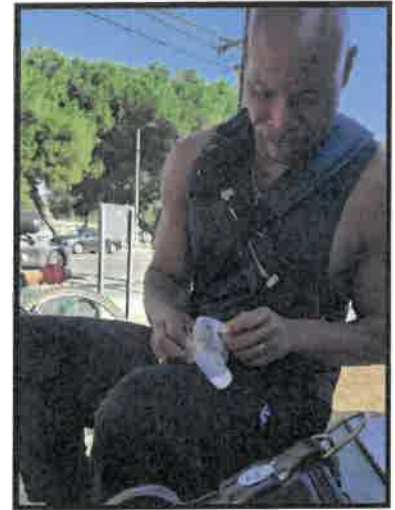


URGENT MEMO SOUTH GRIFFITH PARK UNDER ATTACK



Don't wait for
your car or your
house to get
vandalized. Don't
wait for your kid
to get robbed.

Released inmates
at the Riverside
Bridge Home
freely use and
deal drugs with
no consequences.



Riverside Bridge Home: A Public Nuisance

Capacity	960	90% of LAHSA Target
Occupancy	776	80% of capacity
Housed permanently	149	19% placed
Cost to build & operate RBH		\$21,400,000
Cost per housed individual		\$140,000

This is real and in our neighborhood
See: "Five Small Holes Sank the Titanic..."
December 15, 2025 - www.citywatchla.com

During the past month my wife and I have been on vacation, I took some time to catch up on news and reading about subjects that have nothing to do with homelessness. One of the more interesting items I found was updated research about the sinking of the Titanic. Recent studies by maritime historians suggest the damage from the iceberg was much smaller than originally thought. Rather than a long 300-foot gash down its side, the ship more likely incurred damage totaling no more than 12 square feet, about the size of a small walk-in closet. If the iceberg opened a huge gash, the ship would have capsized and sank in minutes, rather than taking more than two hours to slowly founder. It wasn't so much the total amount of damage as where it occurred; a series of holes in five compartments just large enough to overwhelm the ship's pumps. Each hull puncture, relatively minor in itself, combined with the others to sink the mightiest ship of its time.

Looking back on 2025, we can see some similarities to the slowly crumbling structure of Los Angeles' homelessness programs. Some stories received more coverage than others, but no single item was the death blow many critics looked for. Taken together, however, the news items clearly show how poorly homelessness programs are managed, how lax oversight is, and how desperately leaders are trying to keep the leaking wreck afloat. The first sign of trouble came early in the year, when [LAist discovered that former LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum approved contracts in excess of \\$2.1 million with a nonprofit where her husband was a senior manager](#). That story was followed soon thereafter by revelations of [whistleblower complaints that Dr. Adams Kellum hired friends from her former nonprofit, St. Joseph Center](#), when she became LAHSA's CEO. The complaints also alleged she and other senior leaders fabricated numbers around Mayor Bass' signature Inside Safe program. Dr. Adams Kellum has since resigned.

Like water cascading from one compartment to another as the Titanic slowly sank, one scandal led to another. The whistleblower accusations were bolstered by more revelations about LAHSA's botched 2024 PIT count, [where mid-level managers made on-the-fly decisions about excluding numbers that seemed too problematic to reconcile](#). Despite a count that potentially ignored thousands of people, Mayor Bass and Dr. Adams Kellum used the numbers to "prove" their approach was working to reduce homelessness. They continued to insist homelessness decreased into 2025 even though [a study by the RAND corporation](#) found the PIT count has been chronically undercounting the unhoused population. The RAND study further undermined the narrative that LA's broken homelessness system somehow magically resulted in falling homelessness after more than 20 years of failure.

Another hole in the lumbering ship of homelessness came in March, when audit and consulting firm [Alvarez & Marsal \(A&M\) released a comprehensive court-ordered review of Los Angeles' homelessness programs](#). To call the review damning would be an understatement. A&M found that millions in taxpayer money had been paid to providers with little or no proof of performance. Many shelters are so poorly managed they rival life on the streets in terms of danger, unsanitary conditions, and a dearth of support services. The report created a stunning picture of a homelessness system so broken, providers define their own performance standards, while City and LAHSA managers seem focused on paying them as quickly as possible regardless of outcomes.

