March 23, 2009

Supervisor Don Knabe
Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Venice Neighborhood Council Support for St. Joseph's Chronic Homeless Intervention Program

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

As you may know, the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) established an Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and Vehicular Occupation to address the plight of those living on the streets and in vehicles in Venice.

The Committee has recently presented an interim report and recommendations, which the VNC has adopted at its meeting on March 17, 2009. Included in our action is the VNC's support for the proposal developed by St. Joseph's Center to establish a Chronic Homeless Intervention Program to assist the homeless living on the streets in Venice.

Homelessness experts advised the Ad Hoc Committee that one of the first steps in providing services to homeless individuals is an in-depth assessment of their background, and medical and mental health status, to develop a comprehensive "social service registry" which identifies, by ranking, the risk that these individuals might die on the street. Outreach services and housing are then directed to these most vulnerable of the homeless. This is the model – reflected in St. Joseph's proposal - which has been followed successfully with Project 50 in Downtown Los Angeles and by Santa Monica's homeless serving providers; each has developed a service registry of at-risk individuals and then followed up with outreach, services and housing.

We urge the County to support and fund St. Joseph's proposal.

The VNC looks forward to working with the County of Los Angeles to assist these individuals living on the streets of our community.

Sincerely,

Mike Newhouse
President

Attachment

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It's YOUR Venice - get involved!
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