



CHULA VISTA RV PARK/MARINA, LLC.

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Re: Chula Vista Marina/RV Resort
Homeless encampment issues in nearby Parks out of control

Dear Port of San Diego and City of Chula Vista:

Our beautiful Resort and Marina are surrounded by Bayview Park, Marina View Park, and the Marina View Boat Launch area. Nearby is the Bay Boulevard Park at F Street and its north/south Bike Path areas. We are writing to all of you today to insist upon a concerted effort on everyone's part to put a damper on the growing, and out of control, homeless encampment problem on the Bayfront.

As a locally owned business, we pride ourselves on providing a safe and secure environment for our customers, and we reasonably expect the Port and the City to enforce current law regarding transient camps, and to effectively allocate the law enforcement resources which we fund with our very significant Port Rent, TOT taxes, and property taxes (*combined dollars are upwards of \$1.5M annually*). Despite some recent CVPD and Harbor Police responses to our relentless and daily calls, overall, law enforcement's efforts have been inadequate and we demand better.

We have attached a summary on the next page that will give you some insight into the problems we are experiencing daily. It also provides a few suggestions that, once implemented by the City and Port, will aid us all in mitigating this growing problem. These suggestions are not the end-all solution, but certainly represent a clear start.

We have personally toured other parks on Port property, from Shelter Island, Harbor Island, Seaport Village, the Embarcadero, National City, etc., and did not see evidence of transient problems like we are battling in the South Bay. We hereby request the same leadership and priority from the Port and City be applied to Chula Vista's Bayfront. We are amenable to a group meeting and task force to spearhead changes. After all, we all want the same thing: the success and growth of the Chula Vista Bayfront.

Sincerely,

CHULA VISTA RV PARK/MARINA, LTD.


W. Major Chance


Kevin Moriarty

Sarah Even Mulcahy
Sarah Even Mulcahy

SOUTH BAYFRONT ISSUES

A year ago, we were begging for relief from the many encampments along the Bike Path from J Street north to Sweetwater Channel. The overall sentiment of the governmental response we received consisted of a lot of well wishes, with a defeatist attitude that said: "the homeless have to live somewhere."

In the past year, the homeless encampments have expanded from the Bike Path areas into more comfortable surroundings, most recently at Marina View Park. The existing 4-hour parking limit there is (*according to CVPD dispatch*) impossible to enforce, and the public restrooms are left open 24/7. The homeless set up a nearby tent city, hiding it behind the culvert south of the Park, and have since, one by one, gradually taken over the covered picnic tables, attaching their tents to them and setting up grills to cook their food - and remained 24/7. The trash was quite an ugly site in the early mornings, with 1 or 2 grocery carts regularly scattered or abandoned from the beautiful monument sign west to the curve. Additionally, overnight sleeping in vehicles adjacent to the "open-24-hours" restrooms has grown substantially.

In mid-February, we began a relentless campaign to attempt to compel the CVPD and Harbor Police to resolve this illegal camping and overnight vehicle parking with people sleeping in their vehicles. After many, many calls, we have received some cooperation from CVPD and Harbor Police, and the individuals residing in Bayside Park were recently roused and appeared to move on, but the prohibition on overnight vehicle camping is still not enforced.

The transients roused from Marina View Park, however, had merely moved to nearby Bayside Park, and back again to Marina View or Bay Boulevard, one by one—wherever they believed the CVPD/Harbor Police won't go a second night. Another recent hot spot has become the Pier in Bayside Park where they also, one-by-one, camp for the night. Some homeless and some criminals regularly use the Pier to conduct illegal drug business. Essentially the homeless encampments go from Park to Park, rotating their residency, so that one day Bayview may look pristine, and a few days later a disaster.

The transient problem throughout the South Bayfront has attracted thieves who then prey on easy targets of families and seniors staying at the Marina/Resort. Bike thefts have been on the rise, and most recently (*after the Bay View Park rousting*) we had a resurgence of break-ins, bike thefts, and malicious vandalism.

Now, when our Security calls CVPD/Harbor Police to report this activity, they receive an annoyed response from the dispatchers, and infrequent enforcement responses to our pleas for help. While we understand this is an unpleasant job and pales in urgency to 911 issues, it is a pressing matter for us.

We have Security Logs from the past 2+ weeks which show detailed reports and photos of this problem, and our calls/responses from law enforcement. Our records also go back a few years to when the transient issue seemed more grounded in the Bike Path area. We are happy to provide these reports when you are ready for this level of detail. **This problem is not going to go away—it is growing and almost out of control now.**

SUGGESTIONS

We have a few “starting” suggestions which we believe will help discourage transients from calling our Bayfront their home:

1. Change the parking signs on Marina View Parkway to No Parking from 10:30pm-6am, (like they now exist on Sandpiper Way in front of the RV Resort). This will give CVPD the ability to roust overnight sleepers from the area.
2. Lock the public restrooms at Marina View Park at 10:30pm, and install signage stating the Park is closed from 10:30pm-6am. We may be able to assist in that effort like we do at Bayside Park.
3. Close the Pier consistent with the closure of Bayside Park. We currently close the park and restrooms for the CVPD, but we are not able to close the pier. One solution would be to install a tall gate at the Pier entrance that could be secured when the Park closes.
4. The Port and City both need to provide leadership and direction to their respective law enforcement agencies to make securing these Parks a priority.