

Communication from Public

Name: Soma Snakeoil AKA Natasha Vanderhoof

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 05:50 PM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: The issue here with the CARE + sweeps goes incredibly deep into the nature of what is actually happening in District 15. There is a complex history of not being able to manage care for the unhoused community in the area and because the local government is in a bind they are resorting to extreme measures. Last month it was 41.18. When there was a realization around the push back from the community and the nature of the human rights violations from the written policy, suddenly there were a rash of tent fires and proposed sweeps. We are paying attention to what is happening in this area and the implications for Greater Los Angeles. Our community of advocates asks the City Council to consider that we are in the process of change over to a new federal administration. Biden has made it very clear that he would adopt a housing first model and has a big connection to Los Angeles. We know that punitive and aggressive approaches to the unhoused crisis have been proven ineffective and that a harm reduction and housing first model saves cities money. We implore City Council to consider putting resources into programs that prevent and support rather than uproot and create more crisis. As advocates, whenever sweeps happen you make it much harder for us to do linkage to medical care, create stability around recovery with medically assisted treatment, and resource next steps with IDs and other documents that help with housing. The sweeps so frequently remove IDs and prescription medications that we have worked relentlessly to provide for our most marginalized people. Sometimes it feels like we're working against each other. In the past couple weeks' one of our biggest barriers was lack of IDs that limited our ability to work quickly to get an unhoused woman an abortion. When we can't move quickly to offer these kinds of services we end up with babies born in tents, with obvious issues for the mother the child and the extra burden on a strapped foster system. We need to be able to work together for humane and positive solutions for our communities, for a shared goal of social recovery. Please do not sweep people in a pandemic. With respect, Soma Snakeoil Executive Director, The Sidewalk Project

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Thomas

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:46 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I am a constituent of CD13 and am in opposition to Item 33. We need to focus on creating ways to serve our unhoused neighbors while they wait for permanent housing. If you want to serve our unhoused neighbors, connect with service providers and health professionals on how to provide hygiene stations that work and regular trash pick up until you can house folks living there permanently. This also sets an incredibly dangerous precedent to have council members choose random encampments in their district and pass things through at a district by district basis after waiving from committee. That is totally unacceptable.

Communication from Public

Name: Nina Mohan

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 11:02 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I demand that you not resume the CARE+ sweeps. They only serve to disrupt the lives of our unhoused neighbors and destroy their personal property. If you're really concerned about public health and actually want to provide help to our unhoused neighbors, consider giving them more access to hand washing stations, bathrooms, showers, laundry and most importantly of all - permanent housing. Or at the very least, take over the hotels. There have been recent COVID outbreaks among city employees who work on these sweeps. We don't need to be putting our unhoused neighbors at risk like this. We stopped the CARE+ sweeps in March because of the pandemic. With cases spiking, it makes no sense to resume them. It's abominable that you would care more about the visuals of a sidewalk than lives of our unhoused neighbors. Do better. Unhoused angelenos ARE your constituents. Housing is a human right.

Communication from Public

Name: Bryne Rasmussen

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 09:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: CARES + sweeps are monstrous and cruel. We need services not sweeps. We need real solutions to our communities problems—hand washing stations, laundry, garbage cans, regular trash pickup, showers, pest control and then city wide we need rent cancellation, more affordable housing, holistic health services that includes mental health services. No to Joe Buscaino restarting these sweeps in his district that only exacerbate ongoing issues. We are all interconnected and his gerrymandered district sweeps will effect our entire city's health. We are in the worst spike in the pandemic yet and Joe wants to risk everyone else's health and lives. We know what actually keeps people safe—ENOUGH WITH THESE NIGHTMARE NEOLIBERAL POLICIES. Stop torturing our unhoused neighbors.

