



P.O. Box 16192, Long Beach, CA 90806
wrigleyassociation@gmail.com

April 26, 2023

Re: Proposed LA Metro Homeless Resource Hub Location - Willow Station

Dear Supervisor Janice Hahn,

We, the Wrigley Association, are writing this letter to express our support of the City of Long Beach's request to look "outside of the city" for the proposed LA Metro Homeless Resource Hub as reported on the [Long Beach Post](#) Sunday, April 23rd. We are grateful to have had your Field Deputy, Herlinda Chico, attend our March 6th meeting to share information regarding the proposed hub and its potential placement at the Willow Station in Wrigley, however, our Association's position is still in solidarity with the over one hundred people in attendance that evening who opposed the placement of the hub in our district. We would like to respectfully request an update on the LA Metro plan and the status of the Willow Station as a proposed location.

Being that the Fourth District spans across the South Bay and South East LA, you may not be aware of localized efforts to improve conditions in the Wrigley neighborhood. We would like to share with you that Wrigley residents have been working tirelessly to improve our community through this organization for years and we are committed to continue this work by advocating for our needs. Our community desperately needs resources and investment similar to those we have recently witnessed in other disenfranchised areas of Long Beach, such as Uptown and the Zaferia communities. We are in agreement that the homeless issue is a humanitarian issue, however, we cannot ignore the systemic inequality that the residents of this part of town have experienced as a whole, historically and continuing to this day. The ramifications of Redlining have debilitated this neighborhood's ability to flourish and adding 30+ homeless individuals to the area nightly, per the study conducted by LA Metro, if the hub is placed in Wrigley would strain our limited resources and is not sustainable long-term. Last week, Mayor Richardson and the City Council approved the opening of a new emergency shelter at the Long Beach Rescue Mission site located on 702 W. Anaheim Street, just 16 minutes away from Willow Station. The continued tasking of this part of town with homeless aid efforts is not sustainable. This is an equity issue and needs to be understood as such, to ignore this negates the impacts of decades of disinvestment in our basic infrastructure. We are aware that there will be discussion regarding this hub proposal at tomorrow's LA Metro Board Meeting, and as our elected County Supervisor who has a literal seat at the table due to your role on the LA Metro Board, we expect your support and continued advocacy when it comes to our City's request to seek another location for the proposed Homeless Resource Hub.

As you know, the LA Metro meeting hosted by our Association was well attended and received a fair amount of media coverage, resulting in several requests for comments from journalists, researchers, and the support from neighboring associations whose residents would also feel the impacts of the placement

Our Mission: The Wrigley Association is a 501 C4 non-profit organization, (CA State ID # 1673284) whose mission is to promote the common interest, instill pride, establish and encourage the highest standards in Wrigley. To foster an active understanding of citizenship and civic responsibility. To oppose and discourage discrimination and to create a sense of belonging. To promote higher business standards and encourage uniformity and cooperation among merchants, property owners and residents. To eliminate crime, promote community pride, and develop wholesome, enjoyable, cultural, social, and physical activities.

of this hub in one of the few shopping centers in this area, near Veterans Park, one of our very few green spaces, Memorial Hospital and medical offices, as well as Jackie Robinson, Holy Innocents, and Lafayette primary schools. Leadership from our adjacent neighborhood associations have expressed their solidarity and willingness to support our efforts. We are discussing the possibility of hosting a town hall, taking our concerns to social media and local reporting outlets, but would like to reach out to you first as you may be privy to important information that will allow us to determine a necessary next step. We also sent a letter expressing our concerns and requesting an update to Councilman Uranga who represents District 7 which includes the Wrigley neighborhood Friday, April 14th and in their written reply were told that they did not have new information to share. We want to make sure you and your office are aware of our concerns and request transparency in the form of clear information about the status of this plan.

This letter should also serve to express our wholehearted commitment to advocate for our community and make sure that we bring to light the equity issues that using the Willow Station as the site for the proposed LA Metro Homelessness Resource Hub would bring. We historically have been deprived of adequate services that have had a massive negative impact on our community's ability to thrive. We are aware that your office and LA Metro were contacted by our City Council to assist with the increase in the homeless population in Downtown. We are also aware that the Mayor has made it his goal to significantly reduce homelessness numbers in our City and Wrigley is willing to do its part to assist in the Mayor's goal to house those who for a milieu of reasons are currently unhoused, but this is an issue that requires the commitment of the City, County, and State as a whole. To burden a community that has little to provide for those who have nothing is unjust. Changing the location of the "end of the line" from Downtown to Wrigley is not the answer. We share our City Manager Tom Modica's desire to learn more about the hub, how it intends to address the homeless concerns, and support his request to search for a different site for a hub as highlighted in the LB Post article, if it is determined by content experts that this will effectively assist to alleviate the homelessness crisis. We only ask for what our community deserves, and we hope that you, as our elected representative, advocate for innovative, long-term solutions.

We look forward to your prompt written reply to our concerns and any updates available related to the LA Metro proposition.

Sincerely,

Wrigley Association

CC: LA Metro Board