

Allison Wilhite <allison.wilhite@lacity.org>

Re: A comment about last night at the A Bridge Home site: Thanks!

earthlink.net> To: Allison Wilhite <allison.wilhite@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 3, 2020 at 6:13 PM

Hi Allison

Mention of this splashed into the Next door feed. Thank you for the clarification. This act is disturbing—and the perpetrator is probably full of glee somewhere at the turmoil resulting.

What a way to start the new year...

However, I wish you a Happy one.

Kind regards

Andrea

On Jan 3, 2020, at 5:17 PM, Allison Wilhite <allison.wilhite@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

As you may have heard, last night, LAPD responded to a report of suspicious devices that looked like bombs at the site of the future A Bridge Home in Venice. Streets were closed and nearby homes were evacuated for several hours while the LAPD Bomb Squad analyzed the devices. Fortunately, there were no explosives.

Nevertheless, this incident is unsettling.

The A Bridge Home is intended to be a safe haven for those living on our streets in Venice, providing them stability and security while they seek the services and housing they so urgently need. While our service providers will be working hard to support the clients on site, the City will also be working hard to deliver on its promise of increased public safety to the neighborhood. Dedicated LAPD resources will be added to the neighborhood as well as increased sanitation and street outreach services. The safety of our residents in Venice, housed and unhoused, will continue to be of utmost priority and not deterred by this senseless act.

Below you can read a statement from Councilmember Mike Bonin regarding this incident. Thank you for your continued engagement with our office and willingness to participate in tough, but necessary, conversations about the A Bridge Home in Venice.

"Last night, the Los Angeles Police Department responded to a report of suspicious devices that looked like bombs at the site of the future bridge housing in Venice. Streets were closed and nearby homes were evacuated for several hours, while the LAPD Bomb Squad analyzed the devices.

'According to LAPD, there were three separate devices. While they were apparently designed to look like explosive devices, LAPD's bomb squad determined that none of them contained the necessary fuel to cause an explosion. LAPD removed the devices, conducted a safety sweep of the area, reopened streets, and allowed people back into their homes.

'LAPD's Major Crimes Division is investigating. Anyone with information that could assist in the investigation should contact 1-877-LAPD 24-7 (1-877-527-3247).

'This is an appalling incident perpetrated by a disturbed and cowardly person or persons. If it was meant to slow or halt progress on providing bridge housing, it failed. It is unacceptable and inhumane for people to be living and dying in sidewalk encampments in our neighborhoods. It is imperative that we get people off the streets. We will not be intimidated, and we will not back down from providing solutions to our homelessness crisis.

'I am grateful to the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department, especially those in the LAPD Pacific Division and the LAPD BOMB Squad, for their quick, professional and exemplary work last night. And I am grateful to the neighborhood residents, who responded patiently and calmly to this attempt to frighten and inconvenience them."

(Note: You are receiving this email because you RSVPed or attended a Coffee with the Community meeting.)

Allison Wilhite

Venice Bridge Home Deputy **Councilmember Mike Bonin City of Los Angeles** 310-568-8772 | www.11thdistrict.com



