



Mar Vista Community Council



HOMELESS ISSUES SUB-COMMITTEE WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REMOTE MEETING AGENDA

Minutes DRAFT

Date: 8/19/20 6:30-7:45PM

PUBLIC WELCOME

ALL ATTENDEES ARE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

To attend a meeting by phone, call 720-707-2699 and enter Meeting ID 987 2054 9076 followed by # to join.

To attend by device, go to <https://zoom.us/j/98720549076>.

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Once you join the meeting, all participants will be able to see and hear everything within your device's camera and microphone range. All meetings are recorded. Please use the “mute” feature when not speaking and the “raise hand” feature (*9) to be recognized.

Our Mission Statement: The Homeless Issues Sub-Committee mission is to promote stakeholder input concerning homeless issues in our community. The Committee encourages involvement, provides relevant information and resources, acts as advocate and liaison, and supports viable and equitable solutions.

1. Welcome and Call to Order 6:32 pm
2. Introductions Co-Chairs introduced themselves
3. Ex-Parte Communications and Conflicts of Interest None
4. Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes (from 7/15/20 posted on MVCC website) **Approved R.S. motion, T.P second, approved.**
5. Public Comment for Items Not on This Agenda (2 minutes per person).

K.W HH funds wasted, system not set up to help people who can make use of housing

V.P. Gateway encampment discussed WLA efforts

N.S. clean-ups around Bridge Housing not resumed, low rate of COVID among homeless population

D.H. City can’t handle HHH

L.J. NIMBYS block efforts

C. Mentioned Project Room Key at Cheviot

T.R. density issues

D. mentioned Plum map

K.W. planters downtown challenged in court

R.W. mentioned police survey

T. why fire stations not used for homeless shelters

6. Announcements
7. Reading of Community Letters sent to HIC Diana S, read letter she wrote regarding 405 encampment (see attached). All in attendance were appreciative of her sharing her letter. Rob W. mentioned letters he has received about Bowlero encampment, needles and garbage, unsafe conditions.

8. Encampment Reports
 - 8.1 405 – *R.S. asked N.S. to discuss pilot project. N.S. said is a 6 week project in 2nd week. 3 weeks of housing help with expectation to move in 6 weeks,*
 - 8.2 Bowlero/Post Office – *H.E. Bowlero responsive but no \$. A volunteer is creating a landscape plan, a nursery is donating. Alley fencing is possible but very expensive*
 - 8.3 Wasatch – *T.P. had been better, working on creative solutions, laws make it easy to keep doing drugs in encampments*
 - 8.4 Park – *T.R. feels helpless with kids, homeless people, drugs, unsafe. Many concurred.*
9. Motion – Discussion and possible vote on MVCC HIC motion to provide Mar Vista with a consistent and obvious police presence

Background: The MVCC Homeless issues Committee, MV residents and especially those in homes adjacent to the 405/Sepulveda underpass, are angered and frightened by dangers we witness in and around neighborhood homeless encampments. These include shootings, stabbings, fencing operations, drug trafficking, drug sales every few minutes day and night, prostitution, indecent exposure, trespassing, defecation in yards, persons passed out in yards and on alleys and sidewalk with needles in their arms, hazardous materials and garbage piled. Social workers and other social services have been “engaging” at MV encampments for years now to little avail. The 405 and MV Park encampments are larger than ever, and encampments now line Venice Boulevard’s “Great Street.”

Motion: The MVCC Homeless Issues Committee finds our police officers provide critical services that are necessary to address the urgent needs of the Mar Vista community as we deal with our homeless crisis. We move the City of Los Angeles to provide Mar Vista with a consistent and obvious police presence in our neighborhoods that will allow them to work collaboratively with our neighbors to address and prevent crime and assist in the provision of social services by other public agencies.

Discussion:

K.W. LAPD too expensive

E.J. Add funding, growing encampments, open fires, open drug use, amazon boxes

R.W. ocean view with three new tents, bike parts

T. smoke under bleachers at park near where she and children sat, open fire bbq

D. Homicides up, homeless against homeless

R.W. Police 28% of budget

K.C. homeless avoid shelters, afraid of being picked up on warrants, racial issues, philosophy of policing, father was homeless, arrested, in prison, disrupted family, generational issues police brutality, increasing police does not solve problems.

Amendments added: “no reduction in funding” “mandated de-escalation training.”

Motion passed: y 19 n 4 a 3

Amendments passed: y 19 n 2 a 2

PASSED Motion: The MVCC Homeless Issues Committee finds our police officers provide critical services that are necessary to address the urgent needs of the Mar Vista community as we deal with our homeless crisis. We move the City of Los Angeles to provide Mar Vista with a consistent and obvious police presence in our neighborhoods, ***with no reduction in police funding***, that will allow them to work collaboratively with our neighbors to address and prevent crime and assist in the provision of social services by other public agencies. ***We further move that funding be allocated for mandated de-escalation training.***

10. Second Round of Public Comment *None*

11. Adjournment

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- * PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.
- * PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS - MVCC agendas are posted for public review at Mar Vista Recreation Center, 11430 Woodbine Street, Mar Vista, CA 90066

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- * PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website, <http://www.marvista.org>, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, contact secretary@marvista.org.
- * RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS - For information on MVCC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the MVCC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website, <http://www.mar-vista.org>.

Attachments

[Letter by MV resident to Councilmember Bonin regarding 405/Sepulveda homeless encampment:](#)

I am writing to the public servants of this neighborhood with the most sincere plea for help humanly possible: We require emergency mental health services at the Globe/Venice encampment because people are in a world of pain with no end in sight, and it is utterly inhumane to let it continue as it is.

This afternoon, a woman with a shopping cart was crying and screaming at the top of her lungs in our alley. My husband and I looked out the window to see an absolutely horrifying sight: the encampment woman was slashing her wrist with a knife as hard as she could. My husband screamed stop then called 911 while I asked what I could do to help her. She fled the scene, screaming the whole way up Sawtelle.

This is coming off the heels of last night where I had to call the police because there were two encampment "regulars," both using drugs and sitting in the alley: one being an elderly woman who smokes a crack pipe and has schizophrenic episodes, the other being a man who has once passed out on our home with his penis exposed. His penis was also exposed last night, and I could not in good conscience leave the elderly woman unprotected overnight, so we called the police on the man with exposed genitals, but the police never came :(

This is all coming off the heels of the third overdose in one year behind our home where my husband and I were first responders to what appeared to be a corpse with a heroin needle sticking out of his arm.

I am not a NIMBY. I want homeless people to get all of the quality shelters, housing, services, and care they deserve. I am a human being with a heart who knows what is happening here is wrong. Our city is killing people and calling it compassionate for letting unhoused people have the right to camp. Our city's leaders are complicit if they sit there and look the other way to the incessant cries for help. We are leaving mentally ill and drug addicted people to their own devices as they are mercilessly preyed upon by drug dealers while receiving paltry services, and the outcome is a hellish nightmare.

I beg all of you: look within your heart. This encampment needs to change. It is INSANITY to allow it to persist as is. How many shootings, stabbings, overdoses, destruction, and violence has to occur before you say enough is enough, and you come up with a better way?

Please think of the woman who committed self-harm in anguish today. You didn't see it, but her pain is real. Think about the heroin addict who exposes his penis to the whole neighborhood. Think about the elderly woman who smokes from her crack pipe then screams at her imaginary friend. Think about the people who overdose behind Fatburger with needles poking out of their flesh. What if these were your loved ones? I hope you would want to do better for them.

Please don't let this be just another email. Please.

DRAFT