The City's response to the report is a case study in organizational denial. First, the City Attorney hired high-powered (and high-priced) law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher at nearly \$1,300 per hour per attorney to try to discredit the report's findings, an effort that has cost the [City at least \\$6 million](#) and continues climbing as the city appeals federal Judge David O Carter's order to appoint an independent overseer to analyze the city's program data. Despite repeated promises to

produce accurate data, the City has been so laggard [Judge Carter held a contempt of court hearing in early December](#); the hearing is continuing as of the date this column was written.

As we have come to expect of leadership that's complicit in the history of mismanagement, city officials have rushed to defend the status quo. One of the more confounding statements came from Councilmember Nithya Raman, [who issued a press release](#) claiming the City is a model of transparency, but Judge Carter's hearings and decisions are burdening an "already strained" system. The judge's demand for empirical data wouldn't be so onerous if the City had an existing system to produce it. Instead, it has allowed programs to operate in an environment virtually free of accountability for so long, it has to go back to base data, if it has any at all. Apparently, Councilmember Raman is all for transparency, as long as its not too transparent.

In an even more bizarre event, [Mayor Bass penned a December 7 op-ed in the L.A. Daily News](#) that can most charitably be described as detached from reality. In the column, she defended her bold leadership in reducing homelessness, citing numbers that have been seriously questioned, if not wholly discredited. She boasted about the success of her Inside Safe program, which has sheltered and housed "thousands". [According to the City Controller's website](#), Inside Safe has cost more than \$323 million, and housed only 1,243 people in three years, at a cost of about \$260,200 per person; of those, 313 (25 percent) are in time-limited subsidized housing, and may become homeless as soon as the subsidies expire. In fact, 2,048 people in the Inside Safe program have already fallen back into homelessness--that's 1.64 times more people than have been housed. And remember, as dismal as they are, these numbers may have been manipulated to make Inside Safe look more successful than it is, based on the LAHSA whistleblower complaints I mentioned earlier.

The Mayor's op-ed is nothing more than a 1,000-word defense of the status quo, and of a system that leaves 75,000 people on our streets every night. Instead of challenging that system, Mayor Bass has been a stalwart champion, fighting any hint of reform. As she said in her column, she opposes City and County efforts to defund LAHSA in favor of more accountable agencies, and she condemns potential reductions in state and federal homelessness funding. Her protests would have more weight if the City could show some real progress with the billions it has spent over the past 10 years.

Just one example of how far removed the Mayor is from reality is [the recent resignation of Kevin Murray, the CEO of large nonprofit Weingart Center, from his position with the L.A. County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency \(LACAHSa\)](#), a body that guides funding decisions for Measure A revenue. [Mr. Murray was suspended from the CEO's position last month](#) after the US Attorney General's office announced [the indictment of a real estate developer for fraud in connection with a homelessness housing project in Cheviot Hills](#), in which the Weingart Center paid \$27 million for a property valued at \$11 million just weeks before. While neither Mr. Murray nor anyone else at Weingart has been charged, serious questions persist as to why the Center used taxpayer money to pay \$16 million over the property's value. Mr. Murray was appointed to LACAHSa by Mayor Bass, and they have been political allies for years. Mayor Bass was also an ardent supporter of and personal friend of Dr. Adams Kellum.

Indeed, the fact Mr. Murray was on LACAHSa's board to begin with is indicative of everything wrong with LA's homelessness system. The board makes decisions about how Measure A revenue will be spent, especially on affordable housing projects. Weingart Center is a major provider of transitional and other housing, so it could benefit from the decisions made by the board of which Mr. Murray was a member. In addition, [the nonprofit tracking service ProPublica noted Weingart Center's 2023 audit reported material and significant deficiencies](#) in its finances and

internal controls. Yet the Center continues to be one of the leading contractors for homelessness services in LA County.

Just as LA's leaders insist everything is fine in local homelessness programs, Titanic's owners insisted the ship was unsinkable. Even after reports began trickling in about a disastrous encounter with an iceberg, one of the White Star Line's (Titanic's parent company), vice presidents issued a statement saying the ship was still afloat and being towed to New York, falsely raising the hopes of thousands of families. Only after the rescue ship Carpathia docked did the full extent of the tragedy become known. In 1912, the loss of 1,500 people on Titanic triggered major reforms in iceberg tracking, lifeboat capacity regulations, and safety practices. More than 2,500 people die on LA's streets every year, and our leaders look the other way. The flow of bad news about LA's homelessness became a torrent in 2025. How much worse will it have to get before our leaders admit the truth and embrace reform?

