

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

City of Redondo Beach Mayor, Members of the City Council, Fire Chief, City Attorney and City Manager

As a retired senior Firefighter and long time Redondo Beach resident, I formally request enhanced oversight and accountability regarding public comments made by the Redondo Beach Fire Chief, published in a national media outlet, *The New York Times*. These remarks, which disparaged the former Fire Chief of the Los Angeles City Fire Department who is also a Redondo Beach resident, raise serious concerns related to governance, ethical leadership, and leadership risk to the City.

A Fire Chief occupies a position of extraordinary public trust. As both a senior executive and the public face of the department, our Chief's conduct—particularly in national media—reflects directly on the City, its residents, and every firefighter under his command. Public statements must therefore be guided by restraint, professionalism, and a clear nexus to the City's interests. Commentary that disparages another department's leadership does not serve those interests and instead exposes the City to reputational and governance risk.

Leadership risk arises when the conduct of a department head undermines confidence, credibility, or institutional stability. In this instance, our Fire Chief's decision to publicly criticize another Fire Chief—especially during a period of extraordinary operational strain demonstrates questionable judgment and poor situational awareness. This conduct invites scrutiny not only of the comments themselves, but of the decision-making framework guiding the Chief's leadership.

Our Fire Chief previously served within the same department he chose to criticize. As with any senior leader, it is reasonable to assume there are individuals who may hold critical views of his own leadership style or past conduct. Professional norms exist precisely to prevent leaders from engaging in public critique, retaliation, or reciprocal commentary. Ethical leadership requires resisting that impulse, not indulging it.

Particularly troubling is the timing and context of the remarks. The comments were directed at leadership decisions made during one of the most devastating fires in the nation. Publicly criticizing a fire service leader under such circumstances comes across as opportunistic and punitive, rather than constructive. To many within the fire service and the public, it reasonably appears akin to kicking a firefighter when they are already down—an action fundamentally at odds with the culture of solidarity and mutual respect upon which the fire service depends.

Notably, the former Los Angeles City Fire Chief opted to demonstrate leadership and maturity by declining to engage, retaliate, or publicly comment on this transgression. That restraint reflects an understanding of the responsibilities inherent in fire service leadership and a commitment to professionalism over personal or political dispute. It is unfortunate that the same level of discipline was not exercised here. The contrast is instructive, and one from which our Fire Chief could reasonably take lessons.

These remarks do not occur in isolation. They reflect on every firefighter serving under the Chief's command and risk associating the department with unnecessary controversy. Moreover, public disparagement of peer agencies risks undermining mutual aid relationships. Trust between fire departments is not merely contractual; it is relational. When leadership engages in public criticism, other agencies may reasonably fear that their own challenges or decisions could become subjects of future public commentary.

Such erosion of trust presents a tangible leadership and operational risk during emergencies, where cooperation, confidence, and goodwill are essential.

Given the seriousness of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney and City Manager to:

- 1) Exercise enhanced oversight of the Fire Chief's public communications and conduct;
- 2) Reaffirm clear expectations regarding ethical leadership, professionalism, and interagency respect;
- 3) Evaluate whether this conduct reflects acceptable leadership judgment; and
- 4) Consider whether a public clarification or apology is warranted to mitigate harm and restore confidence.

An apology, if appropriate, would not signal weakness. Rather, it would demonstrate accountability, maturity, and respect for the profession—qualities that strengthen leadership and public trust.

Public safety leadership demands restraint, humility, and an unwavering focus on one's own responsibilities. Public criticism of fellow fire service leaders—particularly during moments of national tragedy—serves no constructive purpose and instead brings unnecessary scrutiny upon the department and the City of Redondo Beach.

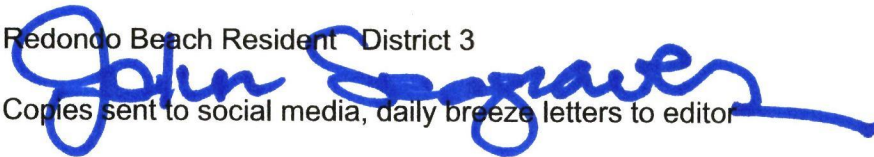
I respectfully request that this matter be addressed through appropriate governance channels to ensure that city leadership reflects the professionalism, integrity, and sound judgment our residents and firefighters expect and deserve.

