

Communication from Public

Name: Kristen Parks

Date Submitted: 06/14/2021 03:25 PM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to this motion to resume enforcement of 56.11. This motion is a deliberate attempt to punish tent dwellers for their otherwise LEGAL PRESENCE IN PUBLIC SPACES around our city. Do not be tricked into thinking that a person can simply take their tent down during the day and then put it back up at night without risking the TOTAL LOSS of their PERSONAL PROPERTY during the day. Everyone knows that a "taken down" tent (i.e. a tent with the poles removed) is considered "abandoned" by the city and that the city's Sanitation department DESTROYS or CONFISCATES "ABANDONED PROPERTY" in public areas on a daily basis. When the city destroys tent homes, neighbors or community organizers often step up to replace them and tents are not cheap--a decent tent costs at least \$50-100! Criminalizing the use of a tent subjects people to unnecessary and devastating loss of personal property, including items that may be stored inside the tent (ID cards, legal documents, medication, etc.). As a resident of CD2, I see many people using tents during DAYLIGHT hours to PROTECT AGAINST THE SUN, heat, and harmful UV rays. EXPOSURE DEATHS are also a public health issue! To prevent heat exhaustion, people must have access to shade. Without daytime tent use, the city will be pushing more people to seek refuge UNDER FREEWAY UNDERPASSES, thus violating Judge Carter's order. THIS MOTION WOULD DISPROPORTIONATELY HARM WOMEN. I know many unhoused women who tell me that their tent is the only SAFE SPACE they have to avoid harassment and sexual assault because it provides them with a degree of privacy. Many of them stay awake all night so they will not be attacked in their sleep. This means their schedule is reversed--they sleep during the day when it's safest to do so. Removing the right to shelter in a tent would make it impossible for these women to survive. All human beings deserve privacy--this is a constitutional right under the 4th & 9th amendments--and TO DENY SHELTER IS TO DENY PRIVACY AND SAFETY to our community's most vulnerable residents. I urge the council to oppose this motion. Do not resume a violent campaign of criminalization and displacement of unhoused people by targeting their tents. Criminalization of homelessness does nothing to help people access safe housing, but

it does push poor people into our jails, which is not a very good solution to the housing crisis in Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle

Date Submitted: 06/14/2021 07:53 PM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Enforcing 56.11 after the worst economic downturn of our lifetime is cruel and an irresponsible approach to the systemic issue of homelessness - for which permanent, supportive housing is the only solution. We are approaching one of the hottest summers in LA coupled with unparalleled drought, and our unhoused neighbors deserve shelter and protection from the heat at all hours of the day. Requiring our neighbors to put up and take down their shelters daily in dangerous heat is inhumane and deadly. Consider the hardship this poses to our neighbors who experience chronic health conditions, malnutrition, and physical ailments - to first accomplish this task and then be left without a place to rest and exist during daylight hours. Enforcement of 56.11 places an incredible, undue burden on an already vulnerable community. Criminalization is not the answer to homelessness - this is war on the poor. Suspend enforcement of 56.11 indefinitely or watch the daily death rate of the unhoused continue to skyrocket. 4 a day is not okay.