

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

MAY 14, 2019

West Los Angeles Armory – Bridge Housing Federal Legislation

The West Los Angeles Armory was conveyed by the federal government to the State of California in 1957 for military purposes. In addition to its use as a National Guard Armory, for more than ten years, the State allowed a portion of the Armory to be used as a temporary shelter for homeless persons during winter seasons.

While the use of a portion of the West Los Angeles Armory during the winter months provides refuge from inclement weather, there is a critical need for space to provide bridge housing year-round, particularly in this area of Los Angeles where the high cost of real estate limits options for public or private land that could be used year-round to provide shelter for homeless persons.

Bridge housing is a critical component of our homeless crisis response system as it combines a safe place for people experiencing homelessness to sleep and the comprehensive wrap-around services they need to successfully obtain and retain permanent housing. It differs from winter shelter in physical design (bridge housing provides more comfortable and semi-private sleeping areas), hours of operation (bridge

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housing is open 24-hours a day and encourages clients to stay onsite to receive services during the day), and service model (bridge housing provides ample wrap-around services).

In order to use a portion of the West Los Angeles Armory year-round to provide bridge housing, the Armory's original 1957 deed must be modified to allow it to be used for purposes other than military purposes, provided those uses do not interfere with its function as a National Guard Training site.

H.R. 2016 (Lieu) and **S. 974 (Feinstein and Harris)**, companion legislation introduced on April 1, 2019, would modify the West Los Angeles National Guard Armory's deed to allow it to be utilized for other public purposes in addition to military purposes. Rep. Lieu and Senators Feinstein and Harris have asked the Armed Services Committee chairs to include the bills' language in the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors support H.R. 2016 and S. 974 and direct the Chief Executive Office to send a five-signature letter in support of both bills to the respective authors and the chairs of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

S: MR/West Los Angeles Armory Bridge Housing Federal Legislation