



# CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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## CITY COUNCIL

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July 30, 2008



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

Dear Major General Wade:

I write as a member of the Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) to convey our serious concern over reports that the West Los Angeles Armory (WLA) may not be available this year as a winter shelter for homeless individuals. The Westside COG includes the cities of Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City, West Hollywood, Los Angeles City Council Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Los Angeles County. This critically needed facility has typically served constituents of COG cities between December 1 and March 15 annually and is a highly utilized resource.

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. This joint effort seeks to make key armories available as part of the State Emergency Shelter Program, as articulated in California government Code Sections 15301-15301.6, Chapter 2.

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, a total of 310 beds serving homeless citizens in the region.

Last winter, a nightly average of 230 persons (approximately a 74% seasonal occupancy rate), were sheltered in these beds. During the coldest and wettest nights of the season, the shelters combined to serve nearly 335 persons per night. The loss of the WLA Armory would be significantly detrimental to our joint homeless housing efforts, especially considering the extreme weather expected this coming year.





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 these too-often deadly weather conditions.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this time sensitive and potentially life-saving issue. I look forward to receiving your response and working towards a productive solution

Sincerely,

  
**JEFFREY PRANG**  
Mayor

cc: Daphne Dennis, Social Services Manager