



## AGENDA- WHWCNC HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING-MINUTES

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020-6:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting By Teleconference**

### **Virtual Meeting by Teleconferencing and Phone number for Public Participation**

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically.

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**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO ACTION, INCLUDING A MOTION AND VOTE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT SUBMITSSION**

## **AGENDA**

**Committee Members:** Ray Cole-, Gina Thornburg-, Aaron Quantz, Komalpreet Batth, John Sandy Campbell, Tadeh Kennedy

**Present Committee Members:**

Tadeh Kennedy, Gina Thornburg, Aaron Quantz, Ray Cole, Komalpreet Batth, John Sandy Campbell

### **1. Call to Order**

- Welcome New Member
- Roll Call
- General Public Comment On Non Agenda Items- **Public Comment: 2 minutes.**
  - Ray Cole-Please fill out your Census form-Important for services. Aaron Quantz- Important to fill out the census as we are taxed and don’t get our money back
  - Gina Thornburg-calling attention to Mitch O’Farrel’s recent announcement-would like to look at his review of all of the approaches to homelessness in the city. Look up the link for his recent announcement-he is frustrated with the current approaches.
- Approval of Minutes-postponed until next meeting

### **2. Homeless Encampments in Woodland Hills Streets and Underpasses**

Discussion and possible action:

- Winnetka
- Corbin
- Shoup
- Fallbrook
- Variel
- Other Locations
  - Gina-Chance for public officials-courtesy call from Veronica Vos-multiple locations and styles of housing for the public. Should she speak first?

**WOODLAND HILLS - WARNER CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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- Ray Cole-Would like to give the public a chance to speak first, then let Representatives from Blumenfields office address any questions that the public may have
- Aaron Quantz-regularly go to underpasses under Tampa and Corbin. When it was hot out, provided water and talked to homeless individuals there, looked them in the eye and treated them with dignity. Homeless sweeps keep occurring. This game of Whack-a-mole has to end.
- Veronica Vos, CD3 Office-Chatting a little about the plan to house homeless individuals. We want the circle of insanity of moving people without some shelter beds to stop
  - Judge Carter proposal-something similar compromise to what he proposed in 28 smaller cities in Orange County. 60/40 agreement-If you can provide shelter beds for at least 60% of the people in the district per the last homeless count, then we can enforce people not sleeping on sidewalks because there will be a shelter bed available. It is effective in orange county. Judge Carter has issued an injunction in the meantime that compels each Council District create shelter beds for all those under overpasses and all those over 65. Councilmember Blumenfield likes the idea and tasked his staff to identify areas in the district. Spent the last several months reaching out to 60 or 70 property owners and have identified 8 locations with projects that they are going ahead with. Two of them are smaller
  - Tarzana Treatment Center (TTC)-funding to add an additional house. Linked with Tarzana, Providence, and Cedar Sinai Hospital. They have placed Patient Navigators in the emergency room. People are four times more likely to get help in the Emergency Room (ER) when they are near overdose than they will when approached on the street. Also have found funding to add 36 beds to their domestic violence shelter.
  - Bridge housing facility coming in this winter that they have been working on for three years with 80 beds.
  - Safe Parking in Canoga Park-Jordan Avenue.
  - Two Project Room Key hotels that will be converted into Project Home Key locations-one in Canoga Park and one in Reseda.
  - Important that these shelter locations are spread across the district.
  - Two cabin communities are also slated to come in. most innovative and most untested. They are tiny homes with air conditioning. There will be water hookups for communal laundry and showers. There are privacy fences up. 24/7 security, food provided, and homeless services.
    - Reseda behind the CD3 office
    - Tarzana near Tarzana Crossing in a metro parking lot near Reseda and Topham st.
  - These will provide hundreds of shelter beds, as we currently have about 35 shelter beds west of the 405. The CD3 office has been getting some pushback from businesses and neighbors in the community near this site
- Gina Thornburg-more that we can do to support the council members efforts-can we be provided a list of the housing sites or programs so we can write a letter of support to help the councilmember along. Curious Why didn't you mention Woodland Hills? Woodland Hills needs to step up to the plate. Warner Center has hundreds of empty acres. There are development projects slated for some of these acres, but as you know they take time. Innovative program in Oakland that takes place on asphalt. People get their own section of asphalt and there are communal and supportive services. Should be a way that we utilize

some of the unused space where they can have access to the supportive services they need to get housed.