Communication from Public

Name: julianna kufeldt

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:50 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Hello I do not support CARE+ because it will continue sweeps of the unhoused. This proposal needs to be more transparent in what it will actually provide to the unhoused. The unhoused needs showers, bathrooms, and other basic needs. We need to give basic needs to people- you need to respect the CDC guidelines - this is something our city council members like to pick and choose when to use this. Please have some humanity! We need to look at caring for people in specific ways and not pushing them to move around the city! We do not want CARE+ when it hurts people!! thank you

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 03:12 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose Council Member Buscaino's motion to resume CARE+ sweeps in his district. There have been recent cases of COVID outbreaks among LA City employees who sweep encampments. Sweeps pose an even greater risk than before, to both the housed and unhoused community. During a COVID surge, LA City Council must listen to the CDC and not sweep encampments. Sweeps do not help solve homelessness; they displace people, make it harder for them to get back into housing, and make our city and its citizens less safe. We all agree with prioritizing public health in addressing homelessness and fighting COVID. To address some of the concerns of encampments - such as trash - we can start by increasing regular trash pick up and access to sanitation services like restrooms.

Communication from Public

Name: Jiyoung Carolyn Park

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 04:15 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Joe Buscaino's motion to resume sweeps, if passed, would be illegal, unsafe, ineffective and inhumane. This motion ignores Judge Carter's abundantly clear and common sense directive to create sufficient shelter/housing capacity before resuming sweeps. As many councilmembers have acknowledged, resuming sweeps is premature and exposes the taxpayers to millions in lawsuit settlements so that some councilmembers like Joe Buscaino can score brownie points with wealthy donors. We currently have shelter in place orders, and displacing our houseless neighbors will mean they have to move around to find shelter, endangering themselves, city workers, and others. Shuffling the houseless from street to street and district to district does nothing to decrease houselessness. It only increases the chances of deaths spiking even higher to unprecedented levels. It is also morally reprehensible to displace the houseless and take their possessions during a pandemic when resources are already stretched thin and temperatures at night have consistently been in the 40's. If the primary concern is issue of houselessness is sanitation, then provide services like showers and handwashing stations. If the primary concern is the existence of houseless people, create jobs, build mental health centers, rehabilitation centers, and provide access to mental health services.

Communication from Public

Name: Alana Shine

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 07:13 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Alana Shine, I am a resident in LA district 10. I stand firmly against CARE+ sweeps. They endanger my most vulnerable neighbors. Now more than ever, we need to shelter in place, especially those that lack reliable medical care like many of my unhoused neighbors. Sweeps destroy private property, like warm clothes and blankets and even medications. After sweeps, people are left worse off than before without a new place to go. What the city should be doing is providing sanitation services like trash cans with reliable pick up, bathrooms, water fountains, and sinks. This would help prevent the spread of COVID instead of displacing people which can only worsen the spread.

Communication from Public

Name: D.C.

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 07:23 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Right now in LA, 1/145 Angelenos have COVID-19. We are at a critical point in this pandemic. To resume sweeps, against the CDC recommendations, shows a level of cruelty and a hollowing lack of humanity for our unhoused neighbors. To think this is even a discussion is mind blowing. If sanitation is really the concern here, increasing trash pick up is the solution - not displacing people from their homes and removing their personal effects. Additionally we could focus effort on showers and hand washing stations to protect our unhoused neighbors. It's not just a hashtag -- SERVICES, NOT SWEEPS. Pandemic aside, stop talking about the unhoused population like a sanitation problem. These are real people fallen on hard times, not an abstract concept for you to debate from high horses. These are people living on the street, being treated like garbage by people who walk and drive by, ignored, who have to defend what few belongings they have with vigilance for fear of sweeps, who often don't know when their next shower or meal will be, WHO SLEEP ON THE STREET. Not only are sweeps damaging in the immediate short-term; they worsen a mental health crisis in the unhoused population as they are suffering very real trauma from sweeps on top of the typical daily traumas of being unhoused. This is real, these are people's brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers -- but beyond that, these are your neighbors and you have a duty to them. The mover of this motion should spend a single night on the street and soften the callouses around his capacity for empathy.

