



WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**20122 Vanowen St.
Winnetka, CA 9130**

December 13, 2023

Request for Enhanced Safety Measures at Winnetka Rec Center Preschool Building

Attention: SLO Sean Taylor / Devonshire Division Scoring Committee
Sergent II Jose Torres

As representatives of the Winnetka Neighborhood Council, we write to urgently address pressing concerns regarding the safety and security of the Winnetka Rec Center preschool building and its surrounding area. Your support in implementing enhanced safety measures is crucial to creating a secure environment for our community members.

During the recent Winnetka Neighborhood Council Public Safety Meeting, community stakeholders highlighted the need for routine patrols at the Winnetka Rec Center preschool building between 7 am and 9 am every Monday morning during the school year. This request aims to address camping near the building and drug-related activities near the entryway. Additionally, stakeholders expressed concern over the response time to a safety incident at the Winnetka Preschool on November 27th, 2023, where it took almost an hour to get patrol units to respond. We kindly request the prioritization of responses to violent incidents occurring at the preschool and elementary school.

In response to these concerns, community stakeholders proposed several suggested measures to enhance the safety of the area for children, city preschool program attendees, as well as the city employees at the fire station and the preschool. We realize some of these measures are in process and kindly request updates on the status of ongoing projects, as well as responses to the additional suggestions:

- Surveillance Cameras: Installation of surveillance cameras, including a license plate reader, in the parking lot of the Rec Center to monitor and deter illegal activities.
- Anti-Dumping Enforcement: Strict enforcement of anti-dumping laws in the parking lot to maintain cleanliness and discourage unlawful disposal of waste. Additionally, we request the removal of dumpsters that encourage dumping and the provision of trash services at an alternative location not adjacent to the preschool or fire station.
- Special Enforcement Zone Signs: Placement of signs designating the area around the city preschool building as a Special Enforcement Zone (SEZ) per LAMC 41.18, or the establishment of such a designation if not already in place.
- Buffer Fence: Construction of a fence around the school premises to prevent individuals from approaching the playground fence and engaging in undesirable activities, such as smoking, camping, or threatening behavior, in close proximity to the children.
- Privacy Barriers: Installation of privacy barriers on the existing school fence to address the concerns raised by preschool staff.

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council is committed to fostering a safe and secure community for all residents. We kindly request the City Council's support and collaboration in addressing these matters promptly. Our community's safety is of utmost importance, and we appreciate your attention to these pressing concerns.

Thank you for your commitment to serving our community, and we look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Winnetka Neighborhood Council



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