

WCC 시민의 소리

222 S. Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004 / 213-688-2001 / wccinla@gmail.com / www.wilshirecommunity.org

RE: Support WCC in Recall Process of Councilman Wesson

To Whom It May Concern:

As a community-based coalition in Wilshire Center/Koreatown, we are asking for your support in creating a \$150,000 fund to recall Councilman Herb Wesson.

On May 2, 2018, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti & City Councilman Herb Wesson announced their plans to erect an Emergency Homeless Shelter in Wilshire Center/Koreatown, located at 682 S. Vermont. They said that this decision is final and there would be no public hearings regarding the matter.

No one opposes helping the homeless in Los Angeles.
We are not against helping homeless people.

The problem is the way Garcetti and Wesson executed their plans. First of all, Garcetti and Wesson denied the people's right to due process, which is guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. Secondly, Wilshire Center/Koreatown was the only place that was denied a public hearing. Garcetti and Wesson targeted the minority community of Wilshire Center/Koreatown when they enforced the erection of the Emergency Homeless Shelter without any public hearings. Such an undemocratic procedure excluded the entire community of Wilshire Center/Koreatown.

Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Studio City, cities in the Valley, and other areas of Los Angeles County were all given public hearings; why would Wilshire Center/Koreatown of District 10 be the only district that does not deserve to have a public hearing?

At a press conference regarding the proposed shelter, Mayor Garcetti sneered and said: "This is our land so we can do whatever we want." He must have forgotten the fact that the people of Wilshire Center/Koreatown are part of the city and owners of the public

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land. And Councilman Wesson clearly announced that there would be no public hearing and their decision was final.

This execution is not only procedurally improper, but it is also a shallow plan that is doomed to fail. What they have proposed does not serve the homeless; it is a tactic to clear the streets for the Olympic Games, and an issue they plan to use in their 2020 election campaigns.

The proposed shelter will have no sobriety requirement, meaning anyone can enter. This plan does not take into account the fact that there are different types of homeless people who have different needs. It will place drug addicts, alcoholics, mentally-ill persons, men, women, and children all in the same place. There are no sanitation plans. The proposed shelter is nothing more than a tent that will only have 65 bunk beds, showers, and bathrooms in an open space, with no privacy and no security. Only after our rallies did Wesson hesitantly add one LAPD patrol person to provide security at the shelter. However, this is not adequate, since one LAPD officer alone cannot control all 65 homeless people inside and outside the shelter.

We again ask Garcetti and Wesson: “What is your true intention for erecting an Emergency Homeless Shelter in Wilshire Center/Koreatown that even homeless people will refuse to use because it will be extremely unsanitary and unsafe?”

Garcetti plans to build one Emergency Homeless Shelter for one District. He plans to spend \$1.3 million to build a tent only containing 65 bunk beds, showers, and bathrooms.

However, there are over 1,700 homeless people in District 10, the District in which Wilshire Center/Koreatown is located.

What about the other 1,600 homeless people in the District? Would he call this plan a success after serving only less than 1/100 of the entire homeless population here? The location they picked has about 13 schools in a one-mile radius. It's one of the busiest

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streets in the city, with small shops and residential apartments in the surrounding area. It is not difficult to imagine how the street would look like after 65 out of 1,700 enter the shelter, if they ever do. The rest would stay outside the tent, on the streets. It would only be a matter of time until Wilshire Center/Koreatown turns into the next Skid Row.

When this issue first broke and we started speaking out about it, the major media called us “NIMBYs.” As we continued to speak out, the media started to listen and wonder what this plan was really for. Everyone who looks closely at the plan realizes it is not the right solution! Mayor Garcetti just wanted to use this as a stepping stone for his 2020 presidential campaign, and Councilman Wesson thought it would be easy because Wilshire Center/Koreatown is a minority community that is considered politically inactive and passive.

For the past two months, the Wilshire Center/Koreatown community spoke with one voice against this injustice. We held seven rallies on the streets and at City Hall. Thousands of people from the Wilshire Center/Koreatown community came out, including elderly people, young children, parents, residents, and workers. It was a breathtaking experience. We made history.

Mayor Garcetti reacted by blacklisting ordinary citizens to prevent them from participating in the City’s homeless workshops. Councilman Wesson continues to hold backdoor meetings and make undisclosed deals with various organizations, to divide and politically oppress the community.

In response, we formed the Wilshire Community Coalition (WCC) and started forming alliances with several diverse groups, including Latino Coalitions and Fight Back Venice. Many Korean-speaking organizations, businesses, and individuals also began to express support for the WCC.

We are now asking for your support.

It is time for you to act!

Please join WCC to help create a stronger political power and voice in our community!

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We have already initiated Public Records Act lawsuits to pressure Mayor Garcetti, Councilman Herb Wesson, and the City of Los Angeles, and we will continue to do so until the truth is revealed.

Now, we are moving to the next stage!

We are beginning our campaign to recall Councilman Wesson, who started all this by denying our right to due process and oppressing the minority community.

We are raising funds for the recall process, which is expected to cost as much as \$150,000.

The campaign itself will place heavy pressure on Mayor Garcetti and Councilman Wesson, and will earn our community respect as equal citizens in our democracy. The nation and the world will be watching us closely.

We cannot do it without your help.

Please join us!

Chan Yong (Jake) Jeong
President of Wilshire Community Coalition (WCC)

Donations:

- Payable to WCC / 222 S. Oxford Ave., LA CA 90004 / 213-688-2001
- Gofundme (Wilshire Community Coalition): <https://tinyurl.com/wccinla>
- Paypal: [paypal.me/wccla](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/wccla)
- Venmo: @wccinla