

Communication from Public

Name: Mitra Jouhari

Date Submitted: 01/24/2020 01:14 PM

Council File No: 19-0609

Comments for Public Posting: I am deeply dissatisfied with the recent increase in aggressive sweeps and the lack of patience that the city has been displaying for the CARE program. Rather than working to help our homeless neighbors, the city is creating a system in which sanitation workers are able to make the lives of those experiencing homelessness harder. This change in strategy does a disservice to our neighbors and is frankly inhumane, inconsiderate, and shameful. We should be working together with those activists in groups like KTown For All and SELAH that actually are on the ground working with our neighbors - and actually hearing them - rather than perpetuating strategies that make their lives harder. I am disappointed and upset to hear about the sweeps like the one in the Sepulveda Basin and hope that more humane and thoughtful strategies will be considered and enacted by our city's officials. I will only be voting and supporting those who exhibit interest and care when it comes to our houseless neighbors.

Communication from Public

Name: Alison Zeidman
Date Submitted: 01/24/2020 01:17 PM
Council File No: 19-0609
Comments for Public Posting: I'm disappointed that the city is ramping up a stricter "clean-up" strategy rather than giving more time and support for the CARE program.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 01/24/2020 01:21 PM

Council File No: 19-0609

Comments for Public Posting: The report that city sanitation officials will begin performing more aggressive clean-ups at LA's encampment sites concerns me. I understand trying to prevent violent crime from occurring, but many of these residents keep to themselves and bother no one. These neighbors may not live a "regular lifestyle", but they're still our neighbors and deserve to be treated as such. They can't afford a better mode of housing, and it seems that "aggressive clean-ups" will only worsen their less than ideal living condition. Furthermore, city sanitation officials might not have the interpersonal skills to engage with these residents on a human level if they have mental/personality disorders. And I think our police resources can be better spent on preserving public safety rather than cleaning up people's dwellings.

Communication from Public

Name: Amelie Cherlin

Date Submitted: 01/24/2020 01:41 PM

Council File No: 19-0609

Comments for Public Posting: I am dismayed by the City Council's callous and counterproductive actions toward our unhoused neighbors. I urge the Council to continue with the original CARE program, rather than deploying the LAPD to criminalize and terrify unhoused residents. I would like to remind all of you, again, that unhoused people are your constituents too. Stop trying to hide your shame by sweeping them away. It doesn't work and it's harmful.

Communication from Public

Name: Abbey Robertson

Date Submitted: 01/24/2020 02:03 PM

Council File No: 19-0609

Comments for Public Posting: This is deeply shameful and will make it so much harder for our neighbors experiencing homelessness to get the resources they need to get out of their circumstances. All of this money being poured into our city to help alleviate the problem in so many areas, so many organizations and groups making progress and doing meaningful work, and you are choosing to use resources for THIS idiotic, counterproductive, heartless crap? Not only are these new procedures not a solution, nor a bandaid, they are an even bigger puncture wound to the constantly growing problem. They are going to make our city wide crisis even worse, and fast. I spent a lot of years thinking the people behind the procedures and legislation in this city were getting it wrong out of not knowing better or different ways, but it is pretty clear to me now that they are making these decisions despite knowing better, and for their own self interests. How many more years are we going to let the people in charge mismanage and escalate the biggest crisis LA is facing??? Joe Huizar, Joe Buscaino, Marquee Harris-Dawson, Nury Martinez, Curren D. Price Jr, and Monica Rodriguez, you should be ashamed of yourselves. When the number of unhomed individuals goes up again this year, when the amount of our neighbors who die on the streets of LA grows, I hope you can live with yourselves knowing that you made conscience decisions that contributed to those deaths and those lives getting worse. Good luck in your next election, monsters.

Communication from Public

Name: Carey Kayser

Date Submitted: 01/24/2020 02:11 PM

Council File No: 19-0609

Comments for Public Posting: As an LA resident I was to express my dissatisfaction with the decision that city sanitation officials will begin performing more aggressive clean-ups at LA's encampment sites. The move comes just months after the city began enacting their CARE program, a system that would finally treat our unhoused neighbors with the respect and dignity they deserve. Instead of the city cooperating with homeless individuals on keeping their areas clean, sanitation workers now have full authority to remove items at their will. This is a step backward and will increase the stress and dehumanization of Los Angelenos experiencing homelessness.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Gaines

Date Submitted: 01/24/2020 02:39 PM

Council File No: 19-0609

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of the 13th district and I'm writing to protest the recent change in strategy from city sanitation officials with regard to clean-ups of unhoused resident encampments. As a city, we have to realize that our historic lack of sufficient funding or concern for the homeless population and skyrocketing housing costs has resulted in the surge in encampments, and that tearing them down during "clean-ups" without offering sufficient shelter or permanent housing alternatives is cruel and unusual. While I agree that a certain degree of cleanliness may be important to maintain surrounding some of the campsites, the militaristic ramping up of the sweeps, including removal of bulky items--in my view constituting theft of personal property--is simply not the answer. As a housing case manager at Homeless Health Care LA, I know firsthand that we need to build housing as well as trusting relationships with encampment residents in order to help them walk the difficult path out of homelessness. Simply removing people's property, including items crucial to survival outdoors, simply makes that path much harder, and will no doubt exacerbate the problem. Nearly 1,000 people died from exposure last year in sunny Los Angeles in 2018, which is a deep shame for this city I have always called home. Let's help people stay alive, let's open up enough shelters and housing units, let's let people keep their tents and blankets; then we can talk about whatever hazards these encampments may create, but NOT BEFORE.