

# No Homeless Housing At NTC, City Council Says

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The Beacon

Public safety academy, yes. Transitional housing for formerly homeless people, no. That's the gist of the decisions made July 16 by the San Diego City Council for the closing Naval Training Center (NTC) in Point Loma.

On each issue, the council chose a plan proposed by District 2 Councilmember Byron Wear and approved by the NTC Re-use Committee, rather than a plan drawn up by City Manager Jack McGrory. These choices now become the "preferred alternative" for redeveloping the base. City staff will draw up detailed plans and financial projections between now and September. The city must submit its plan to the Department of Defense by Sept. 17. Final closure of the base is scheduled for next spring.

There were several proposals involving "transitional" hous-

ing, designed for poor or formerly homeless people who have jobs or are attending school. The council was forced to look at the issue because federal law requires that the needs of the homeless be considered whenever a military base is closed.

Sister Raymonda DuVall, chairwoman of a task force of social service providers, argued for a project of more than 400 housing units on the base. Wear's proposal called for no transitional housing on the base itself, with up to 150 units to be developed elsewhere in council district 2. The city manager's proposal envisioned 50 to 75 units of transitional housing on the base and none off-site.

The council first rejected the city manager's proposal for transitional housing on the NTC property by a 4-5 vote. Voting in favor were councilmembers Christine Kehoe, George Stevens, Barbara Worden and Valerie Stallings. Opposed were councilmembers Wear, Harry

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Mathis, Judy McCarty and Juan Vargas as well as Mayor Susan Golding. The council then voted unanimously in favor of Wear's proposal.

It is now up to Wear to work out a detailed plan for housing, identifying specific sites and funding sources. "My support for Mr. Wear's proposal is contingent on his making it happen," Golding warned.

Wear accepted the challenge. "We have very valuable land here," he said. "Give me a chance to work this out within my district, with my communities. Let me try." He noted that the Midway Community Planning Board has agreed to accept some transitional housing on Pacific Highway, where the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego have a facility.

The other issue to be decided was the fate of Camp Nimitz, the 102-acre area which lies between the boat channel and Lindbergh Field. The Port of San Diego wants the property to expand airport operations, while police and fire officials want to develop a Public Safety Institute there, using existing facilities such as a rifle range and fire simulator.

Also proposed for the site are a 650-room hotel to generate revenue for the base's redevelopment, a water quality laboratory, and a nesting site for endangered California least terns.

The council considered two proposals for dividing the property among these competing interests. They chose the plan recommended to them by the NTC Re-use Committee and originally proposed by Wear. The city is to retain title to the entire parcel, with 15 acres assigned to the airport for eight new arrival and departure gates, and a possible additional 4 acres for overnight parking of planes.

The rest of the property will be used to develop the public safety academy, including a

driving course that will loop around the existing least tern nesting site. The proposed hotel and the water laboratory will also be sited at Camp Nimitz.

Councilmembers Wear, Kehoe, Stevens, McCarty and Vargas voted for Wear's proposal, with Mayor Golding and councilmembers Mathis, Worden and Stallings opposed.

Neither issue is definitely settled by this vote, Golding noted. The Port could try to sidestep the re-use process by asking the federal government directly for Camp Nimitz. Social service providers could refuse to certify the city's plan, leaving it up to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to decide whether the plan is adequate.

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## Police Beat

*The following information was compiled using reports filed by San Diego police officers.*

- A cello was reportedly lost in a parking lot in the 3900 block of Loma Land Drive on July 10 between 2:15 and 5 p.m. The instrument is valued at \$1,000.
- A pair of ruby earrings, a bronze whale statue, a cam recorder and VCR were reportedly stolen from a residence in the 4500 block of Point Loma Avenue on July 10 between 7:15

a.m. and 3:15 p.m. The suspect allegedly entered the house through a rear window. While ransacking the residence the suspect ate a box of See's Candies. The property is valued at \$5,600.

- A 16-year-old woman was reportedly stalked in the 3200 block of Wing Street on July 9 at 4:30 p.m. The suspect allegedly followed the woman to her apartment.
- A 38-year-old woman was punched and kicked in the 3800 block of Rosecrans Street on July 5 at 11:05 a.m. The woman was transported to the hospital