McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Liz Kwong
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; PublicComment-AutoResponse; Gordo, Victor
Subject: November 9 Meeting – Item 2B – Child Safety Near Robinson Park

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Dear Mayor Gordo, Members of the City Council, and Supervisor Barger,

I am writing on behalf of Families Forward Learning Center, located on North Fair Oaks Avenue next to Jackie Robinson Center and directly across from Robinson Park.

Our non-profit serves families with children 0-5. We have a school on site. We are increasingly concerned about conditions in the surrounding area and their impact on the health and safety of the children in our care. This has been an on-going issue for over two years. While the area directly across the street from us has been cleared of homeless and drug deals, they moved up the street to Robinson Park.

Recently, I have personally had to clean human feces near our playground (this is not the first time). No school employee should have to deal with this, and no child should be exposed to these conditions in a place intended for learning and play.

Robinson Park is a tremendous community asset, but the City must ensure that the park and surrounding public spaces remain safe, clean, and accessible to the children and families who depend on them. Our families are low-income and most live in apartments, many with more than one family member. They rely on parks to get their families outside and active

As the City and County discuss ways to coordinate their response to homelessness and encampments, I urge you to give special consideration to schools, playgrounds, parks, and other areas where young children are present.

We need a coordinated plan that includes sanitation, appropriate enforcement, prompt responses to reported problems, and accountability for improving conditions.

Our children deserve safe places to learn and play. This should be a priority for both the City and County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Liz Kwong
Development Director
Families Forward Learning Center

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Liz Kwong

Development Director

Families Forward Learning Center

11/09/2026
Item 2B

, Pasadena, CA 91103

www.FamiliesForwardLC.org

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Erika Foy
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2026 12:21 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; City_Council; Thyret, Pam; Paige, Jennifer; Kathryn Barger Leibrich; Hawkesworth, Matthew
Subject: November 9 Joint Meeting – Agenda Item 2B: Request for Immediate City-County Assistance with Targeted Safety Zones Near Schools

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Dear Mayor Gordo, Members of the City Council, and Supervisor Barger,

I am writing regarding the November 9 joint meeting and the opportunity for Pasadena and Los Angeles County to collaborate on homelessness and encampment mitigation, particularly in areas where children attend school and use nearby parks and libraries.

My initial effort focused on asking Pasadena to establish Safe School Zones through a local ordinance to provide greater protections around schools and childcare facilities. While that proposal is being considered, the process takes time, and some of our schools and surrounding public spaces need help now.

That is why I am asking the City and County to consider a more immediate approach through Targeted Safety Zones, focusing on specific locations where recurring public safety and sanitation concerns are affecting children and families.

Three locations stand out: Robinson Park, directly across from Families Forward Learning Center, where concerns about safety and sanitation have continued. Just recently, I learned that a staff member at the school had to clean human feces from the children's playground. At Hill Avenue Library, immediately adjacent to St. Philip the Apostle School, encampments and reported drug activity have raised ongoing concerns about the safety of students and families. Similar concerns exist at Memorial Park, near St. Andrew Catholic School, where repeated police calls and reports of drug activity and other public safety issues deserve focused attention.

These are not just parks and libraries. They are places children walk past, gather near, and use every day. We cannot expect schools and families to manage these conditions while waiting for a longer-term ordinance.

I recognize that homelessness requires compassionate outreach, treatment, housing, and support services. But we also need a coordinated response to the immediate problems occurring in these particular locations.

My question for Supervisor Barger is whether Los Angeles County can help Pasadena address these specific areas now. What County resources are available to assist with outreach, behavioral health services, sanitation, and coordinated responses to recurring public safety concerns? Could the City and County establish a targeted pilot effort at these three locations,

with designated staff, clear responsibilities, and regular reporting on whether conditions are improving?

I am not suggesting that every neighborhood requires the same approach. I am asking that we prioritize locations where ongoing problems are occurring immediately adjacent to schools and places children frequent.

Pasadena has invested millions of dollars in its parks, libraries, and public facilities. These spaces should be safe and accessible to everyone, especially children. We should be able to provide compassionate assistance to people experiencing homelessness whiie ensuring that children are not exposed to unsafe or unsanitary conditions.

I hope this meeting provides an opportunity for the City and County to identify resources and take meaningful action at these locations without waiting for the ordinance process to be completed.

Our children should not have to wait.

Thank you for your consideration.

