



Adopted January, 2019

BCC Policy Position on the West Los Angeles VA and Homeless Veterans

This memorandum sets forth the general guidelines that should be followed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as it redevelops the WLA VA Campus and replaces the 2007 BCC policy statements on the subject based upon events occurring after 2007.

1. The BCC supports The Principles for a Partnership and Framework for Settlement (“Principles Agreement”) dated January 28, 2015 between the VA and the representatives of the plaintiffs in Valenti v. McDonald and H.R.5936 West LA Leasing Act of 2016. (H.R. 5936)

2. The BCC also welcomes the VA’s acknowledgement that the development of WLA VA Campus Draft Master Plan must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and its efforts to achieve such compliance.

In light of the above, the BCC supports the following:

- Programs that optimize the ability of veterans and the community to constructively interact.
- No commercial use or development on the VA Campus that are inconsistent with the Principles Agreement or H.R 5936.
- No sale, exchange, or other disposition of VA land.
- No enhanced use leases that are inconsistent with the Principles Agreement or H.R. 5936. Direct services to Veterans that are structured to mitigate any adverse impact on the neighboring Community.
- A transparent and inclusive public process with the VA working with the community throughout the redevelopment process to accomplish the objectives of the Principles Agreement and HR 5936.
- Use of existing buildings (adaptive reuse of historic buildings) for homeless veterans engaged in a continuum of care program.
- Any VA homeless veterans program should be designed on a local VA region-wide basis with involvement by other localities where homeless veterans are found and their families may be located, rather than looking to West LA VA to accommodate the needs of the entire region.

BCC Policy Statement on Homeless Veterans – Adopted May, 2020

The BCC supports the following:

1. The West Los Angeles Veteran Affairs efforts to provide services and housing to homeless Vets throughout the West LA VA service area, including the West LA VA property;
2. Expedited measures that address and remove barriers to homeless Veterans receiving services and housing at the WLA VA, including expedited paperwork to establish the status of a veteran and their qualification for VA benefits and programs;
3. The provision of adequate VA security and VA sanitation services along the interior boundaries of the WLA VA property to ensure homeless Veterans and the Brentwood community are protected from illegal activity and the presence of hazardous materials, including materials that present a fire safety issue;
4. Sufficient safe overnight parking and camping programs on the WLA VA campus that offer safety, sanitation and access to VA services for Veterans living in temporary housing or vehicles, where temporary housing is treated with the same rights and responsibilities as permanent housing on the VA campus;

5. Expedited establishment of adequate emergency and transitional housing within the South Campus of the WLAVA property to provide refuge for homeless Veterans, until such time as the North Campus has sufficient, upgraded infrastructure (water, sanitation, telecommunications, power) to accommodate additional residential structures as part of the VA Master Plan;

6. The WLA VAs immediate implementation of programs that are consistent with and further the objectives of the BCC Policy Statement regarding the draft VA Master Plan for the WLA VA Campus adopted in January 2019, including the WLA VA adhering to applicable requirements of NEPA, making efforts to mitigate adverse impacts to the Brentwood community in connection with such programs, and involving local stakeholders for appropriate community input.