

Bridge Home Alternative Letter

It has been nearly three years since the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council first acted on the homelessness issue. You may recall that our council was the first in the entire city to create a homelessness committee; it predated one being created by the Los Angeles City Council.

Of all the areas in your council district, the homelessness and housing crisis seems to be the most significant and visible in the Central San Pedro area; it impacts both businesses and residents.

The council previously resolved to support Mayor Eric Garcetti's new initiative, "A Bridge Home." We also urged you to explore a site for an emergency shelter in the Los Angeles Harbor Area.

A working group of Council 15 neighborhood council representatives, including Central San Pedro, has advised your office on potential sites. But we would have appreciated your office consulting our council on specific sites.

Unlike other neighborhood councils around Los Angeles, we are not generally opposed to emergency shelters; in times past, we have worked with other elected officials on addressing the homeless issue in the same manner.

Our council members and stakeholders are seriously interested in addressing the homelessness and housing crises in a humane and practical manner, especially since many social service non-profit organizations are located in our neighborhood.

It is time to deal with these issues head-on with the immediacy that is proportional to the size of the problem. However, we also know that it must be addressed in a manner that is considerate of community values and concerns, so that public input and consent is given before decisions are made, or government funds budgeted, for placement on a site.

We urge your office to provide your district's neighborhood councils with a report on the progress of your, and the city's, policies and plans regarding "A Bridge Home" within one month. We also urge you to apprise our homelessness committee of any relevant actions by your office so that we can provide counsel.