• Craig Huang
Major Crimes LAPD
US Marshalls Task Force

Riverside Bridge Home: A 5-year Tragedy

Open air drug sale and use
next to a licensed preschool
soccer fields, and tennis courts

Sprung structure shelter
beyond its rated lifetime
It is unsafe to occupy



Two shelter residents deceased

- One homicide outside the shelter
 - One derivative death in a shootout
- Multiple, regular overdoses

Federal A&M audit found operator,
Weingart, regularly defrauded the City
CEO Kevin Murray recently indicted

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Housed Permanently	149	19% placed
Cost to build & operate RBH		\$21,400,000
Cost per housed individual		\$140,000
Salary for one expert LCSW		\$130,000

Assigning a dedicated LCSW to every
homeless individual would be more cost effective



**GOLF
BOSS**
a
BULLY ?

Become
a
**Whistle-
blower**

Jerome Pettit

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I urge you to reject the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse project.

Since I was little, my mother took us on hikes through the Arroyo. We would pass through the east side of San Pascual Park and use the Highland Park trail along side the Arroyo Seco channel. My family and our dog have hiked along the stream at the San Pascual Park.

The future faced by my peers and your children and grandchildren is in jeopardy.

Action must be taken now. In six years, it will be 2030. To stop the worst impacts of climate change and preserve a livable planet, global temperature increase must be limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. We aren't making it.

You must stop allowing mature trees to be removed and pretending that replacing one mature tree with 4 new small trees will help climate change. The new trees won't provide shade, reduce heat, protect us from pollution and climate change for 10 to 20 years and we don't have the time.

It takes 10 to 20 years for new trees to become carbon sinks. We don't have that time.

Forests take up one-third of all human-caused carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere each year. Ending deforestation and allowing mature forests to keep growing could enable forests to take up twice as much carbon.

Thank you,

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GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS KIZH NATION

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(c) **Restrictions on Transfer of Dedicated Parks.** All lands heretofore or hereafter set apart or dedicated as a public park shall forever remain for the use of the public inviolate; but the board may authorize use of the lands for any park purpose, and for:

(1) Easements or rights-of-way for any work, improvement or structure necessary and convenient for giving service to the City or its inhabitants in connection with any public utility **owned by the City**. Under similar circumstances, similar permission may be given to any private public utility holding a franchise, and limited to the life of the franchise. These easements or rights-of-way shall be subject to regulation by ordinance.

(2) Leases to the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the State of California, or the United States for a period not to exceed 50 years, of a site in any public park for the erection and maintenance of public buildings **consistent with public park purposes**.

(3) Taking and disposal of molding sand, or other natural resources under terms as the board may prescribe and in a manner as to work no substantial impairment of public use and enjoyment of the premises.

(4) Opening, establishment and maintenance of streets or other public ways in and through the park lands controlled by the board

(d) **Transfer to Purposes other than Recreation and Park Purposes.** No sites under the management and control of the department shall be devoted or transferred to any other purpose in whole or in part, except in compliance with all of the following:

(1) *Procedure.* Any transfer shall require a resolution of the board, approved by the Council by ordinance, incorporating the prescribed terms and conditions to be observed by the permittee. However, Council approval shall not be required for the granting of leases of property not immediately needed for the purposes of the department for a term not to exceed three years.

(2) *Restrictions on Transfer.* No transfer shall be permitted if it would violate the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, or in any case where the proposed use violates a specific trust or dedication upon which the property was acquired.

(3) *Requirement of Equivalent Property or Funds.* If property to be transferred to another use has been acquired from funds specifically provided for the Department of Recreation and Parks or its predecessors, the department shall be assigned the equivalent in property or funds as a condition of transfer of the property from its control, when required by the board.

(e) **Remaining Land Unsuitable for Park Use.** Where lands forming a portion of an existing public park have been removed from the jurisdiction of the board by reason of their dedication or use for public purposes incompatible with park use, the remaining lands, or any portion thereof, within the park shall not be subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section in the event that:

(1) the board and Council find and determine that the remaining lands, or specific portion thereof, are unsuitable for further use as a public park; and

(2) lands of an area at least equal to the lands found to be unsuitable for further use as a public park are acquired in the same portion of the City and set apart or dedicated as a public park.