Thank you for your attention and for your service to the City of Redondo Beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Redondo Beach Resident - District 3

Copies sent to social media, daily breeze letters to editor



Formal Demand for Independent Audit, Public Written Reporting, and Charter Compliance – City Homeless Programs

For public comment

FEB 3 2026 PM 5:26
REC'D CITY CLERKS OFF.

Dear Honorable Mayor, Members of the City Council City Manager, City Attorney and City Treasurer,

This letter constitutes an urgent demand that the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach immediately fulfill its non-delegable fiduciary, statutory, and Charter-mandated oversight responsibilities regarding all City programs addressing homelessness, including funding, expenditures, staffing, credit card usage, program administration, and legal compliance.

At this time, I am not making a formal allegation of criminal or civil impropriety. However, the conduct described herein clearly rises to the level of serious and objectively questionable concerns requiring immediate scrutiny, written documentation, and independent verification.

Failure to act at this stage exposes the City to avoidable legal, financial, regulatory, and reputational liability.

I. CHARTER-MANDATED FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

A. City Treasurer Duties – Charter Article IX, § 905

Pursuant to Redondo Beach City Charter, Article IX, Section 905, the City Treasurer is required to:

1. Disburse moneys only upon demands properly audited and approved in the manner provided by Charter or ordinance; and
2. Prepare and submit monthly written reports of all receipts, disbursements, and fund balances to the City Clerk, with copies filed with the City Manager.

For public comment

For public comment

These duties exist to ensure expenditures are documented, auditable, and transparent. Reliance on verbal assurances in place of written documentation is inconsistent with the Charter and undermines lawful fiscal governance.

B. Council Fiduciary Duty – Charter Article IV, §§ 401–404

Under Article IV of the City Charter, the City Council retains ultimate legislative and fiscal authority. This fiduciary duty is non-delegable and cannot be satisfied through silence, inaction, or reliance on undocumented representations by staff.

California courts are explicit:

1. **Stanson v. Mott (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206** – Public funds may not be expended without clear legal authority and documented justification.
2. **City of Long Beach v. Bozek (1982) 31 Cal.3d 527** – Public officials act as trustees of public funds and remain accountable despite delegation.

II. CITY ATTORNEY DUTIES AND LIMITS

City Attorney Role – Charter Article VIII, § 802

Under Redondo Beach City Charter, Article VIII, Section 802, the City Attorney serves as legal advisor to the Council and City officers. That role does not include unilateral program control, budgetary discretion, or exemption from Council oversight.

The City Attorney is obligated to provide accurate, complete information and to ensure compliance with financial, labor, and transparency laws. Failure to do so places the City at risk.

III. FAILURE TO PROVIDE WRITTEN, PUBLICLY AVAILABLE REPORTS

Despite repeated public statements, the City Attorney's Office has failed to provide written reports to the Council detailing:

1. Homeless program grants and restrictions;

2. Expenditure authorization and accounting;
3. Credit card policies and usage;
4. Staffing levels, overtime, and compensation; and
5. Program outcomes and performance metrics.

Such reports must be in writing and available to the public, consistent with the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 6250 et seq.) and the Brown Act (Gov. Code § 54950 et seq.). The government cannot lawfully function on undocumented verbal assurances.

IV. SPECIFIC FACTS RAISING QUESTIONABLE CONCERNS

The specific acts described below are only a small sampling of the questionable conduct that has come to light. They are provided as illustrative examples—not an exhaustive list.

A. Homeless Court Grant – Lack of Written Accounting

At a publicly noticed meeting, verified via video review, of the former Public Safety Commission, the Assistant City Attorney announced receipt of a grant to “fund” the City’s Homeless Court program.

When questioned regarding allowable uses of the funds—salaries, reimbursements, City or County resources—the Assistant City Attorney stated she did not know and committed to returning with that information.

No written or verbal follow-up was ever provided. The City Attorney failed to attend any further meetings or send a representative.

B. Non-Professional Mental Health Intervention

At a community meeting, in an attempt to sing praises of the City’s Homeless Coordinator’s dedication, the Assistant City Attorney described a homeless client suffering depression and emotional distress. Rather than referral to licensed mental-health professionals, City staff allegedly facilitated attendance at a Disneyland event with the Coordinator as a therapeutic response, with the Homeless Coordinator accompanying the individual.

This raises serious concerns regarding scope of employment, use of City resources, and failure to refer to qualified professionals—conduct that exposes the City to foreseeable liability.

C. Credit Card Usage – Gov. Code § 8314

Public Records Act disclosures show the Homeless Coordinator uses a City-issued credit card to make purchases for unidentified individuals without a clearly articulated written policy or audit trail, implicating Government Code § 8314 (misuse of public resources).