- Veronica Vos-We did try Woodland Hills. We reached out to developers, property owners and we got shouted at and called names. Some were open to it but it fell through. We will need a few more beds to meet the 60/40 requirement as the current plan will not get us there and the funding has halted. As of now, we are cut off from funding but we still have some irons in the fire that we are working on for next year. We feel that it is fair that there is at least one site in Woodland Hills.
- Gina Thornburg-Thank you for the remarks and CD3 office. I am completely appalled that there are 17k luxury apartments going into Warner Center and hundreds of acres of vacant asphalt that can be used. There is a vacant property that has been vacant for 14 years on Erwin and Owensmouth that could be utilized where homeless individuals are already staying there. Coldness of developers and property owners that don't live here while unhoused people are dying in the streets.
- Tadeh Kennedy-Is all the information for what is being put in place online? Also what are the requirements for those that are going into the cabin communities?
- Veronica Vos-not yet, it's all verbal while we contact community members and stakeholders so we can notify those in direct proximity. After that we will have something written. The Cabin Communities will be very low barrier, but those requirements will be finalized with the Homeless Service Provider once we have one that signs on.
- Aaron Quantz-Obvious that the homeless situation is based on unaffordability in the city. Need to build more affordable housing. Westfield will create service jobs, but people won't be able to stay within 20 miles of where they work. They should be working where they live to cut down on greenhouse emissions. Imperative that we utilize the twenty percent affordable housing as rents are going up and wages have been stagnate. It is difficult to rent here or own here. CD3 should look at permanent supportive housing with services, affordable housing built in and would like permanent supportive housing on every corner!
- Veronica Vos-projects are coming but they are 5 years down the line.
- Tim Glick-Did we mention safe parking currently going on behind our office? Zero issues with our safe parking. We have twenty five cars participating with no complaints from neighbors or onsite security, which leads us to believe there will be minimal issues with the cabin communities.
- Ray Cole-Thank you CD3 for putting together plausible solutions. With there being minimal shelters and shelter beds west of the 405, this will help alleviate the need for our unhoused. I think that with the pandemic going on and more people out of work, the numbers will only increase in the future.
- Veronica Vos-you will see fewer people under the overpasses, but that will only be when we have shelter beds for these individuals. We aren't driving people out and LAPD is not involved, people are being offered shelter and accepting it as we are trying this with backing from Judge Carter.
- Gina Thornburg-Pilot program-does it have a name? Also statements to make it illegal to stay on the sidewalk. People can accept housing or not, if they choose not to accept, where do they go?
- Aaron Quantz-is the pilot only CD3 right now?
- Veronica Vos-if they don't accept (they will have two week notice) you cannot be under the overpasses. They would have to stay elsewhere. Right now the project is just CD3 and just the overpasses.
- Sharon Brewer-I was just wondering if you have the numbers for each Neighborhood Council for the homeless? In Reseda, we have the Howard Johnson that will take care of

- some of the areas here. Are these taking into consideration. For the cabin communities in Tarzana and in Reseda behind CD3, does it say how many people will that accommodate?
- Veronica Vos-It's on LAHSA's website. Off the top of my head, 120 in Canoga Park, 150 in Woodland Hills, 150 in Reseda, 90 in Winnetka, and 75 in Tarzana. Two hotels are bought by the city and included in the numbers. Cabin Community during COVID-50 at Reseda and 75 at Tarzana. This could double when COVID is over and people can share cabins. Reseda has 150 individuals-75 rooms at the Howard Johnson and 50, perhaps double, for the cabin communities, Reseda is on Par
  - Aaron Quantz-For Woodland Hills Rec Center, have they found a place for those unhoused individuals?
  - Veronica Vos-Yes. They have all been moved and placed. People were connected and connected to the services.

### **3. Stakeholder Request-Homelessness 2020**

Discussion and possible action:

- Community Request-Canoga and Erwin-3/3/2020
- Homeless encampments-05/07/2020
- Corbin and Winnetka-7/23 &7/24
  - Ray Cole-Request are received through the phone line or stakeholder request on the website. I respond to the stakeholders to use LA-HOP.com and for some cases I will complete the request myself. In other cases, I will go out and do outreach with water and sandwiches and find out what they need, how they got there, and if I can connect the with services. In the future, Per Gina's suggestion, I will invite those that request assistance to come to our homelessness committee meeting so that we can address these requests as a committee.
  - Gina Thornburg-for a group or team effort, if the request come in they can be conveyed to the committee so that we can work on them as a team. I feel that the committee has been very disconnected from community concerns and I would like us to be more connected.
  - Ray Cole-will start providing these request to the full committee so that the committee members can go out to talk to the community members as well as our unhoused neighbors. Community action team within the committee to reach out.

