,

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

efforts undertaken through voter-approved measures to facilitate construction of supportive housing have not translated into appreciable reduction in homelessness.

The Palisades community, like others, has been severely impacted by homelessness. Homeless individuals sleep on our sidewalks and camp along our bluffs and park areas, set in 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 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 *Grants Pass, supra*.

For all these reasons and more, PPCC supports the BCC Amicus Brief and respectfully urges review by the United States Supreme Court of the underlying Ninth Circuit decision.

Sincerely,
Maryam Zar,
President, Pacific Palisades Community Council