D. Compensation and FLSA Exposure

The City Attorney has indicated in public forums that the Homeless Coordinator works extensive hours, sometimes without compensation. These admissions place the Council on actual notice of potential Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.) violations.

E. Staffing Expansion Despite Questionable Data

Recent disclosures suggest homeless population counts may have been overstated, yet an additional homeless-related position was created with compensation exceeding that of long-tenured City employees in skilled trades—without verified data or written justification.

V. NOTICE OF COMPLAINTS AND NEED FOR INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

Multiple complaints concerning Redondo Beach's homeless-program operations and City employee conduct have reportedly been submitted to law enforcement agencies and regulatory offices. There have been allegations of violations of laws.

In light of this fact, it would be prudent, responsible, and legally necessary for the City to conduct its own internal investigation and independent audits to:

1. Identify any improprieties;
2. Locate responsible individuals, if any;
3. Ensure compliance with law, policy, and professional standards; and
4. Correct deficiencies before external scrutiny results in public embarrassment, enforcement action, or litigation.

Failure to act after notice risks a finding of deliberate indifference, a standard recognized in California law as a basis for municipal liability.

VI. CITY TREASURER REPRESENTATIONS AND HEIGHTENED FIDUCIARY EXPECTATIONS

The current City Treasurer publicly represents on the City's website that he possesses professional experience in finance and risk management.

Those representations reasonably create a heightened expectation of diligence, independent judgment, and proactive compliance oversight in matters involving public funds. In light of this stated expertise, continued inaction—or failure to advise the City Council of clear fiduciary and audit obligations—may reasonably be questioned and scrutinized.

Public officials who hold themselves out as possessing specialized expertise may be held to correspondingly higher standards of care in the performance of their Charter-mandated duties.

VII. RISK OF COUNCIL AND TREASURER INDIFFERENCE

At this point, continued inaction by the City Council and failure by the City Treasurer to insist on Charter-mandated audits and written reports may reasonably be construed as indifference to known risks.

Once on notice, indifference itself becomes actionable.

VIII. FORMAL DEMAND

Accordingly, I formally demand that the City Council:

1. Order an independent forensic audit of all homeless-related programs and funding;
2. Require comprehensive written reports, made publicly available, detailing:
 - All grants and funding sources;
 - Expenditures and reimbursements;
 - Credit card usage and controls;
 - Staffing, overtime, and compensation;
 - City Attorney time allocation; and

- Program outcomes;
- 3. Initiate an internal investigation to address complaints and compliance concerns;
- 4. Ensure that persons assigned to the Homeless project and their supervisors have clear and concise job descriptions with direction on fiscal responsibilities.
- 5. Ensure that staff are aware that that any person that is in need of mental health services be immediately referred to the proper agency and that the documentation of the referral be maintained;
- 6. Place this matter on a publicly noticed City Council agenda pursuant to the Brown Act;
- 7. Direct preservation of all related records pursuant to records-retention and litigation-hold obligations; and
- 8. Cease reliance on undocumented verbal assurances in matters involving public funds.

IX. NOTICE OF EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

Due to the documented indifference to prior requests of this nature, copies of this correspondence will be provided to external oversight and public-information entities, including but not limited to:

1. The United States Attorney's Office
2. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
3. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
4. The *Los Angeles Times*
5. The *Daily Breeze*
6. *Easy Reader*
7. Relevant City-related and civic social media and public-interest platforms

This step is taken not to sensationalize, but to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the public record in light of ongoing inaction.

Transparency, accountability, and prompt corrective action protect taxpayers, protect employees, and protect the City itself.

From: [Mark Nelson \(Home Gmail\)](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Cc: [Joy Ford](#); [James Light](#); [mike.witzanzky@redondo.org](#); [Scott Behrendt](#); [Zein Obagi](#); [Paige Kaluderovic](#); [Brad Waller](#); [Chadwick B. Castle](#); [Kevin Cody](#); [Marc Wiener](#); [Sean Scully](#); [stopbchd@gmail.com](#)
Subject: RBCC 2-3-26 Non-Agenda Blue Folder Item - Zoning Protections Presentation #1 (BCHD Prospect Ave Site)
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 3:30:34 PM
Attachments: [Slide1.PNG](#)
[Slide2.PNG](#)
[Slide3.PNG](#)
[Slide4.PNG](#)
[Slide5.PNG](#)
[Slide6.PNG](#)
[Slide7.PNG](#)
[RBCC 2-3-26 Blue Folder Item - Non-Agenda.pdf](#)

CAUTION: Email is from an external source; **Stop, Look, and Think** before opening attachments or links.

