



Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council

"Your Community Voice"

June 13, 2016

Mayor Garcetti
200 Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilman Joe Buscaino
638 S. Beacon St., Suite 552
San Pedro, CA 90731



Ray Regalado
President

Laurie Jacobs
Vice President

Sarah Valdez
Treasurer

Cynthia Gonyea
Secretary

Re: Request LA City Council Reassess Support for Mental Health Reform Act

On May 9, 2016, the NW San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) passed the motion requesting that the City of Los Angeles reassess support for Mental Health Reform Act. The wording of the motion follows:

Whereas, the Los Angeles City Council has placed itself on record through a resolution strongly supporting the United States Senate Bill 2680, the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016, (Council File 15-0002-5163); and

Whereas, the resolution cites many issues facing the nation, states, and localities with reference to challenges of resources, availability of treatment and care, and the huge numbers of cases of mental illness, of which there is a full spectrum of type and severity; and

Whereas, the resolution posits that Senate Bill 2680 "would provide additional resources for states to meet the needs of those suffering from mental illness and would promote evidence-based practices to ensure that up-to-date approaches for treating mental illness are used"; and

Whereas, "the bill would also establish a new grant program (emphasis added) to enhance coordination between emergency responders, health care providers, law enforcement, and courts to provide better care to patients in emergency situations"; and

Whereas, the goals of the Senate Bill, now wending its way through Congress, are thoroughly laudable and worthy of support; now,

Therefore, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council urges the City Council to temper its enthusiasm with a close reading of any final bill that emerges. The City should seriously assess all offers of monies from moving forward with mental health care reform. This seems particularly important with respect to grant monies from programs or sub-programs that are ill-defined or restrictive in their usefulness to us at the City level, or whose lifespan is limited but may ensnare the city in financial responsibilities which may not be sustainable.

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Re: Request LA City Council Reassess Support for Mental Health Report Act

We ask that the City Council and departments always remember their duty as good shepherds of the public coffers, and not “over-promise” ourselves based exclusively on Federal funds which may well have a limited lifespan.

The bill as currently written is more than 100 pages long. We all need to seriously inform ourselves as to its consequences, however it emerges from Congress.

NWSPNC hopes that you will support our position and would appreciate hearing back from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ray Regalado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "R" at the beginning.

Ray Regalado, NWSPNC President
on behalf of the NWSPNC Board