

ENCINO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
HOMELESS COMMITTEE
Notes from initial meeting of Homelessness Committee
Encino Women's Club
4924 Paso Robles Avenue
Encino, CA 91316
7 PM to 8:30PM
November 7, 2018

In attendance: Encino Neighborhood Council: Patricia Bates(Co-Chair), Steven Turner (co-chair), Simone Best (Everyone In, presenter), Harry Sherman (Temple Judea)

Stakeholders: Daniel B. Spitzer, Jodie Francisco, James Wenclainski, Jenny Peebles

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Pat Bates.

Reasons for creation of the Encino Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee were discussed. The initial reason for formation of the Homelessness Committee is the current emphasis of Los Angeles government on dealing with the large increase in homelessness. The co-chairs of the Committee are in accord that it is a moral issue as well as a quality of life (for all involved) issue, and that action in addressing the very complex situation is long overdue.

Pat Bates provided information of use of LA-HOP and MyLA311 - resources that any person may use to address a homeless situation. Selected data from the 2018 Homeless Count for Encino and related communities was presented. In addition, the unfortunate consequences of the 1967 Lanterman-Petris-Short act (regarding conservancy) were reviewed in context of a 1987 article by Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, which concludes noting "The lessons of Lanterman-Petris-Short is that policy gridlock is one unanticipated consequence Californians cannot afford; 20 years is too long for any policy to stand uncorrected or unresolved. Such inattention lines the sidewalks." Well, we are another 30 years down the road, and more inattention than ever is lining the sidewalks. SB 1045, which was signed by Gov. Brown this fall, makes some modification to the conservancy laws for 3 counties including Los Angeles. Steven Turner made the apt observation that the homeless individuals are not monolithic – there are multiple causes requiring multiple solutions.

Simone Best did a presentation on facts about Bridge and Supportive housing, hoping to dispel some myths. That presentation will be made available on the Encino NC website.

Excellent questions came from the stakeholders. There was concern about the location of the proposed Sherman Oaks Supportive and Bridge housing. There was concern that the individuals would be put in the communities with no services planned. Mr. Spitzer asked the good question – Why is this a Neighborhood Council function, and what can the NC do? The explanation is that the NC is a conduit to the elected officials and agencies, and, while advisory only, may be well suited to both represent the community and to influence policy and actions.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the attending stakeholders agreed to be on the Encino Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee.

One item discussed was the large homeless population in the Bull Creek Area of the Sepulveda Basin, as well as areas adjacent to the Los Angeles River. Pat Bates suggested looking at some of the areas south of Victory Blvd. between Balboa Blvd. and the 405 Freeway, and especially between Woodley and the 405, for potential Bridge Housing. These areas are U.S. Government land, including armories, recruiting centers and even an abandoned cold-war Nike anti-aircraft missile launch site (LA-96) just north of the Tillman Sanitation Plant. Pat committed to discuss this idea with Lake Balboa neighborhood Council, representatives from CD6 and Re. Sherman's office.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2019 at 7pm

The meeting adjourned at 2045