Communication from Public

Name: Miki Jackson

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 12:28 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Miki Jackson for AHF/Housing is a Human Right. We are in strong opposition to Item #33. Now is the worst time to resume CARE+ cleanups. For unhoused people, the guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is especially true now as we are seeing the highest increases in the rates of cases since March, which is why CARE+ was suspended to begin with. Taking this action was a critical part of why we did not see the rates of COVID-19 within the homelessness population that we once feared. At this moment public health and stopping the spread of this deadly virus should be everyone's first priority. We can start addressing problems like trash by increasing regular trash pick up and access to sanitation services.. These are the things that can help manage encampments and address public health and public safety concerns – and that can be implemented without forcing people to move all their belongings as they try to protect their health – while we work hard to bring folks inside permanently. But expanding clean ups now is unacceptable. This action creates a dangerous precedent for a site by site approach to resuming CARE+ activities. It smacks of playing politics with our health and safety. The pandemic is affecting all of Los Angeles, which is why we have a county-wide Stay-At-Home Order. Given the vulnerability of our unhoused neighbors, the City should undergo a thorough review process with input from public health officials and service providers before expanding CARE+ activities anywhere in the City. What we should not be doing is waiving motions like this out of committee and fast tracking them. We ask that you not support this motion and instead focus on the urgent matter of protecting the lives of unsheltered residents from the threat of COVID-19.

Communication from Public

Name: Eliza

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 12:36 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose this motion to resume sweeps. These practices are inhumane in any situation, especially when covid cases are at record highs. People experiencing houselessness need shelter. If the city cannot properly supply it, it's absurd to deny them the shred of ability that they have to create a space to live.

Communication from Public

Name: Eric Ares

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 08:51 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Eric Ares, a resident of Council District 1, and I urge the council to not support this motion - and instead allow our unsheltered neighbors to continue sheltering in place during the pandemic (and new Stay-At-Home Order) and commit more time and energy in investigating and creating possible solutions that can address public health challenges at encampments without compromising the physical health of our unhoused neighbors. This includes but is not limited to regular trash pick and access to water and restrooms - none of which require an unsheltered resident to be moved and complicate their ability to protect themselves from COVID-19. Everyone is concerned and frustrated with the challenges of unsheltered homelessness - especially those who are currently living on our streets. The pandemic has obviously further complicated this untenable situation. But expanding CARE+ cleanups now, this quickly, without thorough public health and service provider input on the implications of this action at this time is unsafe and dangerous. For unhoused people, the guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is especially true now as we are seeing the highest increases in the rates of cases since March, which is why CARE+ was suspended to begin with. Taking this action was a critical part of why we did not see the rates of COVID-19 within the unhoused population that we once feared. I refuse to believe that we cannot create policies and practices that protect the health of our unsheltered neighbors from the effects of COVID-19 while promoting public health challenges like sanitation and trash - the solutions of which can be implemented without forcing people to move all their belongings or have whatever shelter they have taken from them. This motion would create a dangerous site by site/district by district precedent driven by the housed constituent and political concerns rather than solutions driven by science and what will actually serve unhoused and housed residents unlike until we can bring people inside for good. Do not support this motion - and instead begin a new discussion with key stakeholders, including, but not limited to, public health officials, service providers/agencies, people with lived experience, and other experts on this matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Shayla Myers

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 09:02 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached comments related to the potential impact of the proposed motion on our clients.



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Our File Number 19-1306127

VIA EMAIL ONLY

November 30, 2020

The Honorable Nury Martinez
President, Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CF # 20-1427: Motion relative to authorizing the Bureau of Sanitation to resume CARE+ Cleanups in Council District 15

Dear Council President Martinez and Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles represents individuals who are currently residing at the homeless encampment located at Lomita and McCoy in the Harbor City area of Los Angeles. Although the City has suspended comprehensive cleanups throughout Los Angeles in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 among the City's vulnerable unhoused population, this motion inexplicably seeks to resume comprehensive cleanups at three specific encampments in Council District 15, including the encampment at Lomita and McCoy. The motion was waived from committee and is scheduled to be heard by the full City Council on December 1, 2020.

