



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
 11301 Wilshire Boulevard
 Los Angeles, CA 90073

June 19, 2008

In Reply Refer To: 691/00

Terry Tracy
 Department Service Officer
 American Legion
 11000 Wilshire Blvd. Rm 5201
 Los Angeles, CA 90024

Bakersfield Community
 Based Outpatient Clinic
 1801 Westwind Drive
 Bakersfield, CA 93301
 (661) 632-1800

Los Angeles Ambulatory
 Care Center
 351 E. Temple Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 (213) 253-2677

Re: Land Use Events at the West Los Angeles Medical Center

Dear Mr. Tracy:

Thank you for your interest in the land use process at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System's (GLAHS) West Los Angeles campus. I am happy to address the American Legion's questions regarding the agreement with Veterans Park Conservancy and the use of the campus for community events.

Santa Barbara
 Community
 Based Outpatient Clinic
 4440 Calle Real
 Santa Barbara, CA
 93110
 (805) 683-1491

Veterans Park Conservancy

The agreement that GLAHS has with Veterans Park Conservancy (VPC) authorizes VPC to renovate and landscape a section of the West LA campus for use as a park. However, this is not a public park. This area remains federal property with GLAHS maintaining all control over how the land is used. The intent of the park is to beautify the campus and provide a recreational and therapeutic area for patients and veterans. VPC has no control over the property and no authority to independently hold events on the campus.

Sepulveda Ambulatory
 Care
 Center and Nursing
 Home
 18111 Plummer Street
 North Hills, CA 91343
 (818) 891-7711

West Los Angeles
 Healthcare Center
 11301 Wilshire Boulevard
 Los Angeles, CA 90073
 (310) 478-3711

Authorization for Events on the West LA Campus

GLAHS is authorized to hold events on the campus under Title 38 U.S.C 8153 – Enhanced Health Care Resources Sharing Authority. This statute allows VA to enter into contracts, known as enhanced sharing agreements, with outside organizations to generate alternative revenue to supplement the budget appropriated by Congress. The money that is generated from these agreements stays locally at the VA Medical Center to be used for patient care. GLAHS receives dozens of requests a year from outside organizations requesting to hold events on the campus. However, all requests are subject to a review process and must be focused on the Medical Center's mission or provide a substantial community benefit. As a result, GLAHS rejects many of the requests for events by outside organizations.

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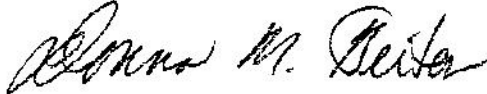
Mr. Terry Tracy

Mission and Community Centered Events

A good example of the types of events GLAHS supports occurred recently during the weekend of June 7th-8th. That weekend GLAHS allowed the AIDS LifeCycle and the Elizabeth Glasier Pediatrics AIDS Foundation to hold fundraising events on the West LA campus. These events benefited veterans in two ways. First, both organizations paid GLAHS to use the campus and that money stays locally at the Medical Center to help pay for patient care. Second, they were also raising funds to deal with HIV/AIDS--a huge issue for veterans (as well as our Nation and the World). Both organizations provide funding for education and research. Much of that education benefits veterans and the research is on new drugs to control and manage HIV. MOST of the drug trials are in VA and that means that veterans have access to new HIV drugs before the rest of the population.

Thank you again for your interest and your service to our country.

Sincerely,



Donna Beiter, RN, MSN
Acting Director