

Board approved July 2018, special board meeting



Wilmington Neighborhood Council

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Sylvia Arredondo, Chair
Valerie Contreras, Co-Chair
Cathy Familathe, Secretary
Moises Cortez, Treasurer

Reference: CF 18-0651 Bridge Housing and Safe Parking

Summary: Inasmuch as this project is vague and ambiguous, we cannot fully support CF 18-0651 BRIDGE HOUSING AND SAFE PARKING at this time.

The Wilmington Neighborhood Council Board members and liaisons have attended many meetings on this homeless issue. We previously filed CIS CF 17-1432.

There has been no proper clarification as to whether this will be SAFE PARKING or BRIDGE HOUSING for the indicated location. In order for an informed decision to be made we request that the following information be provided:

- The duration, scope and nature of the project. We are told 2-3 years but we are not given specifics. Will it be housing or safe parking?
- Number of occupants as well as if this will be single or family occupation
- List of qualifications and guidelines for those who will be admitted into these shelters
- List of security measures in place to insure guidelines are being properly followed
- Number of pets that will be cared for (as indicated in CF 18-0600-S2)
- Will security be administered by the police as indicated in the motion or will it be port police because it is port property or will it be implemented by private security like the United Way's presentation stated.
- What means for storage will be provided for personal belongings. In Joe Buscaino's YouTube Video of June 25th, he states it will be a LARGE facility. What is the definition of LARGE? Since the City figures state that this will only assist less than 1/3 of the homeless population in Wilmington. What are the plans for the other 70%? Given these statistics there is no reason to believe that these shelters will have much effect on our homeless.
- We move to have the State mental institutions reopened to meet the homeless needs of mental illness for those who are not ready for this next step into society.

Furthermore, there are serious health and environmental issues that have been woefully overlooked. The proposed address (828 Eubank Ave) is unique from the other proposed addresses as it has numerous environmental restrictions. According to ZIMAS the address in Wilmington is in a Methane Zone. These areas have a risk of methane intrusion emanating from geologic formations and there are strict regulations on such addresses so not to risk the outlying environment as well those who reside in the area. In the normal course of business this address would have had to have, at the very least, a gas probe test and a shallow soil test as prescribed under the Methane Code. This address in the normal course of Business would have been subject to CEQA (California Environment Quality Act). A full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would have been needed to evaluate potential impacts. This property also falls under Mayor Garcetti's own CUGU Ordinance (Clean Up Green Up) which protects residents in highly polluted areas. Since no study has been completed any action to move forward with this project is premature. The address is within a block of a Coastal Zone and is protected under the Tidelands Trust for Port properties. Although the City has broad discretion for these shelters, the desire to put a homeless shelter in this location should not outweigh but should be balanced against the health and environmental concerns listed above. We do not want the City to overlook these environmental risk facts but should adhere to these.

Stakeholders of Wilmington are not against homeless shelters. In fact, we have done more than our fair share. Wilmington currently has at least three homeless shelters and one Halfway House. (Beacon Light Mission, Doors of Hope, Last Chance Rescue Mission and Figueroa Place) Over 105 meals are served here daily. Medical, dental and prescription services are provided. Showers, clothing and hygiene items are also given. 40 people a day are given a place to sleep and the residents of Figueroa Place have permanent housing, counseling and job assistance. Our Churches provide food and clothing. We have grass root groups such as Heart of the Harbor that give out meals and hygiene items and we do it without any assistance from the City. Our stakeholders have been pleading with the City of Los Angeles for assistance for over the past 25 years when the City shipped its homeless from downtown Los Angeles to Wilmington just prior to the 1984 Olympics. Since very little assistance was provided, we acted on our own to support the homeless. <http://laeastside.com/2009/08/third-world/>

For the forgoing reasons we cannot fully support CF18-0651 Bridge Housing and Safe Parking at this time. Our residents deserve an opportunity to share any concerns and to provide alternate locations they feel may be better suited for this venture. To review any reports. To have Town Meetings to fully educate both our English and Spanish speaking stakeholders and to have our Councilman present during these meetings to answer questions. We request at least a 90- day delay before the City and CD15 make a decision on this location. Our Stake holders deserve to have our questions answered. They deserve to feel safe. We are in a community which is already overburdened with pollution from the rail roads, port, refineries, and port traffic. Our industrial areas are not fully industrial. They are mixed due to zoning. Industrial facilities are next to homes with small children who play there. We just don't see how this and the unforeseen issues that arise from this could be properly enforced by our short- staffed local police force who is already overwhelmed. We know that these homeless will not just be confined to these areas.

