

# WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

July 11, 2018

Agenda Item #10 (J) 1

## **OPPOSITION TO LIFTING OVERNIGHT BEACH CURFEW**

### **Motion**

The Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes the lifting of the beach curfew currently in place, restricting beach access from midnight to 5am, daily. This is in consideration of public health and safety concerns and in keeping with long standing practice, supported by LAPD and LA County Beaches and Harbors, who are tasked with maintaining the safety and integrity of the beach and the shoreline, respectively.

### **Background**

The State is weighing a constitutional argument that the water is a public natural resource and that perhaps access to the water's edge should be available, through designated pathways, 24 hours a day.

The countervailing argument is from the City and County (which operate LAPD & Lifeguards) who say that the task of maintaining the health and safety of the beach falls on them and they see the pathways as a slippery slope to loitering, squatters and a real threat to public safety of the shoreline for general use by Angelenos. Their resources for enforcement are already thin, and they see these access pathways as jeopardizing their ability to protect the integrity of our beaches and shoreline.

Both LAPD West and County Beaches and Harbors are on the record supporting the beach access restriction, as is our City Councilmember (who's district is along the shore from Westchester to Pacific Palisades), Mike Bonin.

For more information, please see letter submitted by PPCC to the City in September 2017: [http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/LAMC\\_66.34\\_letter\\_in\\_support.pdf](http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/LAMC_66.34_letter_in_support.pdf). The California Coastal Commission is expected to take up this matter in August.