Erika Foy

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: William M. Paparian
Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2026 5:09 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Special Joint Meeting 11/9/26 - Item #2 - UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING EFFORTS

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Guest Essay | William Paparian: Pasadena's Ghost Platoon: 43 Homeless Veterans, Two Days Before Veterans Day

Published on Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 4:32 am

On Monday, November 9, the Pasadena City Council will hold a special joint meeting with Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger to discuss homelessness, housing collaboration, and joint encampment mitigation. Two days later, on Veterans Day, the City will hold a public ceremony in front of City Hall to honor those who served. The proximity of these two events makes a simple fact impossible to ignore.

Pasadena's 2026 Point-in-Time Count found 43 Veterans experiencing homelessness—7.5 percent of the total homeless population and 12 percent of those who were unsheltered. Veterans make up approximately 3 percent of Pasadena's adult population. They are overrepresented among the homeless by a factor of more than two, particularly among those living on the streets. Forty-three is not an abstract number. It is the approximate strength of a U.S. infantry platoon—the basic building-block unit of ground combat forces. In Pasadena, that platoon has become a Ghost Platoon: counted in the data, yet invisible to the Housing, Homelessness and Planning Committee charged with overseeing homelessness policy. No dedicated agenda items, no focused briefings, no sustained attention.

Picture that platoon as it once stood: American service members trained to defend this country, prepared to give their lives for it, standing shoulder to shoulder in formation with discipline and purpose. Now picture those same 43 Veterans scattered across the streets of Pasadena—sleeping in doorways, under overpasses, or in vehicles—carrying the same service and the same willingness to sacrifice, but reduced to a Ghost Platoon that the city counts and then leaves behind.

This is not a data problem. The City counts Veterans. It is a priority problem.

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Item 2

Supervisor Barger has been clear on this issue. She has repeatedly stated that the words "Veteran" and "homeless" should never be used together, and she has supported specific housing projects and policy changes aimed at getting Veterans off the streets and into stable housing. Monday's joint meeting is an opportunity for the City of Pasadena to align with that approach rather than continue treating the Ghost Platoon as a footnote in broader reports.

The causes are well documented. Mental health conditions (including PTSD), substance use disorders, the difficult transition from military to civilian life, and the extreme shortage of affordable housing in our region all contribute. These are not abstract risks. They are the reasons Veterans remain overrepresented among the unsheltered in Pasadena even as national and countywide numbers have declined through targeted programs such as HUD-VASH and dedicated navigation efforts.

Pasadena does not need to invent new solutions. It needs to use the ones that already work and to give them the attention they have not yet received at the Committee level. That means asking, at Monday's meeting, for concrete collaboration with the County on Veteran-specific housing navigation, outreach, and encampment response—including targeted outreach and priority access to existing County Veteran housing resources. It means treating the 43 Veterans counted this year not as one more data point, but as people whose service should not end with them sleeping outdoors in the city they once called home.

On Wednesday, Pasadena will honor Veterans in front of City Hall. The Ghost Platoon—the 43 Veterans counted on our streets—will not be among those recognized. That contrast is precisely why Monday's meeting matters. On Monday, inside City Hall, we have the chance to match that honor with action. The Housing, Homelessness and Planning Committee and the joint City-County discussion should make the Ghost Platoon a specific priority, not an afterthought. Veterans who are living on our streets deserve more than a ceremony two days later. Americans should not leave their service members behind.

William Paparian is a former mayor of Pasadena (1995–1997) and a former East Pasadena councilmember (1987–1999).

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From:
Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2026 11:05 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City Council Meeting November 9, 2026, Item 2B Homeless Encampment Issues
Attachments: Council comments dnunley 11-9-26.docx

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Comments for City of Pasadena
City Council Meeting November 9, 2026
Item 2B Homeless Encampment Issues

I reside at the Lake@Walnut Condominium. We continue to suffer from the impacts due to the failure of the City of Pasadena and County of Los Angeles to address chronic homeless living on the streets.

We are two years post the Grants Pass Supreme Court decision and rather than address the problem, Pasadena would rather talk about the issue rather than seek solutions.

Homeless matters historically have been the purview of the County Social Services, but they have abdicated their responsibility and thus the City has to deal with the matter.

We have had two unnatural deaths one block from us during a ninety day period. We experience open drug sales and use, individuals urinating and defecating on or adjacent to our property. We also have issues with homeless attempting to obtain shelter in our building and committing thefts and vandalism.