The attached blue folder item is relevant for tonight's non-agenda item discussion. It represents the baseline site features of the buildings on the public owned site underlying BCHD and sets the stage for the negative impacts on the \$11.2B in residential property (over 6,000 households and 15,000 residents) within the diminished value one-mile radius of the BCHD parcel.

Zoning Protections Presentation #1:

Fact Base on the Public-owned Prospect Avenue Site Buildings' Sizes, Heights & Setbacks that Impact Surrounding Residents' Health, Neighborhood Character, and Property Values

BACKGROUND:

- Council spot up-zoned the P-CF public-owned land that BCHD currently occupies following litigation threats by developer proponent law firm Rutan & Tucker on behalf of BCHD.
- BCHD shares Rutan & Tucker with the AES site owner and developer Leo Pustilnikov.
- As part of the spot up-zoning to FAR 1.25 and the subsequent Article XVII compliance activity, Council directed Staff to prepare Zoning Protections for the surrounding property.
- This summary deck provides a factual overview of the existing site and buildings. It uses the Certified EIR record, LA County Assessor records, and Google Earth Pro subscription data.
- Full work papers are being prepared and will be added to various agency records.

FINDINGS:

The Existing Campus is 54% 44-ft tall or lower and 99.7% 52-ft tall or lower.

- The 952-sf, 76-ft tall "penthouse" may not have served any functional purpose at South Bay Health District beyond 1950s radio service. The penthouse is only 0.3% of all floor space.
- Next highest on site is the 4-story, 514 hospital building that is approximately 140,000-sf at 52-feet tall.
- Heights then fall to 44-ft, 27-ft, 16-ft, 14-ft, and 10-ft for the remaining 169,900-sf (54%) of floor space.

Average building height (floor space weighted) is 37.5-ft.

All buildings above 27-ft tall are set back 100-ft or more from any residential interface lot line.

Prospect Site Building Inventory by Size and Height

Table 1. Existing Project Site Features

Feature	Land Use	Size
Existing Campus – APN 7502-017-901; 9.95 acres		
514 North Prospect Avenue (Beach Cities Health Center)	Community Wellness and Senior Care, including 60 Memory Care Units	158,000 sf
514 North Prospect Avenue (Attached Maintenance Building)	Maintenance	3,200 sf
512 North Prospect Avenue (Above Ground Parking Structure)	Parking	52,000 sf
510 North Prospect Avenue (Advanced Imaging Building)	Medical Office (Surgical)	52,000 sf
520 North Prospect Avenue (Providence Medical Institute Building)	Medical Office (Family Medical)	47,700 sf

Beach Cities Health District
Healthy Living Campus Master Plan
Initial Study

7

June 2019



Bldg	Description	Size (SqFt)	Height (Ft)
510	Medical Office Building	52,000	27
512	Parking Garage	52,000	10
514	South Bay Hospital	158,000	Various
	Penthouse	952	76
	1-story Urgent Care	10,000	14
	1-story former Child Center	5,000	14
	4-story Hospital	142,048	52
514	Central Plant	3,200	16
520	Medical Office Building	47,700	44
Total		312,900	SqFt

Source: BCHD Certified EIR, Google Earth Pro

Bldg	Description	Size (SqFt)	Height (Ft)	Cumulative SqFt	At or Below (Ft)
512	Parking Garage	52,000	10	16.6%	10
514	1-story Urgent Care	10,000	14	19.8%	14
514	1-story former Child Center	5,000	14	21.4%	14
514	Central Plant	3,200	16	22.4%	16
510	Medical Office Building	52,000	27	39.1%	27
520	Medical Office Building	47,700	44	54.3%	44
514	4-story Hospital	142,048	52	99.7%	52
513	Penthouse	952	76	100.0%	76
Total		312,900	SqFt	Average Height (Ft)	37.5