Resuming comprehensive cleanups at this location at this time could have devastating consequences for our clients, as well as other encampment residents, city workers, and the general public. As this council is well aware, cases of COVID-19 are skyrocketing in Los Angeles County, reaching transmission levels not previously seen during the pandemic and threatening to overwhelm the City's healthcare resources.¹ By every metric, Los Angeles is facing what Dr. Barbara Ferrer has

¹See Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, "LA County Daily COVID-19 Data," available at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/data/index.htm>, last accessed November 30, 2020. Today, Los Angeles County reported 5,150 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of cases in Los Angeles County alone to over 400,000. There are currently more people hospitalized in California than at any other time in the pandemic. And the death rate in Los Angeles County from the virus continues to rise.

Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5228 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th St., Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401; 310-899-6200
Ron Olson Justice Center, 1550 W 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017; 323-801-7989

called “the most difficult moment in the pandemic”² and we still do not know what impact the holidays will have on rates of infection, hospitalization, and death.

At the same time, the number of reported cases of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness has remained lower than was feared at the start of the pandemic. In March 2020, this Council and the City of Los Angeles took a number of steps to protect unsheltered Angelinos, including deploying handwashing stations and porta-potties, allowing individuals to have their tents up during the day, and allowing individuals to remain in place while the City conducts CARE and CARE+ cleanups. These actions have allowed individuals to shelter in place and limit contact to others outside their immediate encampment area. While there have been outbreaks at encampments,³ the number of cases overall have been lower than originally feared.

Resuming comprehensive cleanups at this time could significantly undermine the City’s progress at containing the spread of COVID-19 among unhoused residents, at exactly the worst time in this pandemic.

1. Comprehensive Cleanups That Displace Individuals During The Pendency Of The Clean Up Are Contrary To The Current Stay At Home Orders and Guidance from the CDC and State of California Department of Public Health

The motion before the City Council would allow the City to resume comprehensive cleanups, which by their very nature, require individuals to vacate their tents and encampments, pack up their belongings, and vacate the area for duration of the cleanup—the notices typically state that individuals are required to be out of the area for nine hours at a time. In an encampment like Lomita and McCoy, the comprehensive cleanup routinely takes the entire day. During that time, individuals have no alternative but to either congregate outside the cleanup area with their belongings or to disperse into the community for the duration of the cleanups.

This type of cleanup is contrary to the current “Temporary Targeted Safer at Home Health Officer Order for Control of COVID-19: Tier 1 Substantial Surge Response,” which is currently in effect in Los Angeles. The order was issued on November 28, 2020 by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health “as a response to the recent substantial rise in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths.”⁴ The explicit purpose of the order is to require all residents of Los

² Luke Money, Rong-Gong Lin II, Ryan Menezes, “LA County Surpasses 400,000 coronavirus cases, hits record number of hospitalizations,” Los Angeles Times, November 30, 2020.

³ See e.g., Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, “Locations and Demographics,” available at http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/locations.htm?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=#nonres-settings. Last accessed November 30, 2020.

⁴ Los Angeles Department of Public Health, “Temporary Targeted Safer at Home Health Officer Order for Control of COVID-19: Tier 1 Substantial Surge Response,” November 28, 2020, available at http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/HOO/HOO_SaferatHome_SurgeResponse.pdf.

Angeles to minimize their contacts with others, in the hopes of getting the massive rates of infection under control.⁵

In most locations, including most notably, Lomita and McCoy, there is little space for social distancing while individuals wait with their belongings for the City to conduct the cleanups. Individuals have little choice but to remain in close contact with other encampment residents from throughout the encampment, which is exactly what the Safer at Home Orders aim to prevent.