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OPPOSING PROJECT:

GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS KIZH NATION

SIERRA CLUB WATER COMMITTEE

EAST AREA PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS (EAPD)

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)

STEWARDS OF THE ARROYO SECO

FRIENDS OF SOUTH PASADENA NATURE PARK

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

ARROYO SECO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

COYOTL MACEHUALI

GARVANZA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC GARVANZA COALITION

SAN PASCUAL ARROYO SECO WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST

AND OVER A FOURTEEN HUNDRED INDIVIDUALS FROM HIGHLAND PARK AND THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Sec. 594. Control and Management of Recreation and Park Lands.

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I am opposed to the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project. Do not give away our San Pascual Park land that our community uses. This is a water grab by South Pasadena to ensure that they have water for their golf course.

The following groups are opposed to the project:

GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS KIZH NATION

SIERRA CLUB WATER COMMITTEE

EAST AREA PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS (EAPD)

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)

STEWARDS OF THE ARROYO SECO

FRIENDS OF SOUTH PASADENA NATURE PARK

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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SAN PASCUAL ARROYO SECO WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

HIGHLAND PARK HERITAGE TRUST

AND OVER A FOURTEEN HUNDRED INDIVIDUALS FROM HIGHLAND PARK AND THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

I want to read you from the LA Charter. Note that none of the exception apply as this land is used for park purposes by our community and an industrial facility to water a golf course in South Pasadena does not qualify.

Sec. 594. Control and Management of Recreation and Park Lands.

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Thank you

Questions regarding ABH

Management issues resulting in large fiscal expenses

ABH Shelter operates on two lots owned by the City as part of Griffith Park. These are 3210 Riverside Drive and 3248 Riverside Drive.

The various shelter operators have only provided security inside the structure. The assumption is that the RAP or others are responsible for things outside the structure footprint.

The Right Of Entry agreement clearly states in several places:

"Approval of this report will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. RAP is not responsible for the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Shelter." ROE Report No. 23-110

The ABH shelter was given \$350,000 in October for repairs. The lawsuit expenses regarding the incidents related to ABH (overdoses, deaths, etc.) are estimated in the millions of dollars.

Instead of avoiding responsibility, the operators authorized to have people living in the Park should provide a camera system similar to ones used by other landlords to prevent crimes and maintain accountability of things occurring in the Park involving the leased parcels and the people authorized by ABH to be in the park at all hours. By preventing crimes and unacceptable behavior, millions can be saved.

There is no better example than the adjacent Mulholland Fountain.

Why do we spend on repairing when we can be preventing?

How many residents have been at ABH longer than one year?

How many residents have been at ABH longer than two years?

How many residents have been at ABH longer than three years?

Riverside Shelter

A Case Study in Failure

Broken Promises, Wasted Funds, and Human Impact in Los Feliz

The \$5 Million Promise

April 2020: Proposed by Councilmember David Ryu.

June 2020: Installed on public parkland in South Griffith Park.

Location: Across from a preschool, community center, and recreation space.

Public Cost: \$5 Million for installation.



The 'Community Bargain': 4 Key Promises



No Decrease in Safety

LAPD would be contracted to patrol the area.



No Increase in Homelessness

The shelter would reduce the local homeless population.



No Increase in Trash

The area would be kept clean.



Special Enforcement Zone

A legal zone would be created around the shelter.

A Change in Leadership



November 2020: Nithya Raman defeats David Ryu.

Councilmember Raman has publicly stated she will **not** honor her predecessor's promises.

She has actively suppressed public comment and extended the shelter's permit indefinitely, against the original 5 year agreement. The Shelter is now starting its 6th year.

The Four Broken Promises

Broken Promise #1: Safety

300%

**Increased Crime Around Shelter
(2019-Present)**

A 'Nexus of Crime'

2023 - LAPD recognizes the shelter as a "nexus of crime."

It has become a haven for drug trafficking, open air drug use, prostitution, and gang activity, as shelter residents are not required to follow the law in and around the shelter.

Crime in the general Los Feliz area has **decreased by 50%** in the same period.

