

**Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA)
Responses to Veterans and Community Oversight
and Engagement Board's (VCOEB)
October 2022 Recommendations**

Recommendation 18-01-A: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs instruct the appropriate offices within the Department to enter into a six-month, focused effort to renegotiate the lease with Brentwood School, so that the lease principally benefits Veterans.

VA Response: Non-concur.

While VA is limited in its ability to fully respond to this recommendation due to ongoing litigation, we may revisit this recommendation and update our response upon adjudication of this issue. At this time VA cannot take action to alter or amend the terms of any land use agreements subject to the litigation as it may impact the Government's litigation posture.

Recommendation 18-01-B: If the parties are unable to reach agreement on a new lease, that the Department provide notice to Brentwood School of its intent to terminate the lease with the end of the current academic school year (2022-2023).

VA Response: Non-concur.

While VA is limited in its ability to fully respond to this recommendation due to ongoing litigation, we may revisit this recommendation and update our response upon adjudication of this issue. At this time VA cannot take action to alter or amend the terms of any land use agreements subject to the litigation as it may impact the Government's litigation posture.

Recommendation 18-01-C: If Brentwood School opposes the Department's right to terminate the lease, that the Department initiate a lawsuit in the Central District of California to have a judge determine the legality of doing so.

VA Response: Non-concur.

While VA is limited in its ability to fully respond to this recommendation due to ongoing litigation, we may revisit this recommendation and update our response upon adjudication of this issue. At this time VA cannot take action to alter or amend the terms of any land use agreements subject to the litigation as it may impact the Government's litigation posture.

Recommendation 18-01-D: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs instruct the West LA VA Leadership to meet with the Brentwood School and arrange a payment plan so that Brentwood School can pay all of the monetary consideration that it has failed to pay during the term of its lease, since the passage of the WLA Leasing Act.

VA Response: Non-concur.

While VA is limited in its ability to fully respond to this recommendation due to ongoing litigation, we may revisit this recommendation and update our response upon adjudication of this issue. At this time VA cannot take action to alter or amend the terms of any land use agreements subject to the litigation as it may impact the Government's litigation posture.

Recommendation 18-01-E: If the Brentwood School opposes the West Los Angeles VA Leadership's efforts to recoup money due under the lease, that the Department initiate a lawsuit in the Central District of California to have a judge determine whether any amounts are due under the lease.

VA Response: Non-concur.

While VA is limited in its ability to fully respond to this recommendation due to ongoing litigation, we may revisit this recommendation and update our response upon adjudication of this issue. At this time VA cannot take action to alter or amend the terms of any land use agreements subject to the litigation as it may impact the Government's litigation posture.

Recommendation 18-02: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs write a letter to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, including all 19 local public housing authority agencies in the County of Los Angeles, requesting interagency cooperation to increase maximum rent that can be paid through the HUD-VASH program to at least 175% of Fair Market Rent.

VA Response: Concur.

VA will issue a letter to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the local public housing authority agencies that are listed below. The letter will request interagency cooperation to increase maximum rent that can be paid through the Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program and provide supporting documentation provided by VCOEB to help justify such an undertaking.

1. Los Angeles County Development Authority.
2. Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.
3. Burbank Housing Authority.
4. Glendale Housing Authority.
5. The City of Pasadena Department of Housing.
6. The Housing Authority of the City of Long Beach.
7. The City of Hawthorne Department of Housing.
8. Pomona Housing Authority.
9. The Norwalk Housing Authority.
10. The City of Santa Monica Housing Office.
11. The Redondo Beach Housing Authority.
12. Compton Housing Authority.

13. Baldwin Park Housing Authority.
14. Culver City Housing Agency.
15. Hawaiian Gardens Public Housing Authority.
16. Inglewood Housing Authority.
17. Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency.
18. South Gate Housing Authority.
19. City of Torrance Housing Assistance Office.

Department of Veterans Affairs
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