Comprehensive cleanups that require individuals to move from a location for the duration of the cleanup are also counter to the Centers for Disease Control and State of California guidance, which caution that people who are living unsheltered or in encampments “to remain where they are,” because “clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community.”⁶

While the guidance has been viewed by some individuals advocating for resumption of cleanups as cautioning against only the permanent dislocation of individuals from a specific location, the effect of the comprehensive cleanups contemplated by this motion is to clear encampments and disperse people for the day into the community. There should be no question that this dispersal, even for a day, is sufficient to increase the spread of COVID-19 and is what the CDC, the State, and the County Department of Public Health have counseled against.

It was on the basis of public health guidance that the City suspended comprehensive cleanups in March 2020. The guidance from the CDC and the State of California has not changed, and the current stay at home order is as restrictive as the City, County and State stay at home orders in place at that time. The only difference between March 2020 and now is that the severity of the pandemic in Los Angeles County has increased dramatically and the negative consequences of these cleanups for individuals residing in these encampments threatens to be far worse.

2. There Have Been A Number Of Significant COVID-19 Outbreaks At CARE+ Comprehensive Cleanups Since They Resumed In July

The concern about outbreaks at comprehensive cleanups is not hypothetical. There have been major outbreaks of COVID-19 among individuals providing services to unhoused residents during the comprehensive cleanups. There have been documented and publicly-disclosed outbreaks of COVID-19 among three of the teams mobile hygiene units (MHUs) that are deployed as part of LA Sanitation’s CARE+ comprehensive cleanup teams.⁷

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See “Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html> (May 2020). See also State of California, Recommended Strategic Approaches for COVID-19 Response for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness,” March 2020, available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Protocols-Homeless-Pop.pdf>.

⁷ See *supra* note 3.

These MHUs are, according to LA Sanitation, a critical component of its COVID-19 response, but they themselves have resulted in documented outbreaks. While there is no public information about rates of infection among City workers conducting comprehensive cleanups, nor has the City released any data related to unhoused individuals who were exposed to these workers during the comprehensive cleanups, the number of individuals who have contracted COVID-19 who have participated in comprehensive cleanups is cause for significant concern and a reconsideration of the City's strategy, not an expansion of comprehensive cleanups at the height of the pandemic.

3. Comprehensive Cleanups Will Result In The Loss Of Property Or Place Property Owners At Unnecessary Risk To Reclaim Their Belongings

Comprehensive cleanups have frequently resulted in the loss of tents, tarps, blankets, and other items that unhoused residents rely on, not only to survive on the streets, but now, to shelter in place. Many items are discarded by LA Sanitation, but even those items that are simply seized pursuant to LAMC 56.11 are transported away from their owners. Individuals who want to retrieve their belongings are instructed to visit the BIN, which is located in Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles, over 20 miles away from the encampments targeted by this motion. As a result, most individuals are unable to reclaim their belongings, and the majority of those belongings are destroyed. Therefore, whether belongings are immediately destroyed or stored and subsequently destroyed, the result is the same—individuals are deprived of critical belongings that are necessary for survival, and without those items, face worse health outcomes and are more susceptible to infections, as well as adverse impacts from those infections.

Even if unhoused residents are able to reclaim their belongings as contemplated by the ordinance, the City's practice of seizing belongings creates yet more unnecessary disruption to the current Stay at Home order. Moreover, those trips will undoubtedly be taken on public transportation because as the City has acknowledged, most unhoused residents do not have private vehicles. This is exactly the type of trip that the Stay at Home order demands that individuals eliminate or minimize.

