



Venice Neighborhood Council

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December 23, 2010

Congresswoman Jane Harman

Congressman Henry Waxman

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Councilman Bill Rosendahl

Dear Elected Officials:

RE: Overnight Parking on VA Property in WLA for Homeless Veterans

On December 21, 2010, the Venice Neighborhood Council, unanimously passed a motion in support of the efforts of the West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council to allocate space on the VA compound to allow overnight parking by homeless veterans.

Early this year the St. Joseph Center assessed a sample population of individuals housed in 48 vehicles in Venice and found that 24% were Veterans and shockingly only 2 percent of those were actually receiving services from the Veterans Administration.

It is time that our country takes care of its Veterans in need, and allowing those still functional enough to have a roof of some sort over their head, to receive services due them for their sacrifice with will lead to permanent housing. We urge the VA to implement a Safe Overnight Parking program in Los Angeles to serve as a national model addressing a long overdue need. It is an inexpensive and immediate way to address a growing and worrisome trend.

Sincerely,

Linda Lucks
President

West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
Western Regional Alliance of Councils