When police respond, rarely do they take criminals into custody or even identify the individuals and check for warrants or sexual offense registry. The few times in which we have asked for prosecution, none has occurred. We are also told that the police get frustrated as the City Prosecutor refuses to prosecute good cases.

The problems we experience arise from chronic homeless who lack interest in being housed. The kinder and gentler methods utilized by PORT don't appear to work with such a population. This population does not conform to basic community standards and we must handle them violating existing criminal codes on the books. Even if they are arrested, booked and released after being held over for arraignment, they are at least given a shower, bed and food along with clean clothes. This is the humane method to handle them.

I reiterate, this is not the population of a single mother with children who recently lost their living quarters.

The community from whom you solicit votes and tax dollars from are suffering. It appears that you pay more attention to those on the street than those who want to improve the City.

There is development of apartments and assisted living units planned and approved. Who wants to move to our neighborhood when we suffer from your lack of attention?

Stop awarding money to organizations and programs which enable people to live on the streets. Hold both the homeless and aid organizations responsible for poor results.

David A. Nunley, CPCU, ARM, AIC

11/9/2026
Item 2B

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Sarah Hayden
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2026 8:33 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: November 9 Meeting | Comment for Agenda Items 2A and 2B

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Dear Mayor Gordo, Members of the Pasadena City Council and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger:

Thank you for scheduling this joint meeting to discuss opportunities for the county's collaboration and coordination with the Pasadena City Council's Housing, Homelessness and Planning Committee. I am grateful that the city has finally formed this committee to address issues related to our homelessness crisis, hopefully, on an urgent basis. As you know, the city finally allocated an initial $2 million to start the process of developing a year-round shelter, which our city desperately needs. While we have some services for our unsheltered population provided for by our excellent nonprofit organizations, mutual aid groups, and churches, we do not have nearly enough money to provide what is needed most: shelter and/or permanent housing. Our unsheltered neighbors cannot get well living on the street. Some of our unsheltered folks have mental illness and substance use disorders which may require special programs, but the majority have neither. They need both interim housing to transition to permanent housing as well as permanent housing.

Rabbi Joshua Grater, the CEO of Friends in Deed has presented the City Council with the option of master leasing local motels for interim housing. The rooms are available as well as staff to provide services. But we need a partnership with the county to provide the necessary funding. Supervisor Barger, please strongly consider recommending that the county fund this option along with the city.

As for the issue of mitigation of encampments, which is also on the agenda for this meeting, Pasadena already has municipal code provisions to address illegal activity. I vehemently oppose any attempt to criminalize homelessness for such activity as simply existing in parks, libraries and other public spaces which are so important to our unsheltered neighbors, especially during excessive heat episodes and rain. ***If we are not providing an alternate solution, we cannot criminalize simply existing while unhoused.***

Finally, as for complaints regarding public urination and defecation, the obvious and humane solution is to provide toilets. I am unaware of any public toilets in the city that are available to our unsheltered neighbors on a 24/7 basis. This is unacceptable. Please recommend that the city and the county provide funding for public toilets for our city.

Thank you,

Sarah Hayden

11/9/2026
Item 2A & 2B

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Denise Robb
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2026 9:57 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Selena Rosario-Myles
Subject: Agenda item 2A and B

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Rabbi Joshua Grater, the CEO of Friends in Deed has presented the City Council with the option of master leasing local motels for interim housing. The rooms are available as well as staff to provide services. But we need a partnership with the county to provide the necessary funding. Supervisor Barger, please strongly consider recommending that the county fund this option along with the city.

As for the issue of mitigation of encampments, which is also on the agenda for this meeting, Pasadena already has municipal code provisions to address illegal activity. I'm in favor of addressing actual criminal activity through the criminal justice system. But I oppose any attempt to criminalize homelessness for such activity as simply existing in parks, libraries and other public spaces which are so important to our unsheltered neighbors especially during excessive heat episodes and rain.

Finally, as for complaints regarding public urination and defecation, the obvious and humane solution is to provide toilets. I am unaware of any public toilets in the city that are available to our unsheltered neighbors on a 24/7 basis. This is unacceptable. Please recommend that the city and the county provide funding for public toilets for our city.

A couple of years ago I visited Australia and New Zealand, and I was amazed at how many public toilets they had. This is a basic human right.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Denise Robb

Sent from my iPhone
Denise Robb, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science,
Pierce College; and

11/9/2026
Item 2A & 2B

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."
(Possibly Voltaire)