

**Marina del Rey
Lessees Association**

C/o Mr. Timothy C. Riley, Executive Director
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April 8, 2021

The Honorable Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 822
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Homeless housing in Marina del Rey

Dear Supervisor Hahn:

The Marina del Rey Lessees Association believes it is critical for the County and the City of Los Angeles to pursue thoughtful and prudent policies to address homelessness throughout the County.

The Association believes that every proposed approach and location deserves vetting which includes consideration of the views of adjacent property owners, impacted residents and businesses, and, in the case of Marina del Rey, the County's lessees.

On April 1, 2021, Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin introduced a motion that has been referred to the Homelessness and Poverty Committee of the Los Angeles City Council. This motion requests, among other things, the City Council to instruct the City Administrative Officer to evaluate and identify funding for a variety of projects for the well-intended purpose of housing homeless persons at various locations on the Westside—including one in Marina del Rey, which, as you know, is in the unincorporated County of Los Angeles and not within the city of Los Angeles.

The motion's request to evaluate homeless housing with single-occupancy tiny houses and safe camping at the County-owned parking lot at Fisherman's Village in Marina del Rey is unsuitable for a variety of reasons and an inappropriate choice at this particular location.

The tourism and hospitality industry has suffered more economic damage than other commercial businesses in Marina del Rey for the past year. As we look forward to returning to safe conditions for residents and visitors to patronize this industry, it may

take several years for a complete recovery of hotels, restaurants and charter boat operations to function at pre-pandemic levels.

A homeless encampment on the parking lot at Fisherman's Village would not be an ideal location because of its probable impact on the visitor-serving businesses there. Frankly, tourists and local visitors are wary of frequenting areas with encampments.

The parking lot also serves Whiskey Red's on the adjacent parcel. Both Whiskey Red's and El Torito restaurants have been very successful with beautiful outdoor dining overlooking the water. A homeless camp next to these businesses would create a negative impact.

Other businesses at Fisherman's Village would equally endure an unbearable loss of business, resulting in the very likely scenario that many would close up shop. Our marine and visitor-oriented enterprises that employ hundreds of people would result in many job losses that would be grievously unfortunate during these challenging times.

The current businesses at Fisherman's Village have no alternative but to rely on the adjacent County-owned parking lot to provide sufficient parking spaces for their patrons. Parking is already a precious commodity and absolutely necessary to maintain these businesses.

There may be a misconception in the mind of Councilman Bonin that parking is so abundantly plentiful that there would be space to accommodate his housing plan. This is simply not the case.

Recently what was once available for many decades with the Fisherman's Village Overflow parking lot was taken back by the State of California. This has only worsened the already difficult parking situation. Parking is at full capacity on weekends even without the party charter boats operating over the past year.

Operations at the nearby Dock 55, the County's charter dock, are picking up and will continue to grow. This use contributes to an already burdened parking lot at Fisherman's Village that puts pressure on capacity limits.

Building the proposed type of homeless housing would be more appropriate inland, and better opportunities may be found east of Lincoln Boulevard in the areas with warehouses and more space.

We also note that there have been considerable enforcement issues with the presence of homeless encampments on Area A across Fiji Way from Fisherman's Village, land that is controlled by the State. Therefore, the Association believes the State should also be involved in potential solutions.

The Marina del Rey Lessees Association appreciates your consideration of our concerns and we hope the County will work with the City of Los Angeles and other nearby cities to seek more workable solutions to the homeless crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David O. Levine" followed by a stylized monogram "DL".

David O. Levine,
President, Marina del Rey Lessees Association

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles,
The Hon. Mike Bonin, Los Angeles City Council
Gary Jones, Director, Department of Beaches and Harbors
Captain Chris Johnson, Marina del Rey Sheriff's Station
Cheri Todoroff, Chief Executive Office
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority