



City of  
**Santa Monica**®

**Mayor Herb Katz**  
*Mayor Pro Tempore* **Richard Bloom**

*Councilmembers*

**Ken Genser**  
**Robert Holbrook**  
**Kevin McKeown**  
**Pam O'Connor**  
**Bobby Shriver**

July 18, 2008

Major General William H. Wade II  
The Adjutant General, California National Guard  
Joint Force Headquarters  
9800 Goethe Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Dear Major General Wade:

I am writing you on to convey our serious concern that the West Los Angeles Armory (WLA Armory) may not be available this winter season from December 1<sup>st</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> to serve as a critically needed Winter Shelter for Westside homeless individuals.

Since 1994, the County and City of Los Angeles has provided funding to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to administer the County-wide Winter Shelter Program in collaboration with the California National Guard making key armories available according to California government Code Sections 15301-15301.6, Chapter 2, "Emergency Shelter Program."

On the Westside, the Winter Shelter Program is traditionally housed at the Culver City and WLA Armories and serves LA County Service Planning Area 5 (SPA 5). Historically, the Culver City Armory has been contracted at 150 beds and the West LA Armory at 160 beds for a total of 310 beds.

Last winter, a nightly average of 230 persons (which is approximately a 74% seasonal occupancy rate) was served in these beds. During the coldest and wettest nights of the season, the shelters combined to serve up to 335 persons per night. The loss of the WLA Armory leaves only the 150 bed facility in Culver City, which is inadequate to shelter the 230 nightly average and the 335 persons during the extreme weather experienced last winter.

The 2007 Homeless Count conducted by LAHSA indicates that there are approximately 6,703 homeless individuals in SPA 5, including approximately 37% chronically homeless persons and 18% homeless veterans. It is critical that the WLA Armory or a substitute armory be made available to provide shelter for homeless individuals to escape the deadly harsh winter conditions.

Thank you for your considerations on this time sensitive and potentially life-saving issue. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Herb Katz  
Mayor

c: Brigadier General Louis Antonetti, Deputy Adjutant General, Commander CA National Guard  
Santa Monica City Council  
The Honorable Sheila James Kuehl  
Chair and Governing Board, Westside Cities Council of Governments  
Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director, LAHSA  
Jody Hall Esser, Executive Director, Westside Cities Council of Governments

1685 Main Street • PO Box 2200 • Santa Monica • CA 90407-2200  
tel: 310 458-8201 • fax: 310 458-1621 • e-mail: [council@smgov.net](mailto:council@smgov.net)