

MEETING DATE

December 12, 2005

AGENDA ITEM

Adoption of a Resolution in Support of Homeless Housing Services at the VA, Authorization for Staff to Prepare a Similar Letter as that of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation Regarding the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services Business Plan Studies for the West Los Angeles VA, and Co-Sign a Similar Letter with the Westside Council of Government Cities

ATTACHMENTS

- | | <u>Pages</u> |
|---|--------------|
| 1 Letter to the Honorable R James Nicholson, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (October 7, 2005) | 1-3 |
| 2 Resolution No 05-_____ - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Culver City in Support of the Designation of Property at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Campus for Housing for Chronically Homeless Veterans | 4-5 |

Attachment 1

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SENIOR DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM
MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT CALIFORNIA

October 7, 2005

The Honorable R. James Nicholson
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

We are writing to express our interest in the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Business Plan Studies for the West Los Angeles VA. We understand that you will be determining which options to further study in the weeks ahead. As you make your decision, we urge you to follow the six guiding principles that were unanimously adopted by the CARES Local Advisory Panel at the second public meeting on September 22, 2005 at the Wadsworth Theater at the West Los Angeles VA.

As you know, the West Los Angeles VA is the largest VA site in the nation, encompassing 387 acres. As such, it carries significant regional, state and national interest for our nation's veterans. The West Los Angeles VA attracts and serves veterans not only from the Los Angeles area but also from all parts of the state and the country.

According to the California Department of Veterans Affairs, more veterans live within fifty miles of the West Los Angeles VA Center than in 42 other states combined. We hear from veterans regularly that they are in need of quality medical care, support services, mental health programs and affordable housing. We believe it is critical that the West Los Angeles VA serve as a primary location that provides comprehensive services to these veterans.

The property itself has a unique national status. The status is the result of significant protections that were put into place to ensure the land is used to directly benefit our veterans. We were pleased that during deliberations at the CARES public meeting, the Local Advisory Panel acknowledged the protections and adopted them to be used as guiding principles in all decisions regarding the use of the West Los Angeles VA.

The six guiding principles are:

1. To honor the two pieces of federal legislation that have become known collectively as the Cranston Act. This legislation prohibits sale or enhanced-use leases on 109 acres at the West Los Angeles VA. (See Section 421(b)(2) of the Veterans Benefits' and

Services Act of 1988 Section 401 of the Veterans Benefits Programs Improvement Act of 1991)

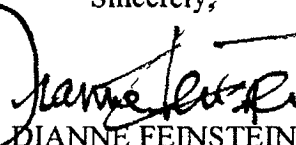
- 2 To honor the spirit of the 1888 deed from John P Jones and Arcadia B de Baker granting the land as an Old Soldiers Home by adopting the principle that in perpetuity the land must be maintained for the direct benefit of veterans
- 3 To preclude commercial use on the property as stated in the letter dated February 25 2002 from then-Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J Principi to Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
- 4 To maintain current land use agreements on the property as listed on pages 20 and 21 in the CARES Stage I Summary Report and add the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Park Conservancy for a Veterans Park and the City of Los Angeles lease to the list
- 5 To declare that there is no excess land at the West Los Angeles VA
- 6 To abide by the National Preservation Historical Act as it applies to the West Los Angeles VA

We urge you to use these six principles as a foundation in making ongoing decisions about the West Los Angeles VA Similarly we request that you reject any concept or proposal that conflicts with their spirit Our veterans must have confidence that the federal government will continue to provide them with the services a grateful nation owes them

We appreciate your attention to our concern in this matter and for your dedicated work on behalf of our nation's veterans

Sincerely,

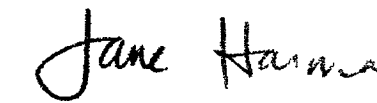

HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress


DIANNE FEINSTEIN
U S Senator


BARBARA BOXER
U S Senator

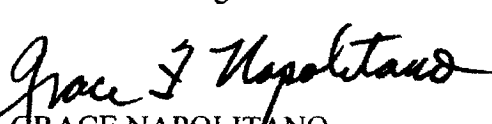

HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress


HOWARD BERMAN
Member of Congress


JANE HARMAN
Member of Congress


LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress


ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress


GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

October 7 2005

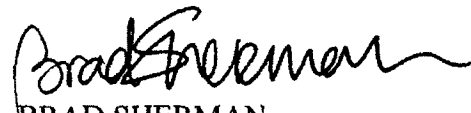
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XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress


DIANE E. WATSON
Member of Congress


MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress


JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD
Member of Congress


BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress


LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress


LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO 2005-R

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF THE
DESIGNATION OF PROPERTY AT THE WEST LOS
ANGELES VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CAMPUS FOR
HOUSING FOR CHRONICALLY HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Western region of Los Angeles County has the second
highest concentration of homeless persons in the County including a significant number of
chronically homeless Veterans with serious mental health and substance abuse problems,
and

WHEREAS, the impact of homelessness on our area has increased as the
availability of affordable housing shrinks and costs rise, as mental health programs are
under funded, and public benefit allocations trimmed, and

WHEREAS, the Westside Cities provide a considerable financial allocation
annually to support an array of programs to assist people who are homeless, yet despite
this support there is still a desperate need for more shelter and housing, substance abuse
and mental health treatment, and

WHEREAS, the Westside Cities meet as a Council of Governments and have
appointed a subcommittee to deal with regional solutions to homelessness, and

WHEREAS, this subcommittee has prioritized advocacy for increased
resources for chronically homeless Veterans as its top priority, and

WHEREAS, the Westside Cities have identified the West Los Angeles
Veterans Administration property as a significant, yet underutilized, regional resource with

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1 great potential in addressing the region s need for services for chronically homeless
2 Veterans

3 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Culver City, California,
4 DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows

5 1 That the City of Culver City, California endorses the designation of
6 property at the West Los Angeles Veterans' Administration campus for housing and
7 supportive services for chronically homeless Veterans

8 APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2005
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10
11

12 _____
13 ALBERT VERA, MAYOR
14 City of Culver City, California

15 ATTEST

16 APPROVED AS TO FORM

17 _____
18 CHRISTOPHER ARMENTA, City Clerk
A05 00666

19 
20 _____
21 CAROL A SCHWAB, City Attorney
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