

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/21/2020 10:14 AM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: The North And West Valley animal shelters must be open immediately, strays are roaming our streets getting hit by cars. And the West Valley should not be given away to rescue groups that will NOT take in strays and owner-surrendered animals. LA Animal Services must be independently investigated for killing healthy animals and Brenda Barnette must be fired immediately for her incompetence and lies about being No-Kill. That is false. There is a lawsuit against her and the City for illegally closing the 2 shelters and for breaking City codes - they must reopen those shelters now. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/01/2020 06:42 PM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing as a part of a coalition of young professionals in the Los Angeles area to urge the city council to pass a resolution to suspend enforcement of Municipal Code 56.11, thereby ending the inhumane and illegal practice of “sweeps” of homeless encampments. We believe these sweeps are a public health hazard: in addition to people’s belongings and medications being thrown away, the Centers for Disease Control issued guidelines in March that specifically recommended against clearing these encampments, given the potential to disperse the spread of COVID-19 more widely through communities. Weekly “comprehensive cleanups” force elderly and disabled residents to break down their tents and relocate without regard for their health or physical limitations. We are additionally concerned by recently reported trends that unhoused Angelenos are avoiding city cooling centers during extreme heat waves, compounding the effects of environmental racism on this vulnerable community. In addition to the public health implications, we believe that these sweeps are inhumane. Particularly given the ongoing shortage of shelter beds and the daily cost (\$45,000) of these sweeps, we believe it is unjust to subject anyone to this wanton destruction of their property. These cruel and costly sweeps needlessly punish houseless Angelenos who want to access a shelter bed but cannot due to limited capacity. 24 hour LAPD patrols increase the likelihood of unnecessary conflicts and uses of force. The enormous price tag for geographically targeted enforcement is unjustifiable in light of the city’s need for more homeless services and housing. Finally, we believe that the continued enforcement of Municipal Code 56.11 directly violates the injunction granted by US District Court Judge Dale Fischer on April 13, 2020, which mandated suspension of enforcement of sections 56.11(3)(i) and 56.11(10)(d) of the Municipal Code. Judge Fischer also deemed the city in contempt of her order one week ago, on September 23, due to its continued enforcement. For all these reasons, we believe the City Council should pass a resolution suspending the practice of homeless encampment “sweeps,” which are inhumane, illegal, and a hazard to public health.