

Communication from Public

Name: Venice home owner!

Date Submitted: 07/30/2022 12:33 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Homeless sleeping on the street should be completely illegal! Look at the death rates and all the crime! How many more people need to be hit with crow bars, stabbed, verbally attacked, beaten, robbed, raped, followed home, step on needles, or subject their children to human shit, profanity, rat infested garbage, and needles on the street? It's not legal in Manhattan Beach! Why is it legal in places like Venice ... or anywhere else the city council is THE WORST! Bonin is a JOKE! Put the 5% of homeless who are sober and mentally stable in facilities with social workers and get them jobs! Put the other 95% drug addicts in rehabs! Put the mentally insane homeless in institutions! Put the 75% of homeless criminals behind bars, and keep them there! Can't wait until Los Angeles is finally sued for all the BULLSHIT! Tax payers are keeping this city turned crime infested shit storm a float! We get no respect! We are in danger! Our children are in danger! Stop voting to help these criminals take over our neighborhoods with crime and filth!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 03:42 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: 41.18 should be repealed. There is no public support for this policy. There are consequences this policy will have for everyone living in and moving through the city, regardless of whether they think they are stably housed or not. The council is heavily invested in misinformation about why people lose their homes and acts like there is a clear line between housed and unhoused that is not constantly shifting due to councilmembers' allegiances to developers. Most of the council's policies and initiatives are intended to keep people perpetually houseless or on the brink of becoming so. This includes all of their "solutions" to homelessness which are always flawed from the start and deliberately botched through implementation. 41.18 - criminalizing cessation of movement - is very much a pro-death policy. And I'm only just realizing now that Mark Ridley Thomas, who was responsible for the current iteration of 41.18 was removed from the council. Please repeal 41.18.

Communication from Public

Name: John Frank

Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 06:24 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: This message serves as my SUPPORT for expanding the homeless enforcement zones. We live in Eagle Rock next to the new tiny homes village. It has been a huge disaster. We have two young kids and were frequent visitors to the local park. Now, my wife and I do not feel safe to go. The cops are called daily and drug needles are found in the playground sand. There is no reason the homeless should be living next to parks, daycares, and schools. This is not a fun conversation to have with a 3 year old when you see them on the way to school every day (trust me I know). Again, please do not ruin our local LA neighborhoods by allowing the homeless to take over. Support the local taxpayers and keep our neighborhoods safe. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Peggy Lee Kennedy

Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 06:57 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I stand with the Services Not Sweeps Coalition (see attached statement) and oppose LAMC 41.18, especially this expansion that will create "No Homeless Zones" in approximately 20% of LACity. The criminalization and othering of unhoused people is racist and ableist- when we know that the majority of people living outside are Disabled and People of Color. If you vote for this motion, you are voting for racism, discrimination and criminalization.

SERVICES NOT SWEEPS

Statement on City of LA's Expansion of LAMC 41.18

City Council is set to approve [an amendment to LAMC 41.18](#) that will greatly expand the number of places where homelessness is criminalized. **Our coalition agrees that reducing unsheltered homelessness is extremely important. This amendment to LAMC 41.18 is bad policy. It does not reduce unsheltered homelessness across the City. It will negatively impact the lives of the unhoused and reduce the effectiveness of homelessness services and resources, while trading in the false promise of “community safety.” Expansion of 41.18 is bad policy because:**

