

Communication from Public

Name: Deon Turner
Date Submitted: 07/29/2022 01:59 PM
Council File No: 20-1376-S1
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached letter for Inner City Law Center's
Opposition to LAMC 41.18 Expansion.



July 29, 2022

Honorable Members of the City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Deon Turner
(213) 443-2368
DTurner@innercitylaw.org

Re: Opposition to LAMC 41.18 Expansion (Council File #20-1376-S1)

Dear Honorable Council Members,

The Inner City Law Center is a nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services to the poorest and most vulnerable residents of Los Angeles. We promote access to decent, safe and affordable housing for the enormous number of individual and working-poor families in Los Angeles.

We urge this Council to reject the expansion LAMC 41.18 near schools and daycare centers. LAMC 41.18 veers towards the path of criminalization, is draconian in nature, and contains very broad and ambiguous language that enables law enforcement to run with its interpretation. This draft criminalizes homelessness because someone sitting on the street in the wrong place. By passing this ordinance, you will add hundreds of new locations across the city where it will be unlawful to be unhoused, under the guise of protecting students and families.

Instituting ordinances on the basis of poverty and criminalization will not end homelessness nor will it decrease encampments on our streets. As such, we can expect disproportionate law enforcement threats to our unhoused Angelenos, encampments shifting from street to street, and the induced trauma to thousands of our unsheltered constituents. This ordinance creates the pathway towards a Criminalization to Housing - the polar opposite of a Right to Housing, which is the only solution to addressing homelessness.

By providing no new resources for supportive services or pathways to housing, the single most likely outcome of this ordinance will be pushing more unhoused students and families further to the margins and farther away from the chance at personal stability. This is a doubling down on the wrong approach to unsheltered homelessness, one that does nothing to permanently end homelessness for more Angelenos or address the root causes of this crisis.

We urge you to reject this ordinance, and to instead focus on helping more of our most vulnerable residents achieve the stability and security they have been too long denied.

Sincerely,

Deon Turner
Inner City Law Center
Public Policy Advocate

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Silver

Date Submitted: 07/29/2022 04:17 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: As you are aware, 20-1376-S1 will not end homelessness, and it will not decrease encampments on our streets. It will simply increase the criminalization of unhoused Angelenos, shift encampments from street to street, and further traumatize thousands of your unsheltered constituents. As President of NoHo Home Alliance I see first hand how sweeps make outreach more difficult and disrupt and delay our work to get people into interim and permanent housing. Not long ago a sweep of an isolated parking lot forced people into an adjoining neighborhood blocking a street and disrupting traffic. Our outreach workers had to relocate their clients, regain trust, start anew to get people document ready for housing. Please stop this. Please focus on real solutions to address the housing and homelessness crisis. When this Council initially passed 41.18 last summer, it did so while claiming that it would be tied to a comprehensive Streets Engagement Strategy. One year later, the strategy remains incomplete and unfunded. I urge you to reject this ordinance and focus on expanding the housing and services that we know actually end homelessness. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Reyes Villagómez

Date Submitted: 07/29/2022 09:59 AM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Mitch O'Farrell is my council member and please vote no. Our unhoused neighbors have nowhere to go and we are spending precious resources on criminalizing people who need our support and traumatizing them. I hate to see this keep happening and you must vote no and come up with another solution.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/29/2022 10:00 AM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The question is (what about us ?) who will represent us in our needs & protection? Doesn't protecting our children matter ? We pay our taxes. We need you to look out for our security not just the unhoused