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County of San Diego
Board of Supervisors

National & State Boards:

National Association of Counties

County Supervisors Association of California

Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority

Southern California Regional Association of Counties

Regional Boards:

Metropolitan Transit Development Board

San Diego Regional Water Reclamation Agency

City/County Reinvestment Task Force

Regional Task Force on The Homeless

LEON L. WILLIAMS
SUPERVISOR
FOURTH DISTRICT

March 30, 1992

Ms. Arline Arendt
4412 Cannington Drive
San Diego, CA 92117

Dear Ms. Arendt:

Thank you for your letter regarding Balboa Park. I certainly appreciate your concerns both for the homeless and for safety in our parks. Because Balboa Park falls within the limits of the City of San Diego, I have no jurisdiction over the policies which govern it. You may want to send your letter to City Councilmember John Hartley, in whose Council District the park lies.

I would like to make one or two comments on your proposal. I doubt that the City wishes to set up specific official or unofficial areas to be designated as acceptable places for the homeless to set up camp. This would only add to the number of indigent people taking refuge in the park. Providing outhouses and water faucets would further exacerbate the problem.

While I understand the awkwardness of walking past the sleeping figures of street people and the discomfort of being solicited for money or food, I don't believe the answer is rounding up these individuals and placing them in isolated areas away from society. I do believe the answers lie in providing shelter, training and counseling to these people as in the excellent work done by the St. Vincent DePaul organization here in San Diego.

You may want to consider having a member of the police department come to speak to the Sweet Adelines at one of your rehearsals to review those things you can do to increase the safety of vehicles and purses. Carpooling and arriving in groups may be an option for some of you.

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 • (619) 531-5544

I do appreciate you taking the time to write. Participation in the activities of local government is something I try to encourage in all San Diego citizens. If my staff or I can be of assistance to you in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leon L. Williams
Supervisor, Fourth District

LLW:cmc