4. Since the Motion Was Introduced On November 10, Service Providers Have Continued to Provide Services to the Residents of Lomita And McCoy

Finally, the original City Council motion, made on November 10, 2020 states that “[c]onditions are so bad in one encampment that homeless outreach workers have ceased visiting unhoused residents.” These statements were also made during the November 5, 2020 hearing in *LA Alliance v. City of Los Angeles*, clarifying that the encampment in question is the Lomita and McCoy encampment.⁸

We strongly disagree with this representation of the encampment at Lomita and McCoy. Since the motion was introduced on November 10, 2020, we have visited our clients on numerous occasions without issue. In fact, on the day the motion was entered, our team encountered an outreach worker from one of the main service providers in the area, who was continuing to work with clients at the encampment. And on November 19, there was Homeless Connect Day at the encampment, which brought together social services, legal services, and medical services, for the residents of the

⁸ See Transcript of Proceedings, *LA Alliance v. City of Los Angeles et al.*, CV 20-02291-DOC (KESx), Dkt. 201 at p. 162-63.

encampment. It is our understanding that the City of Los Angeles, including the City Attorney's office, participated in that event without issue.

There is undoubtedly the need for more services for unhoused residents living at Lomita and McCoy and at encampments throughout Los Angeles, including more trashcans, public toilets, and other resources. But nothing prevents the City from providing those resources without resuming comprehensive cleanups, which themselves undermine our ability and the ability of other service providers to keep in contact with clients.⁹

Conclusion

The motion before the City Council purports to address public health concerns by restarting comprehensive cleanups at three discrete locations in Council District 15. These cleanups were suspended in March 2020, at a far less deadly moment in the pandemic. The result of that suspension may be what is helping the City prevent greater rates of infection among people experiencing homelessness. Reversing course at this moment, when the City and County face the worst surge to date in this pandemic, could have devastating consequences for our clients and the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Myers".

Shayla Myers
Senior Attorney

⁹ See *supra* note 3, explaining that clearing encampments can break connections with service providers.

Communication from Public

Name: Rachael McDonald

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 09:54 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I demand council vote NO and work to end this cruel and inhumane practice. How horrific that you could treat the most vulnerable in our city this way. We need services for the public, not sweeps!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Aura V.

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:02 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: We all agree with prioritizing public health in addressing homelessness and fighting COVID. To address some of the concerns of encampments - such as trash - we can start by increasing regular trash pick up and access to sanitation services like restrooms. We should not be further attacking or demonizing people experiencing homelessness during a pandemic and instead OPEN THE EMPTY HOTELS AND HOUSE THESE ANGELENOS! You are not doing the public a favor by performing these sweeps and should be ashamed to call this "CARE+" when you are destabilizing the most vulnerable during a pandemic. Vote NO and instead introduce REAL solutions to homelessness. #ServicesNotSweeps

Communication from Public

Name: G Martinez

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:10 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident who resides in this area and am affected by the clean-up or the lack thereof. I support the resumption of CARE. The areas that would be cleaned are in dire need of these services. Wilmington already has a Bridge Home and until recently only had 70% occupancy rate with a large amount of people located at the noted encampments refusing to enter the bridge home. This is not an issue of criminalizing the homeless, this is an issue of Sanitation. Residents in the area are familiar with the urine, feces, needles and other drug paraphernalia that is routinely left at these locations. Especially during a pandemic cleanups should be taking place. Our community was promised that with the Bridge home, safe parking, and navigation centers all located within our boundaries that there would be a reduction in the homeless and there would also be cleanups. The city needs to honor its agreement with its stakeholders. I have read many people and many Neighborhood Councils opposing this agenda item. However, not a single Neighborhood Council within CD 15 has opposed the cleanups. Notably the Neighborhood Councils of Wilmington, Harbor City and San Pedro have not opposed this agenda item and the clean up are to take place within those Boundaries. As a stakeholder who sees the impact of the lack of clean ups on a daily basis I support resuming these cleanups

