



A Woodland Hills Impacts and Policies (WHIP) Committee Meeting and Jointly with the WHWCNC Board Thursday, August 22, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm

Location - West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce
6100 Topanga Canyon Blvd. #1300, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Committee Members: (P = present, A = Absent)

Chair: Heath Kline (P)

Lauren Coffman (P), Angela Dawson (P), Martin Lipkin (P), Aaron Quantz (P), August Steurer (P)

Ex Officio- Joyce Fletcher (A)

Guests: Karen DiBiase, Sean McCarthy, Dennis DiBiase

Stakeholders and the public are permitted to address the Committee on any item on the Agenda prior to Committee actions on said item. It is requested speakers complete a "Speaker Card" and hand it to the Chair. Comments from Stakeholders and the Public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction on other matters not appearing on the Agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public Comment is limited to 20 minutes. Each speaker is limited to two minutes, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Committee.

Opinions, positions or actions taken by the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council do not represent or imply similar opinions held by the Owner, Landlord, L.A.U.S.D, Business or representatives of any venue hosting a meeting of the Council Board, or Committee.

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order 7:12 pm (Late Access)

- Roll Call (See committee list above)
- Public Announcements
- Public Comment period

Items for discussion and possible action:

1.0 Homeless Encampment in Brush Areas

Should the NC Board advise the City Council to prioritize a focus on removing homeless encampments in brush areas to limit the risk of wildfires that can cause extensive damage.

A motion was presented by Lauren Coffman based on prior discussion. There were questions related to cooking, inspection, enforcement, occupancy limits. Mention was made of the effort by Council District 3 office to remove encampments from the Los Angeles River area in the district.

Motion was amended and adopted unanimously with instructions for L. Coffman to fix typos and grammar as needed.

Motion to the Board

As pertaining to the increase of homeless encampments in high risk fire hazard areas, and in an effort to create a more safe environment for homeless encampments and their surrounding neighborhoods, the WHWCNC requests the Los Angeles City Council and Bob Blumenfield's office, Council District 3 to recognize and pursue the following: WHEREAS, there has been an increase of homeless encampments in brush-heavy hillside areas that pose a high fire risk: and,

WHEREAS, there has been an increase of fires in homeless encampments located in high fire risk areas; and,

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Fire Department has completed a survey of encampments in the city's high fire risk zones, finding a total of 191 possible encampments on both private and public land; and,

WHEREAS, some homeless people prefer these areas because they are away from the rest of society and thereby the encampment residents feel free of judgement and rules that restrict their stay in temporary shelters; and, WHEREAS, as stated by Karen Boyd, spokeswoman for the Oakland city administrator's office, "Homeless encampments are not regulated under the California fire code;" and, WHEREAS, currently, other California cities, such as Oakland, are proceeding with reviewing / rewriting their city's standard operating procedures around encampments; and, WHEREAS, Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Ralph Terrazas took a stance, after the Skirball fire has been possibly tied to a homeless encampment, that the encampments in heavy brush areas require the serious attention demanded of a public safety and trespassing issue; and, WHEREAS, not enough permanent housing or bridge housing to accommodate the number of homeless persons increases the number of homeless people living in encampments; and, WHEREAS, Mayor Garcetti has proposed removing encampments from areas of heavy brush only during High Fire Risk days, which only partially addresses the problem; and, WHEREAS, homeless encampments in heavy brush areas and in general, pose a threat of fire and safety to neighboring residents, schools and the public at large; THEREFORE, the Woodland Hills Impacts and Policies Committee recommends that the Board of the WHWCNC resolve to request that the following items be acted upon by the Los Angeles City Council, and the Mayor's office:

1. The Building Department and Fire Department need to recognize homeless encampments as Temporary Housing and need to create fire codes, and building safety codes regarding how and where an encampment can be located: ie: allowing encampments in cleared areas of brush only, requiring flammable substances to be located outside of tent areas separate and apart from cooking areas, trash containment must be in nonflammable bins, etc;
2. Los Angeles Recreation and Parks must define locations where homeless encampments can exist, that are secluded but do not create hazardous conditions adjacent to residences and public businesses and assembly areas;
3. Signage must be created and posted everywhere indicating High Fire Zone No Trespassing and the penalty of trespassing in non-encampment designated areas;
4. Recreation and Parks must create signage for locating in all public areas and parks prohibiting overnight camping and cooking from Dawn to Dusk, including a hotline number for the public to be able to report violations of trespassing;
5. Recreation and Parks must create signage where overnight camping is allowed that lists the laws governing usage of these camping areas, with a hotline number for the public to report violations.

The Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council requests Council District 3 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, the City Council and the Mayor's Office to review this request and kindly respond in writing to the President of the WHWCNC within 21 days of receipt.

2.0 Changes to City-wide Sign Ordinance ([CF 11-1705](#))

Should the NC Board support the proposed changes regarding off-site advertising signage under the sign ordinance? Should the NC Board recommend additional changes regarding on-site signs?

Ref: [8-8-19 Report from City Planning](#)

Ref: [Report from City Planning](#)

Ref: [Sign Ordinance Update](#)

Marty Lipkin presented a summary of the proposed ordinance followed by short period of comments. With regard to placement of off-site advertising outside of regional centers, the consensus was that there should be Neighborhood Council involvement as part of discretionary decisions. The committee chose to request Andrew Pennington to attend the next meeting to provide further information before voting on a motion.

3.0 Proposed Los Angeles Vacancy Tax ([CF 19-0623](#))

Should the NC Board support the investigation of creating a Vacancy tax on residence held vacant during a housing crisis as proposed by Councilmembers Bonin, Harris-Dawson, Ryu and Koretz.

Ref: [CF 19-0623](#)

Item was continued by the chair to a later meeting due to meeting time running out.

Approval of Available Minutes

Minutes for August 8 were approved unanimously.

Requests for topics for future meetings

Inclusionary Housing Policy within Community Plans (CF 19-0416)

Adjournment of meeting.

Meeting was adjourned around 9:30 pm.

Disabilities Act Notification:

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Public Access Of Records

In compliance with Government Code 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all the committee in advance of a meeting, may be viewed on the related event page at www.whcouncil.org or at the scheduled meeting.

If you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact: heathk@dpmforms.com

Public Input At WHIP Committee Meetings – *The public is invited to address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Those comments must be relevant to the issue under consideration. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda but are still within the Committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee 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 Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding Chair of the Committee.*

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