

August 2003 Update:

9th Street / Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Newsletter

Drunk Tank at CLARE

aka: "Sober Center"



CLARE's "Campus" at 9th & Pico

The politically correct name "Neighborhood Sobering Center" implies something benign, something desirable that every neighborhood would want, right? Think again. You might feel differently if you live in the vicinity where police & paramedics plan to drop off as many as 10 people per night at the CLARE facility on 9th & Pico.

Drunks, imported from entire city of Santa Monica, will soon be free to roam our streets & alleys instead of being placed in city jail.

A few facts to ponder:

- Clare is not a "secure" facility: If a person wants to leave, no effort is made to stop them. They must be re-apprehended and arrested by (already overworked) police.
- Clare staff are not armed nor expected to restrain someone who becomes out of control. These "criminals" are then unleashed only a few feet from residential homes.
- No locks, no guards, no fences nor any other physical barriers stand between inmates and residents.

It may save money. It may even have a noble purpose, in theory. But don't let the name fool you. It's really just a way to turn CLARE into the local jail.



Just One Click

To voice concern about the drunk tank, we have created a simple one click email form. It allows you to send one email to all the key parties involved in this "Sobering Center" project, with a just one click of your mouse. Go to

<http://notyourparkinglot.com/tankletter.mgi>

Let them know that you don't want your street turned into the "local jail."

Permit Parking Update on 9th Street



And the wait goes on:

Nearly 18 months since appearing before City Council, residents on 9th Street continue to wait for a "6 month review" stipulated by City Council on March 5, 2002.

Petitions from 9th St & Michigan Ave were submitted during summer 2000 by residents seeking relief from the high volume of non-resident cars using the neighborhood as their local free parking lot. Citing concern over potential spillover into the Coastal Zone, (Continued on other side)



For more information on the DRUNK TANK go to <http://www.geocities.com/kathryn14.geo/sober.html>

From this website you will find links to recent newspaper articles, newsletters, and background information on this drunk tank (sobering center) project.

NO SKID ROW / OPCC:

VICTORY

for Pico Neighborhood



Did you see those big yellow signs? The ones with the words: "STOP OPCC NO SKID ROW HERE" scattered throughout the Pico Neighborhood during the past month? Those signs were a direct response by residents of Santa Monica who became outraged at plans to move a homeless shelter run by OPCC at 612 Colorado to a new site located at Michigan & Cloverfield. Not only was the new site slated to provide temporary housing for the mentally ill, it was also going to provide (Continued on other side)

Operation: Safe alley

A new pilot program, Operation Safe Alley, has been launched this summer. Neighbors who have elected to participate (and who have access to the alley between 9th & Lincoln), have listed their phone numbers on a card shared with other neighbors. When someone spots suspicious activity in the alley, they call police & report it -- but they don't stop there - they then call (continued on other side)

Support PNA

The Pico Neighborhood Association (PNA) has been a valuable source of information & support for neighborhood concerns. I urge you to show your support for them by becoming a member today. On the reverse side of this newsletter is a membership application. For additional information on benefits of joining PNA, go to <http://www.piconeighborhood.org>

August 2003 Update:

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Permit Parking

(Continued from other side)

City Staff recommended a compromise, granting permit parking to Michigan Avenue, and to 9th Street north of Michigan, but for the longest stretch of 9th (between Michigan & Pico), only the west side was granted permit parking. The perpendicular spots on the east side of 9th were left unregulated. While this compromise improved the parking situation for those on Michigan & 9th Street north of Michigan, it made parking much worse for those living on 9th between Pico & Michigan.

City Council agreed to revisit the issue in 6 months. Over a year later, in April 2003, city staff completed their reevaluation process & mailed this to residents. Ironically, they recommended against permit parking for east side of 9th, which had clearly met the city's criteria. Inspection of their data uncovered many mistakes and miscalculations, including major discrepancies between the Traffic Consultant's analysis & the same analysis done by city staff.

Although reluctant to modify the April 2003 report, staff eventually agreed to revise their report in June 2003. For the past 2 months staff told us they are revising their report and working to have it approved by the various other city departments. That's where it now stands.



East side West side
Cars routinely double park on 9th Street, waiting for a free spot to open up.

To check status of the revised 6 month review, please contact Ruth Harper, Transportation Management (310) 458-8292 or_email: Ruth-Harper@ci.santa-monica.ca.us

No skid row /OPCC

(Continued from other side)

food & services to several hundred homeless per day. A big concern was where these hundreds of homeless would be sleeping after OPCC shut it's doors each night. Pico residents rallied against the OPCC plans, citing concerns for their safety, their streets & alleys, parks, schools & local businesses.

There was also backlash against the funding and against spending 7 million dollars on a huge charitable endeavor only weeks after property taxes were raised due to a budget crisis in the school district, as well as concerns with depleting the TORCA money, which had been earmarked to enable renters to become homeowners.

The opposition to OPCC's move was so strong, and so well organized, that city staff scrambled to come up with two supplemental staff reports suggesting alternatives.

More than 150 people showed up in person on 8/12/03 to voice their concern to city council when this item went up for vote. The compromise enacted by City Council would leave the feeding program, (Access shelter) in the Big Blue Bus mall, while relocating the temporary housing to the new site. Additionally, funding alternatives were found which allowed the majority of TORCA funds to remain intact.

In the end, the compromised proposal stopped SKID ROW from coming into the Pico Neighborhood. A valuable lesson and amazing campaign to witness. The people took back their neighborhood!

Operation: Safe Alley



(Continued from other side)

another neighbor on the list. The other neighbors are encouraged to call police also.

Multiple phone calls to police reporting a specific incident will help us track police response and demonstrates that unsavory activities in our alleys will not go unnoticed, sending a message to those who wish to camp out or make mischief in the alley that they're not welcome here.

I encourage all neighbors to join PNA:

Support PNA

Membership is open to everyone. Yearly dues: \$5 seniors, \$7 single, \$10 family, \$25 small business, \$50 large business. All members receive mailings and newsletters. All members can participate in meetings and committees. Only members with residence in the geographic boundaries can vote.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

ø senior \$5 ø single \$7

ø family \$10

ø small business \$25

ø large business \$50

I am interested in:

ø traffic & parking

ø residential building issues

ø public safety / police

ø programming for youth / seniors

ø commercial development

ø neighborhood beautification

ø call me I'd love to pitch in

Fill this out & send it along with your check made payable to:

The Pico Neighborhood
Association

1705 Pico Blvd Box 125
Santa Monica CA 90404
310 450 1755

<http://www.piconeighborhood.org>

For more information about Neighbors of 9th Street & Michigan Avenue, go to http://www.geocities.com/kathryn14_geo/Neighbors.html

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