Source: BCHD Certified EIR, Google Earth Pro

510, 512, 514, 520 North Prospect Building Heights

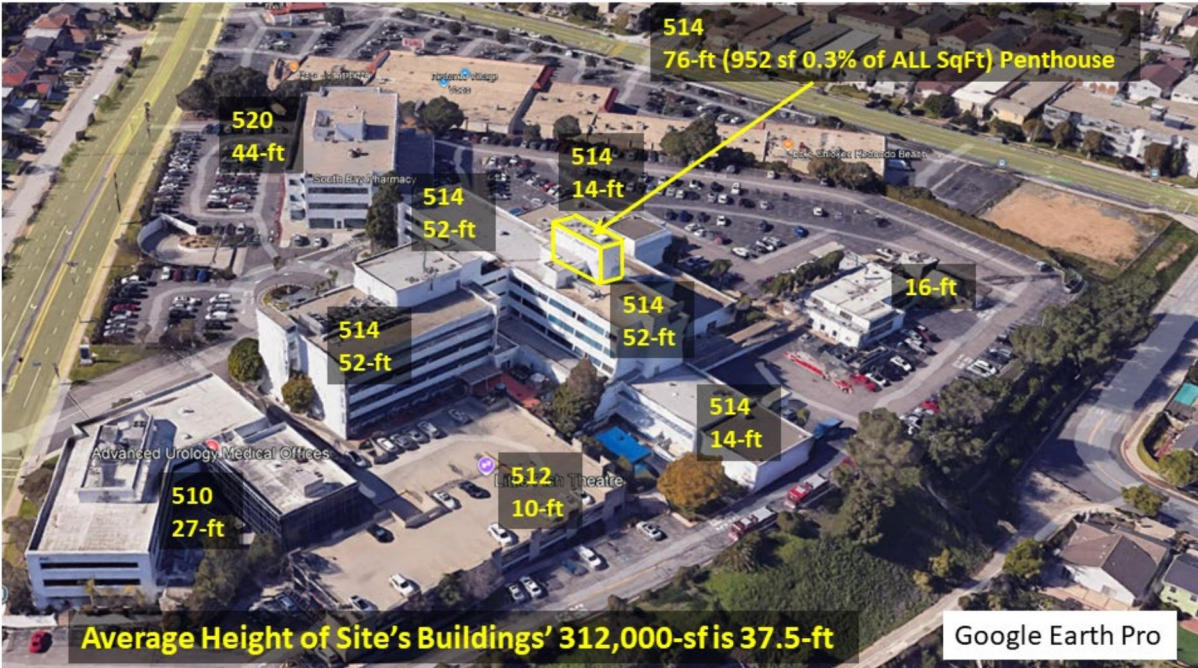
Average Height of Site's 312,900-sf is 37.5-ft (Building Heights Relative to 514 Base at Elevation 163-ft)



510, 512, 514, 520 North Prospect Building

Average Height of Site's 312,900-sf is 37.5-ft (Building Heights Relative to 514 Base at Elevation 163-ft)

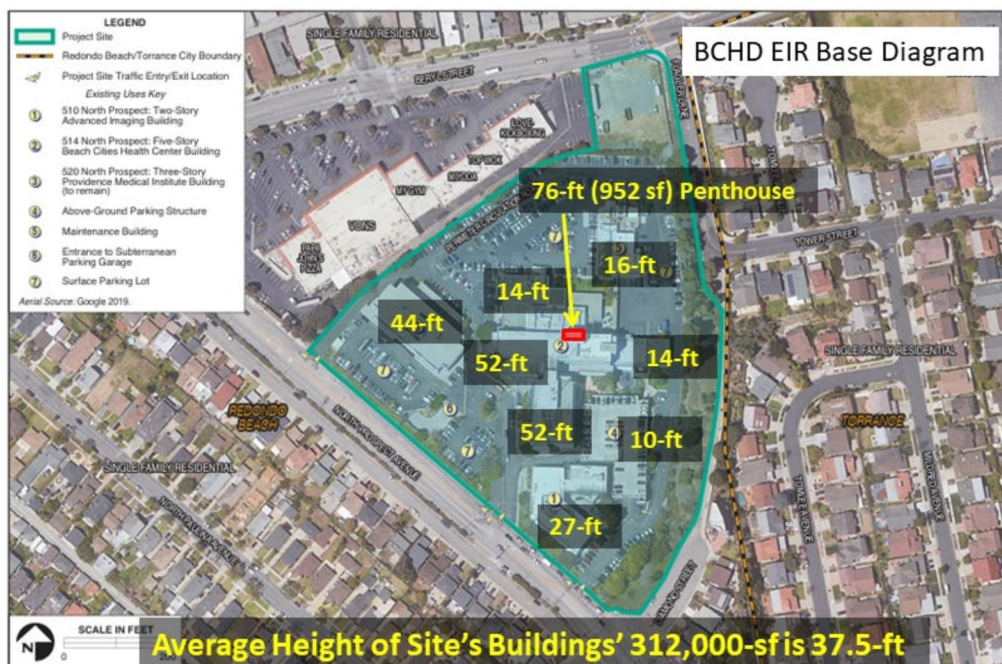
1. 510 MOB: Roof = 25-ft roof, Parapet = 27-ft
2. 514 Hospital: 4-story Roof = 50-ft, Parapet = 52-ft; 952-sf Penthouse = 76-ft; 1-story Roof = 14-ft
3. 520 MOB: Roof = 41-ft; Parapet = 44-ft
4. 512 Ramp: Top parking floor = 6-ft, Safety Wall = 10-ft
5. Physical Plant: Roof = 16-ft



