

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Devon. I have seen how valuable aid to Skid Row is and in other unhoused communities directly on the street with public Health & Harm Reduction organizations are like The Sidewalk Project. Time and time again we hear how the biggest “problem” facing California is our houseless neighbors, we as LA citizens have voted yearly to increase our taxes to support our community and then nothing is done except the berating and criminalization of human beings. There is no “tough loving” this issue away. Compassion, understanding, education and access to the proper resources to live healthy and happy lives is what’s proven to see positive results for everyone. As was stated, Police are trying to assist gravely disabled people who have no other support whatsoever in a system that criminalizes mental illness and poverty. The police do the exact opposite of helping our mental health care workers. They get in their way, deny holds, laugh at our mentally ill & our care providers & if they are held accountable they deny assistance in challenging situations. Mental health providers need back up. Not from the police. The police are toxic, racist, biased and look down on our mentally and physically ill. Consider replacing the police with trusted members of the community that we train in deescalation, mental health, and trauma informed care. Empower the the community to support itself.