

Report on Presentation of Sophia Heller on Streets to Homes Program

07/20/2010

The Venice Neighborhood Council heard a presentation from Sophia Heller, a consultant to City Council District 11, regarding a "safe overnight parking program," on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

Ms. Heller, in coordination with CD-11 staff and Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) has developed the program as a model to be implemented by LAHSA that will move people currently living in vehicles into permanent housing.

The model would use case workers as "first responders," identifying overnight occupied vehicles and responding to their presence by determining their needs and eligibility to become members of the program. Those not eligible would be offered alternatives and asked to move their vehicles. Vehicle occupants who do not become part of the program and don't move their vehicles would be reported to police. Their vehicles would then be subject to removal under the city's new oversize / overheight vehicle ordinance.

Vehicle occupants entering the program would have to commit to moving out of their vehicles and into permanent housing. The first, transitional step towards this goal would provide program participants with temporary permits to allow them to park their vehicles in safe, overnight (only), off-street parking in small lots (5 vehicles or fewer according to Ms. Heller) that would be cited throughout CD-11. The case workers would help participants fill out paperwork, locate housing, and get access to other services aimed at enabling them to move out of their vehicles and into permanent housing. Those who don't stay on the path to permanent housing or break the rules of the program would be dropped – and their vehicles would become subject to removal if parked overnight in violation of ordinance.

LAHSA will be releasing a "Request for Proposal" asking service providers to bid on providing services to participants early next week. The VNC will provide a link to the RFP and associated documents as soon as released. Please watch this page for the link and announcements of future meetings.

Ms. Heller's July 20th presentation was the first time details of the "safe overnight parking" program were disclosed.