



# Mar Vista Community Council



## MINUTES

### HOMELESS ISSUES COMMITTEE (HIC)

<http://www.marvista.org//homeless-committee.php>

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 6:30pm – 7:45pm

Mar Vista Branch Library

12006 Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90066

1. **Call to order** *Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Armond Seretti, Committee Chair.*
2. **Introduction.** *Mr. Seretti welcomed all attendees. He explained the committee process, explaining that all attendees are equal, voting members of the committee.*

*Motion was made and passed, moving Hannah Levien, CD11 representative forward, to enable her to speak prior to departure for another commitment (LAPD Community-Police Advisory Board, CPAB). Her remarks were as follows:*

1. **Mar Vista Farmers Market.** *The Bureau of Street Services permit has been extended to include sidewalks. Additionally, LAPD is authorized to “move the interference” from sidewalks.*
  2. **405/Venice Blvd Encampment.** *Water and sewer lines are currently being laid to enable portable a shower unit to be used on-site. This will occur 1 – 2x per week, with an attendant present.*
3. **Public Comment for Items NOT on This Agenda –** *Of the more than 100 attendees, approximately 20 spoke about their concerns with the homeless situation and impact on the community. These stakeholders included residents of Mar Vista as well as business owners. Key topics included:*
    - *Drug abuse, associated exposure to used needles. Hundreds found in neighborhoods, on school campuses.*
    - *Crime associated with homeless in the community – shoplifting, indecent exposure, harassment, threats, tagging*
    - *Request for LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) or other LAPD presence at the Homeless Issues Committee meeting*
    - *Encouragement for neighbors to come together for the community, as organized coalition(s)*

#### 4. **New Business –**

**4.1 – [MOTION] [Referral from BOD back to HIC] – Request for increased presence and community engagement from LAPD** - This motion/petition was sent back to committee after passing through unanimously while the HIC was still under the direction of the previous Chairs. The chair has revised the motion to be inclusive only of issues within the purview of the HIC and it will need to be reviewed and voted on in committee prior to being sent back to the BOD for consideration. *Seretti explained the basis of the revisions to the draft motion. Discussion ensued as follows:*

1. **Removal of the exhaustive list of drug/controlled substances –** *At the 07/09/19 MVCC BOD meeting the author of the original motion, Robyn Doyno, voiced his disapproval with the “exhaustive” list of drugs. Out of respect for the original author of the motion and his work and without changing the intent of the request the list of drugs has been removed. Clarified that the list could not be fully inclusive, and is unnecessary beyond reference to “controlled substances”.*
2. **Removal of reference to specific encampments –** *Given the nature of the encampments it would be best to not mention any area specifically. By listing specific encampments we run the risk of an encampment moving and having to pass a similar motion every month.*
3. **Added option of bicycle or mounted patrol in addition to “walking” –** *By requesting LAPD to “walk” we limit our request to walking. Theoretically LAPD could say that they do not or*

cannot offer walking patrol for this area. The more options the better.

4. Any and all reference to the creation of Neighborhood Watch groups – This is an item for the HICs parent committee, Public Health and Safety Committee. The Homeless Issues Committee should concentrate on issues directly related to assisting homeless individuals or people affected by homelessness. While an individual Neighborhood Watch group may choose to include reporting and documenting the actions of homeless individuals it is the opinion of the Chair that by assisting in the creation a Neighborhood Watch program within the Homeless Issues Committee it is too easy to create the impression of bias against homeless individuals. The Chair fully recognizes, acknowledges, and has been a victim to crime committed by homeless individuals however also recognizes the need to compartmentalize business into their appropriate committees. *Stakeholders questioned the exclusion of Neighborhood Watch; Seretti reaffirmed it as a viable option that would be worked at the Public Health and Safety Committee. Stakeholder request to consider a “joint committee”.*
5. *Paragraph 2 of the draft letter from MVCC to LAPD was further revised by Committee to removed specific reference to Venice Blvd., with the objective of restricting coverage especially given the increasing range of encampments, as follows:*

*Uniformed officers to walk, cycle, or ride on horseback ~~Venice Blvd. and nearby on streets~~ **within the jurisdiction of MVCC** with known encampments at least twice daily.*

*Motion to move forward to Homeless Issues Committees parent committee Public Health and Safety as amended, made by Sean Combs and seconded by Adriana de la Cruz. Motion passes without objection.*

**4.2 – [FUNDING] - Color reproduction of the HIC created “Homeless Resource Guide”** - Approval of an appropriation of not to exceed \$300 to cover two sided, trifold, color the “Homeless Resource Guide”. This guide includes all known resources to assist homeless individuals and is equally useful to both homeless individuals and homeless advocates.

- *Eloise Nelson, Librarian, noted that she had an updated version that she would share with Seretti prior to publication.*
- *Seretti took the action to verify currency (phone numbers, websites, names) and update the Guide accordingly prior to publication.*
- *Motion by Christopher McKinnon to print in black and white rather than color; seconded by Rob Watkins. Motion passes without objection.*
- *Motion to approve of item 4.2 as amended made by Armond Seretti, seconded by Rob Watkins. Motion passes without objection.*

**4.3 – [ADMINISTRATIVE] Mission Statement** - Roundtable discussion regarding the mission statement of the Homeless Issues Committee. *Motion to move this item to next meeting made by Seretti; seconded by Jared Woods. Motion passes without objection.*

5. **Future Agenda Items – *Mission Statement***
6. **Adjourn – (no later than 7:45)**