Broken Promise #2: Homelessness

19%

Shelter Residents Moved to
Permanent Housing (2020-Present)

Attracting, Not Solving

Homelessness in the shelter's immediate census tract has increased 200% (not including residents in the shelter).

General Los Feliz homelessness has remained flat.

**MORE NEW HOMELESS HAVE BEEN ATTRACTED TO
THE AREA THAN THE SHELTER HAS HOUSED.**

Broken Promise #3: Environment

Parkland Damaged

Submissions to My LA 311 for trash, graffiti, and vandalism around the shelter have increased by thousands.

Widespread copper wire theft in the park has resulted in dark and unsafe conditions.

2025 RAP Park Needs Assessment showed lower public park usage due to fear of the homeless population.

THE SHELTER HAS DIRECTLY CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE PARK, COMMUNITY, AND WAREHOUSED SHELTER RESIDENTS.



Broken Promise #4: Enforcement

No Enforcement Zone

The promised Special Enforcement Zone was not created. Councilmember Raman stated she would "NEVER" install one.

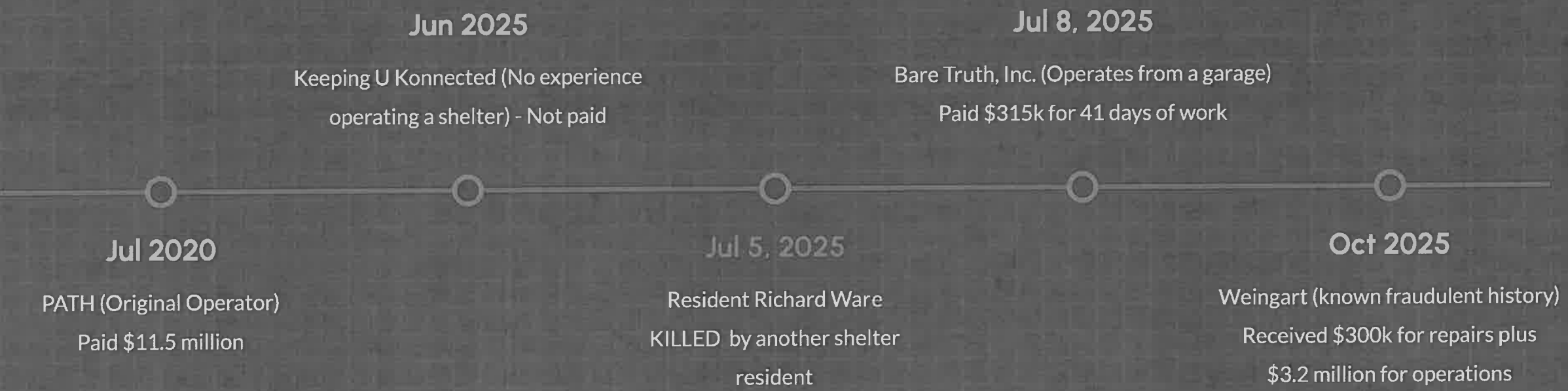
Questionable Funding

In December 2024, Raman paid \$42,500 from her funds to SELAH, a non-profit she founded, to address security concerns, which SELAH was not qualified to provide.

CIRCLE Team

The CIRCLE Team is contracted by Council District 4 but are never present during the critical hours of 9pm to 4am when the residents are criminally active.

Chaos, Negligence, and Tragedy



Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

The LA City Council approved Weingart as the shelter operator despite full knowledge of their fraudulent behavior documented in County Auditor-Controller report, Federal A&M assessment, and October 2025 Shangri-La Project Homekey scandal.

Total Taxpayer Cost to Date: Approx \$20 Million

A Complete and Total Failure

The shelter is failing by every metric and is operating illegally on parkland.

- ✗ It has EXCEEDED the original 5-year agreement with the community.
- ✗ The building is PAST its 5-year structural lifespan, and it is unsafe.
- ✗ It has NO waiver to operate (Mayor's Emergency Declaration lifted Nov 5, 2025).
- ✗ It INCREASED crime by 300% and homelessness by 200%.
- ✗ It has a paltry 19% success rate.
- ✗ It is operated by the known fraudulent non-profit, Weingart

It's time to close the Riverside Bridge Home Shelter.