



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

October 2, 2025

Encino Neighborhood Council
Encino Property Owners Association
Encino South Neighborhood Watch

Dear Encino Community Members,

Public safety is my number one job as your Mayor, and it is time to lead a new approach to improve public safety in the Sepulveda Basin. Effectively reducing public safety threats has been at the top of my mind during the conversations we have had together. This absolutely includes addressing challenges that have been decades in the making like the longstanding homeless encampments. The City is making progress to address this issue comprehensively. I appreciated the opportunity to speak with you about actions we are taking to keep Encino safe during the virtual community meeting a few weeks ago where I spoke to you about the requests you made in your letter. You have my commitment that I will continue to work with you closely to support public safety in and around your communities.

Since beginning our focused work to keep the basin safe, the LAFD has reported the calls for fires in the Sepulveda Basin have reduced since clearance operations have begun.

Please see below for responses to your recommendations and additional updates on the urgent work the City has led in the last few months:

1. INCREASE LAPD RESOURCES IN ENCINO

• Encino Real-Time Crime Center for live crime monitoring

I have visited the Beverly Hills Real-Time Watch Center in Beverly Hills and would like to see how more of this technology can be applied in our city. The LAPD has received grant funding to establish a citywide real-time watch center to prevent crime and hold those who commit crimes accountable.

- **Encino drone pilot program for rapid aerial response**

I support this, and LAPD has a drone pilot program and has begun assessing the viability and staffing requirements for a drone program in the area.

- **Inter-Agency Task Force with County-State-Federal law enforcement**

LAPD works closely with regional law enforcement to hold people accountable. This will continue.

- **License plate readers at major Encino intersections**

License plate readers were deployed in July to assist LAPD in their investigations.

- **Zero tolerance enforcement of no license plate vehicles**

Per LAPD, officers will enforce the law.

- **Encino Substation on Ventura Boulevard**

Chief McDonnell discussed this during the community meeting, sharing that establishing a substation would not be feasible at this time.

2. ENFORCE EXISTING NO CAMPING LAWS IN THE SEPULVEDA BASIN AND CLEAR ENCAMPMENTS TO PROTECT HIGH FIRE RISK TO ENCINO

- **Removal of all encampments within 30 days**

I went to the basin to see the scale of the need for myself because I understand that the fears you have expressed are real and demand action. The encampments and safety threats near Encino will be addressed this year to reduce the risk of fires and other dangers in your communities.

- **Permanent safety infrastructure to prevent re-encampment**

I support a combination of defensive infrastructure like fencing, increased patrols and the leveraging of technology to prevent encampments returning to the cleared zones of the basin. Funding will be required to make these improvements, and led by Senator Henry Stern and Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, the state legislature recently allocated \$22 million in funding for sepulveda basin management efforts following our conversations with state partners. Governor Newsom approved this funding.

- **Safe relocation options with appropriate housing and services**

My Office of Housing and Homelessness Solutions in partnership with LAHSA Homeless Engagement Teams is working to ensure that available interim housing and services are offered to the people experiencing homelessness in the basin. Outreach to the homeless was scheduled to begin on Thursday, 9/18 but the rainy weather created concerns over flooding. Outreach is being rescheduled. I also want you to know that I am clear-eyed about the dynamics within the basin. People living in encampments within the basin will likely require different solutions than people who are living on the sidewalk in front of a convenience store. We will bring needed departments and agencies together to resolve this.

- **Fire prevention efforts are focused on reducing fuel loads to safeguard surrounding communities**

Under my direction, LAFD firefighters began managing vegetation and making improvements to help reduce potential safety threats in August. Firefighters estimate that they have removed hundreds of trees and 240 tons of debris. In total, between the area near Hjelte Sports Complex about 2 acres of brush have been cleared, reducing fire risk and safety threats and making the area more visible and less appealing for encampments. The field along Woodley and the 405 is being cleared by LAFD's Heavy Equipment Operators, which I know was a priority for this group. Based on past community requests, the Bureau of Street Services, in conjunction with the LA Department of Transportation and LA Fire Department, conducted brush clearing along a stretch of Burbank Boulevard.

This vegetation management strategy opens up the targeted areas, thinning and removing limbs of trees and removing non-native species to reduce vegetation most likely to spark and spread fire. Managing the brush also makes building encampments in the basin less desirable and the improved visibility within the trees assists with enforcing no-camping laws. This work will continue. Partner non-profits including the LA Conservation Corps have joined the effort.

- **Protection of youth sports fields, family gathering areas and open space**

My office and I are committed to protecting youth sports fields and other family gathering areas. The City's Department of Recreation and Parks regularly patrol the Basin. Additionally, by visually and physically opening up dense vegetation throughout the basin and especially near sports fields and family use areas, safety threats like open flames and encampments become more visible and easier to report to park rangers.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

- **Written 30-Day Accountability Plan by August 31, 2025**

Please see attached timeline and plan of action.

- **Weekly public briefings on safety metrics and progress**

My Office can establish a regular communication cadence with you that includes in person, and/or virtual reporting. Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement Vahid Khorsand will coordinate the meeting cadence with you and Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Robert Clark will join to provide key updates.

My staff is available to assist you via phone and email. Impromptu meetings can always be set.

- **Monthly accountability reports shared with the community via ENC and EPOA**

My Office will provide you with written updates on a monthly basis.

- **Community Meeting with LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell**

This meeting is scheduled for October 29 at 7 PM. My office is assisting with identifying a meeting location.

We are making improvements based on your input and the expertise of our City personnel. This will continue, and I will always be available to you for continued conversations about how our efforts are translating into progress. Thank you for all that you do to be engaged community members and neighbors.

Sincerely,

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen Bass
Mayor of Los Angeles