510, 512, 514, 520 North Prospect Site Plan from BCHD EIR

Average Height of Site's 312,900-sf is 37.5-ft (Building Heights Relative to 514 Base at Elevation 163-ft)

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EXISTING 44-FT OR TALLER STRUCTURES ON THE PROSPECT SITE HAVE 105-to-145-FT SETBACKS

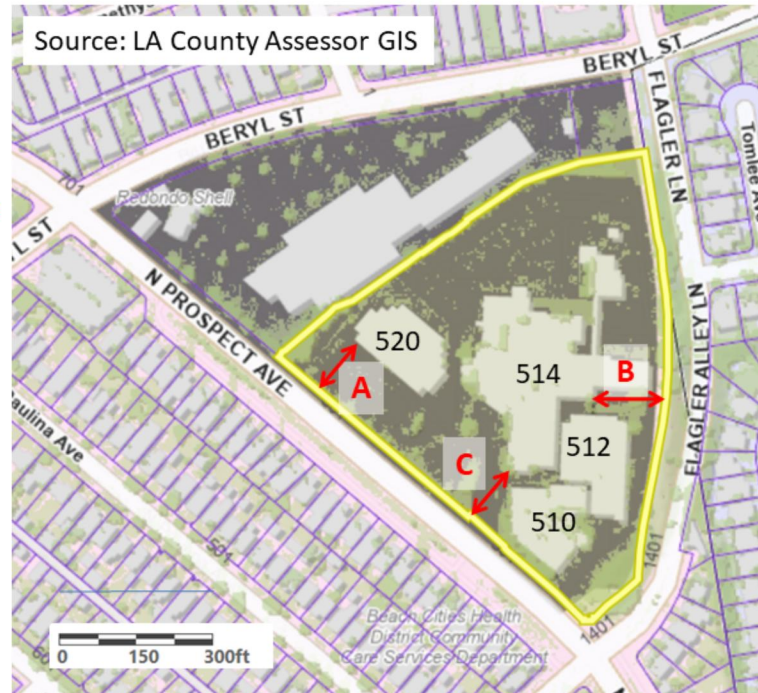
510, 512, 514, 520 North Prospect Existing Setbacks

Existing buildings greater than 40-ft in height are currently set back 105-ft to 145-ft from lot lines adjacent to residential zoned property. See A, B, and C below.

A = 105-ft Setback from West Lot Line
3rd Party owned 520 N. Prospect Medical Office Building (44-ft high) has land lease until 2060. Site front setback measured.

B = 140-ft Setback from South Lot Line
4-story, 50-ft roof level majority of square-feet of 514 N. Prospect (4-story hospital is 52-ft high) setback measured..

C = 145-ft Setback from West Lot Line
4-story, 50-ft roof level majority of square-feet of 514 N. Prospect setback measured. 99.7% of all square feet of the 312,000 on the site are below 52-feet (the parapet height of the 4-story hospital). Only mechanical equipment and the 952-sf "Penthouse" exceed 52-feet on the entire BCHD site.



Zoning Protections Presentation #2:

As early as next week's Meeting, we'll bring a discussion of the \$200M+ Property Value Reduction Surrounding 514 N Prospect Ave with the current 100-ft+ setbacks and 99.7% 52-feet and under height

BACKGROUND:

- The neighborhood has purchased the real estate database for the surrounding one-mile radius from the same company that *BCHD* used for all 3 of its RCFE market studies – forking over tens-of-thousands of taxpayer dollars to the market research company.

FACTS IN THE UPCOMING PRESENTATION:

- Data overview
- Model summary
- Peer-reviewed literature
- Results for over 6,000 properties with a cumulative value over \$11B and a value reduction of over \$200M based on proximity to 514 N Prospect Avenue.