

July 2003 Update:
9th Street / Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Newsletter

Drunk Drop-Off at 9th St

A plan to make a "sober drop off" center at the Clare facility on our block

has just been brought to our attention. The idea being that police & hospitals don't have to house the drunks, but rather police can drop them off at Clare instead. (Where they're free to leave, go across the street to the liquor store or go sleep on our front lawn or use the alleys for...???) This can not be a good thing for our block.

Thursday 6/29, 2003 Captain Bruce Davis (310/458-8651) of the Santa Monica Fire Department presented an idea to the Chamber of Commerce's Public Safety Committee for a "Sobering drop off center". "...This type of center is currently being used in Santa Barbara, and allows EMS and the police to take inebriated people to the Sobering Center to "sleep it off." This will free up the police and fire departments to perform more important tasks and will get the people being picked up off the street faster..."

Captain Davis was soliciting donations for the program hoping to raise at least part of the \$180,000 needed for additional Clare staffing.



Clare Facilities at 9th & Pico

What you can do

On the reverse of this flyer is the contact information for each member of the city council. Make them aware that you don't want your street turned into the "local jail." You can also contact Captain Bruce Davis, Santa Monica Fire Department 310/458-8651. He is the one currently tasked with implementing this project.

Planned "Sobering Center" will hurt this neighborhood

Clare is not a "secure" facility.



Individuals who choose to walk away

must be re-apprehended and arrested. (can we count on police to respond quickly to that, they don't seem to be interested in rousting drinking and doping parties in the alley?)

Clare staff are not armed, not prepared, nor expected to physically restrain someone who becomes combative or out of control. So these "criminals" are free to wreak havoc on our neighborhood

Drunks are NOT charged. "If an individual is detained and brought to a Sobering to a Sobering Center for Public Intoxication only, they cannot be charged with the crime."



LOTS more "residents" at Clare

The fact sheet states that Clare can be equipped to process 6 - 10 Chronic Public Inebriates (CPI's) nightly. That's 42-70 people per week!

Currently Clare processes up to 8 men & 4 women every 3 days. That's about 24 people per week.

24 people a week who want to get help versus 70 people who show no desire to stop drinking being dumped onto our little street!

More cars, more parking problems

The "Fact sheet" indicates 1.5 additional staff are needed. City has already granted CLARE parking variances which have impacted the neighborhood. And we still do not have permit parking for the majority of 9th St (the east side) which residents

continue to work with City Staff to resolve. Meanwhile expanding Clare's staff and residents will only worsen our situation.

"This (sobering center) turns 9th Street into the local jail - without the guards..."

--9th Street resident commented after learning about the sobering center



More traffic, more noise

Imagine an ambulance or police car dropping off drunk people 10 times throughout the night. Or having someone sober up and decide to leave, police would have to be called back to our neighborhood to try to find them. Imagine the sirens, the confrontations, the increase in crime on our street.



Liquor store only steps away. Directly across street, in plain sight of CLARE. Another one at the corner.

Neighborhood Website:

Now online - Neighbors of 9th Street & Michigan Ave

website is full of useful information and links for our block, including a new section specifically on the Sobering Center.

You can also find previous neighborhood

newsletters, neighborhood meeting minutes, newspaper articles about our block, contact info and much more. Best of all - an interactive message board! Use the message board to add your own comments, post observations, register a complaint, and log information. Read what your neighbors are saying! Go to:

<http://www.geocities.com/kathryn14.geo/Neighbors.html>



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Contact your city council members and let them know you don't want all the drunks in Santa Monica brought to our street & dumped at Clare.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Richard Bloom, Mayor	1685 Main St. #200 Santa Monica, 90401	Office (310) 458-8201 Fax (310) 458-1621 (office) richard@bloomlaw.net
Kevin McKeown, Mayor Pro Tempore	848-E 16th St. Santa Monica, 90403	Home (310) 393-3639 Fax (310) 393-3609 (home) Fax (310) 458-1621 (office) kevin@mckeown.net
Michael Feinstein, Councilmember	1685 Main St., #200 Santa Monica, 90401	Office (310) 458-8201 Fax (310) 458-1621 (office) mfeinstein@feinstein.org
Ken Genser, Councilmember	1685 Main St. #200 Santa Monica, 90401	Home (310) 395-0223 Fax (310) 395-0223 (home) Fax (310) 458-1621 (office) city@genser.org
Robert Holbrook, Councilmember	760 Ermont Pl. Santa Monica, 90402	Home (310) 394-1094 Fax (310) 393-7948 (home) Fax (310) 458-1621 (office) robert-holbrook@santa-monica.org
Herb Katz, Councilmember	1685 Main St. #200 Santa Monica, 90401	Office (310) 458-8201 Fax (310) 458-1621 (office) herb-katz@santa-monica.org
Pamela O'Connor, Councilmember	906 9th St.#2 Santa Monica, 90403	Home (310)458-2749 Fax (310)458-6686 (home) Fax (310)458-1621 (office) pam-oconnor@santa-monica.org

You can also contact Captain Bruce Davis, Santa Monica Fire Department 310/458-8651.
(Captain Davis is currently tasked with implementing this project.)

If you are not already receiving email updates, you can be added to our neighborhood email list: send email to kjm@jmbm.com

For additional information go to

<http://www.geocities.com/kathryn14.geo/Neighbors.html>