Communication from Public

Name: Tommy Newman

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:10 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of United Way of Greater Los Angeles, I urge the council to vote against Item #33 which would resume CARE+ cleanups at specific Council District 15 sites. As we begin this week with a new, more restrictive three-week Stay-At-Home order as a result of the strongest COVID-19 surge since the beginning of the pandemic, we must be especially intentional when considering resuming any public health and/or sanitation services for encampments. For unhoused people, the guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is especially true now as we are seeing the highest increases in the rates of cases since March, which is why CARE+ was suspended to begin with. Taking this action was a critical part of why we did not see the rates of COVID-19 within the unhoused population that we once feared. Everyone is very concerned with the state of street homelessness and the challenge of encampments - none more than those living in them. However, at this moment public health and stopping the spread of this deadly virus should be everyone's first priority. Any conversation or consideration about how to address other public health priorities at encampments - of which we agree there are many - should then proceed with guidance from public health leaders and service provider experts and be based on objective criteria and standards. We are eager to work with your offices on supporting these discussions and implementing proposed solutions, such as increasing regular trash pick up and access to sanitation services like restrooms and water. These are the things that can help manage encampments and address public health and public safety concerns – and that can be implemented without forcing people to move all their belongings as they try to protect their health – while we work hard to bring folks inside permanently. But expanding clean ups now, this quickly, and without thorough public health input, is unacceptable. The lives of unhoused and housed Angelenos alike depend on policies that keep us safe. Amending the motion passed by Council in March to suspend CARE+ teams and expand clean ups now - even on a district by district basis - would be dangerous and unsafe. Furthermore, this action creates a dangerous precedent for a site by site approach to resuming CARE+ activities before any more intentional standards or

considerations can be put in place. The pandemic is affecting all of Los Angeles, which is why we have a county-wide Stay-At-Home Order. Given the vulnerability of our unhoused neighbors, the City should undergo a thorough review process with input from public health officials and service providers before expanding CARE+ activities anywhere in the City. What we should not be doing is waiving motions like this out of committee and fast tracking them. We ask that you not support this motion, allow our unsheltered neighbors to continue sheltering in place for the time being, and invest more time and energy investigating and creating possible solutions that can address public health challenges at encampments without compromising the physical health of our unhoused neighbors.

Communication from Public

Name: Venice Family Clinic

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:19 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Founded in 1970, Venice Family Clinic's mission is to provide quality, primary health care to people in need. We provide comprehensive primary health care through a broad range of services, including prenatal care, pediatric care, teen health care, women's health care and adult care, as well as mental health, dental, health education and health insurance enrollment services. Last year we served almost 28,000 individuals, with over 4,500 of them people experiencing homelessness. Venice Family Clinic strongly opposes Councilmember Joe Buscaino's motion to resume CARE+ sweeps. As COVID numbers rise, this is the wrong time to resume CARE+ sweeps and is in direct conflict with CDC recommendations. The potential harm to public health by increasing the spread of COVID if sweeps resume is extremely high. If we want to address public health concerns in encampments then we could provide or increase hand washing stations, laundry, garbage cans, regular trash pickup, showers, pest control instead of disruptive and detrimental sweeps. Again we strongly oppose the motion to resume CARE+ sweeps.

Communication from Public

Name: Nicole Reyes

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:22 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Sweeps pose an even greater risk than before, to both the housed and unhoused community. During a COVID surge, LA City Council must listen to the CDC. We urge you to vote against this inhumane ordinance.

Communication from Public

Name: Joe ONeill

Date Submitted: 12/01/2020 10:33 AM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: DO NOT RESUME SWEEPS IN A PANDEMIC Criminalizing homelessness will not solve our homelessness issues. Resuming sweeps violates LA's shelter in place order and are against CDC health guidelines. This puts everyone at risk, not just the homeless. From the DOJ's filing: When adequate shelter space exists, individuals have a choice about whether or not to sleep in public. However, when adequate shelter space does not exist, there is no meaningful distinction between the status of being homeless and the conduct of sleeping in public. Sleeping is a life-sustaining activity — i.e., it must occur at some time in some place. If a person literally has nowhere else to go, then enforcement of the anti-camping ordinance against that person criminalizes her for being homeless. Such laws, the DOJ argues, violate the Eighth Amendment protections against cruel and unusual punishment, making them unconstitutional.