



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Please vote "no" on these critical items:

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Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, candy.rosales@lacity.org, Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

To LA City Council members and to LA City Clerks for Council Files:

The City Council is voting Tuesday June 23, 2015 on two motions that will criminalize poverty and homelessness.

I am asking you to please vote NO on both of these:

* Agenda item 5/Council File 14-1551 is an amendment to LAMC 63.44 B and I and pertains to park curfews. This includes the Beaches of Los Angeles, which have been closed via LAMC 63.44B14b without first obtaining the California State required Coastal Development Permit.

* Agenda item 6/Council File 14-1656 that unnecessarily creates a new LAMC 56.11 and is not required to settle the lawsuit Lavan vs. City of Los Angeles per legal counsel.

These laws make it a crime to have possessions and will make it easier to seize the personal belongings of homeless people when there is no sufficient storage system in place throughout the City of Los Angeles for the growing numbers of homeless people in the City.

I agree with Councilman Cedillo who voted NO to both of these on June 16: "This City can and must do better."

The City spent 100 million dollars on homelessness, with 85% of this going to law enforcement – yet homelessness has increased significantly.

The strategy of criminalizing poverty and homelessness does not work and Los Angeles knows it is the wrong direction to take.

Councilmember Cedillo rightly pointed out that these laws will disproportionately criminalize African Americans, because approximately 50% of the homeless population is Black. These laws will criminalize women who are victims of domestic violence, because they are a significant percentage of the homeless population. Young men and women who become emancipated; 50% of them become homeless within six months after leaving foster care.

The City of Los Angeles currently has no plan to solve homelessness. Los Angeles is now

the most unaffordable city in the country. Creating laws that criminalize homeless people is inhumane and is not a solution.

Some major solutions are creating a more diverse range of affordable housing options for extremely low income people, creating supportive housing for disabled people, and protecting the existing affordable housing in Los Angeles.

Until substantial housing options are in place for the growing numbers of Angelinos living homeless in Los Angeles there first needs to be storage, safe places to rest, and sanitary facilities. Without these emergency measures acted upon first, there is no such thing as a balanced approach.

It is the only humane thing to do.

Please help turn this around by voting NO on these items. These motions should be voted down or at the very most these motions should be sent to the new Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness for further review.

Gina **310-387-2152**

"If by a "Liberal" they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people-their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights and their civil liberties-someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a "Liberal", then I'm proud to say I'm a "Liberal."

— John F. Kennedy, Profiles in Courage