### **4. Vital-Documents Envelopes for Unhoused Persons**

Discussion and possible action:

Motion:

[DRAFT MOTION]

**Title: Vital-Documents Envelopes for Unhoused Persons**

WHEREAS, clean-up operations conducted by the City of Los Angeles, including LA Sanitation's Livability Services Division, often remove and discard important identifying documents belonging to unhoused individuals; and

WHEREAS, these documents include driver licenses, birth certificates, Permanent Resident Cards, naturalization certificates, Social Security cards, paycheck stubs, and other vital documents; and

WHEREAS, unhoused individuals typically face extraordinary hurdles and barriers to replace these documents lost during sanctioned City clean-up operations and activities; and

WHEREAS, these hurdles and barriers include a lack of funds or administrative or technical resources and assistance to re-apply for these vital documents, as well as lengthy application processes; and

WHEREAS, unhoused individuals need these vital documents when seeking housing of any type, such that their loss results in a prolongation of their periods of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the loss of vital documents during clean-up activities has revealed a great need for a way to protect important and valuable documents of the unhoused community from City-mandated and -sponsored sweeps; and

WHEREAS, an effective approach toward protecting these documents is to provide, free of charge to the unhoused person, a durable, City-protected, resealable envelope that is easily identifiable by all City personnel, including employees of LA Sanitation's Livability Services Division and the LAPD's HOPE teams; and

WHEREAS, such an envelope would be transparent and stamped with the City of Los Angeles official seal so that when a clean-up is being conducted, City employees and officials can easily identify it as a Vital-Documents Envelope and handle it with special care, recognizing that it contains important documents; and

WHEREAS, City personnel conducting clean-ups through LA Sanitation's Livability Services Division, which includes CARE and HOPE teams, will be notified by their respective departments that the envelopes are legally protected from being seized and discarded during clean-up operations and are to be returned to the owner if they are inadvertently taken during the clean-up; and

WHEREAS, if, due to circumstances beyond the control of the clean-up teams, Vital-Documents Envelopes end up in their possession, a notice will be posted at the clean-up site with contact details as to how an unhoused person may retrieve their Vital-Documents Envelope; these details include the name of a human being to call and email, the address of the physical location where the Vital-Documents Envelope will be kept safe, a phone number, an email address, and a URL containing all of these details; and

WHEREAS, the use of a Vital-Documents Envelope will reduce the risk of losing important documents, which are needed to support unhoused individuals' efforts to leave their dire situations; and

WHEREAS, having clean-up-proof documents will quicken the process of finding housing; and

WHEREAS, durable, sealable and waterproof envelopes will help protect documents from being damaged by weather or other external forces; keeping documents clean and undamaged benefits the office personnel at homeless-services agencies and organizations in the Continuum of Care because office workers will encounter better-organized and cleaner documents rather than soiled, torn, and faded ones; and

WHEREAS, these Vital-Documents Envelopes should be offered to each unhoused person who makes contact with a homeless-services agency or organization or a lead agency operating in the City under the umbrella of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; and

WHEREAS, outreach workers from any homeless-services agency or organization or lead agency should offer these Vital-Documents Envelopes to unhoused individuals with a clear explanation of how these envelopes will protect their documents from being seized and discarded during City clean-up activities; and

WHEREAS, these Vital-Documents Envelopes should be purchased by the City of Los Angeles from its list of approved vendors and provided to every homeless-services agency and organization and lead agency operating under the umbrella of LAHSA; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Homelessness Committee of the WHWCNC ADVISES the board of the Woodland Hills–Warner Center Neighborhood Council to APPROVE this proposal for Vital-Documents Envelopes and to URGE Councilmember Bob Blumenfield and his colleagues on the Los Angeles City Council to immediately and urgently devise a cost-sharing arrangement with the County of Los Angeles to realize the purchase, allocation, and distribution of Vital-Documents Envelopes to all homeless-services agencies and organizations operating under the umbrella of LAHSA for the purpose of distribution to each unhoused Angeleno who comes into contact with these agencies and organizations.

- Aaron Quantz Second
- Aaron Quantz-Beautifully written
- Gina-It is an excellent and hopeful idea. It is positive, and grounded in reality that people lose their things when sweeps come through.
- Ray Cole-Will we offer this to organizations that don't fall under LAHSA
- Gina-I didn't know that-what would you suggest
- Ray Cole-Reach out to those organizations to have these sent out to LAHSA and other private organizations for the purpose of distribution to each unhoused Angeleno.
- Aaron Quantz-There are also faith based organizations that help too that may benefit from having this document folder, and they don't all have 501c3

- Gina Thornburg-at least 100 quasi-private organizations that work under LAHSA. Will approve with condition that I can correct the language that the city realized that livability services division is LSD, and I may need to change that.
- Ray Cole-Motion to approve using a different language for one of the organizations that acronym is LSD to what it has been changed to.
- Aaron Quantz seconds.
- Gina Thornburg-it will be a factual correction and I will research it.
- Vote:
  - Aaron Quantz-Yes
  - Tadeh Kennedy-Yes
  - Gina Thornburg-Yes
  - Ray Cole-Yes
  - Komalpreet Baath-Yes

## 5. Woodland Hills Homelessness General Matters

Discussion and Possible Action:

Discussions of general matters involving homelessness in the community

- Aaron Quantz-You see unhoused tent where they can, and these temporary shelters aren't worth anything. They need to build them permanent and supportive housing. We are being lazy, and mental health services are reduced. Personally it took me 3 service providers to get a mental health specialist and I was on the phone for 3 hours as a private citizen. Best mental health right now is jail and that is my final thought.
- Ray Cole- It is difficult for the housed, so it has to be difficult for the unhoused.
- Tadeh Kennedy-Possible solution for efficient communication. There is a website called Discord.com used by gamers, but it is efficient to transfer documents and chatrooms for different ideas. That came up earlier for more efficient ways of communicating through an app. I can start something
- Aaron Quantz-Can we put that on the next agenda
- Gina Thornburg-The bureau of neighborhood commissioners came up with a new digital communication policy for all neighborhood councils. John Sandy has discussed flyers and social media posts. The ruling seems to be that Committees cannot communicate directly with the public and that communication must come from the full board. Until the digital communication policy is settled, we should look into it more. Regarding using a third party app, we would be in violation of the Brown Act if it's a quorum. We wouldn't want to have more than three of us discussing something that is coming up on the agenda. Please don't interpret my comments as shooting down your idea or being negative. I would like to propose that our committee has a vice chair or co-chair along with Ray. Aaron has an idea to have meetings twice a month. Also, winter is coming. Woodland Hills is not only the hottest, but coldest place in the city. Weather had been down to 32 degrees here. Brainstorm on our own, any ideas to help unhoused during the



winter and put that on the agenda. Young girl has bundles of hope in Woodland Hills. Would like to invite her to speak to our committee. Not sure if she has formed a nonprofit.

- Ray Cole-During the month of October, LA Sanitation is doing a bundle drive. I like Bundles of Hope and we can do a drive with just us, or the full board, to donate items or do a collection.
- Gina Thornburg-what is the process of getting something on the website? West Valley Food Pantry desperately needs volunteers. Regarding the minutes, can we collaborate in the email to Vanessa?
- Ray Cole-Talk to Peter and get it added. I can add because I have access to our Social Media-How many people get the newsletter? All of our contacts receive the newsletter. I'll provide the numbers to the next meeting. We will collaborate.

## 6. Community Ending Homelessness Updates

Discussion and possible action:

- Continued discussion on Access Center for Woodland Hills
  - Board recommendation for the next agenda
  - I'm hoping that we can collaborate for that
- Discussion of the [Pallet Shelters](#)
  - Gina-Virtual tour-would be great to record the tour then present at a board meeting
  - Aaron-any time is good for me
  - Ray-If CD3 will go this route I will look at scheduling time.

## 7. Increased Public Involvement and Homelessness Information for Stakeholders

Discussion and possible action:

Creation of content for the website, stakeholder email blasts, and more public involvement-updates from Committee Members

- Ray Cole-Look into BONC Digital communication and the virtual tour
- Tadeh Kennedy-no advances on Social Media and I haven't reached out to John Sandy. A mission with the social media, can we revolve it around an informative platform. Not just in immediate Woodland Hills area, but State and Federal.
- Gina Thornburg-Tadeh, before you waste your time, check the Digital Communications Policy Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 2020. We have to find out what the vote is so that we can move forward.
- Ray Cole-Bring this to our committee next time to discuss the policy and how it affects our committee.

## 8. Woodland Hills Homelessness Volunteer Opportunities

Discussion and Possible Action:

Volunteer Plans for 2020

- Organizations to partner with in Woodland Hills for volunteering
- Food Drive Discussion, Partnering with the Public Safety Committee
  - Trying to do more with them, but it may just be an NPG if we can't get anything together. Can sponsor, but can't do the whole event
  - Aaron talked about the Church and doing volunteering with New Friends Homeless Center.

## 9. Adjournment of meeting:

WOODLAND HILLS - WARNER CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

20929 Ventura Boulevard Suite 47-535, Woodland Hills, CA 91364

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**The agenda may be revised prior to the meeting to add further items for discussion**

**Disabilities Act Notification:**

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