- 1. It expands banishment zones just as the City's unsheltered population is set to increase.** This expansion will add at least 1,900 additional sites—a 376% increase in exclusionary zones, just as the number of temporary housing units are being reduced as COVID hotel options are ending. Additionally, good policies that have protected tenants from evictions during the Pandemic are set to expire. Since 41.18 has been implemented, [unhoused death rates have increased by 25%](#), evidence that putting “criminalization as another tool in our toolbox” has not addressed the risks of living unsheltered. Just as inflow to homelessness and unhoused deaths are increasing while housing options are decreasing, the City is drastically investing in a policy that does not address any of these factors.
- 2. It will not decrease the number of encampments; it will only move them around.** Criminalization actually makes it harder to solve homelessness. We already know what works to decrease encampments: consistent outreach; linking people to a path to permanent housing; and providing resources such as bathrooms, sharps containers, and trash service. This amendment will disrupt all of those strategies. The last amendment to 41.18 was passed with the expectation of a “street strategy” with outreach workers to offer resources and shelter before enforcement. This street strategy does not exist. Instead, people will just be displaced, disconnecting them from existing services and support, making it harder to exit of homelessness. Without housing or support people will just return or be pushed into residential neighborhoods or concentrated in areas, likely in lower income non-white communities.
- 3. It promotes a false idea of community safety and will be impossible to enforce.** The City does not have enough resources to enforce the 399 marked sites that exist now, yet, this ban will cover at least 88 sq. miles of Los Angeles (20% of the entire city). Enforcement will be complaint-driven or at LAPD's will. The City will not post signs informing people where there are camping bans, so housed and unhoused residents won't know where camping is prohibited. This will only escalate tensions between housed and unhoused neighbors and the LAPD, who, per their own data, disproportionately use force towards the unhoused. It may also banish encampments disproportionately across the city, likely favoring white home owners, who due to their privilege, are not hesitant to call the police.
- 4. The City Council is set to approve the expansion without understanding the breadth of its impact.** The City [has not considered the number of sites that will be included or produce a map](#) where houseless residents can go. Council members are also not aware of how 41.18 is enforced. At the [June 23rd, Homelessness & Poverty subcommittee meeting](#), council member Blumenfield revealed that he did not understand the current ordinance and incorrectly assumed that LAPD could not cite an unhoused person without giving them a chance to move or someplace else to go. The City Attorney's office clarified that, “*as requested by the City Council*, a violation of 41.18 can in the first instance be a citation or an infraction.”

Ultimately 41.18 expansion is more legislation negatively affecting unhoused people without meeting their needs as LA community members and residents. Further criminalization and withdrawal of available public space, often close to nearby support systems, targets the unhoused rather than the roots of homelessness.

Communication from Public

Name: Brennan Lindner

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 09:23 AM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Please, please, please start re-enforcing 41.18. The lack of enforcement has resulted in encampments all throughout CD11, and not in equal distribution. Venice has of course received more than 80% of CD11's unhoused, the boardwalk has been re-inhabited with over 60 individuals. And our street (home to 2 schools) now has tents and (2) people just sleeping on the sidewalk. While Housing First is a great model, it is not applicable to everyone. There are many, many people exhibiting anti-social behavior, or are drug addicts, mental illness, and just a small minority have lost housing due to financial issues. Regardless - rules need to be enforced, people need to either choose to enter a support program or face the consequences.

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Wang

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 10:01 AM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President Martinez and Councilmembers, My name is Wendy Wang from Sycamores, a multi-service nonprofit organization serving young adults (ages 18-25 years old) who are experiencing homelessness or on the verge of homelessness. We are also the lead community organization for the Youth Entry System in LA County Service Planning Area 3. I am writing to oppose agenda item #20-1376-S1, the proposed ordinance that bans encampments from within 500 feet of schools and daycare centers. By passing this ordinance, City Council will increase hundreds of new locations in Los Angeles where it will be unlawful to be unhoused, under the "guise" of protecting students and families. As City Council and homelessness advocates and providers are aware, the addition of new locations to the proposed ordinance will not end homelessness, and it will not decrease encampments on our streets. Instead, it will further criminalize unhoused Angelenos, shift encampments from street to street, and further traumatize the City's unsheltered constituents. When City Council initially passed LA Municipal Code 41.18 last summer, it did so while claiming that it would be paired together with a comprehensive Streets Engagement Strategy (SES). One year later, the SES strategy remains incomplete and unfunded. In conclusion, I urge you to reject this ordinance and focus on expanding affordable housing options and supportive services that will actually end homelessness. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Communication from Public

Name: Emerald "Esme" Snow

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 10:35 AM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am AGAINST this proposed amendment for the dramatic expansion of 41.18, which would create unhoused exclusion zones across a massive portion of Los Angeles. Despite what the council believes, a significant portion of Angelenos opposes criminalization as a tool to address homelessness, knowing that it is expensive, ineffective, and inhumane. For previous amendments, every address of a 41.18 zone was listed, reviewed, voted upon, and transparent to the public. At this point, it's unclear how many neighborhoods and people will be impacted by this because City Council has not done the work of determining the specific locations. Mapping and analysis by the Kenneth Mejia campaign estimate at least 1,900 NEW criminalization zones – a 376% increase in exclusionary zones across the city. 41.18 will cover at least 88 sq miles (that's 20% of the entire city). The proposed mandatory enforcement within 500 feet of schools and daycare centers will have an even greater negative impact on youth and adults experiencing homelessness. Students and children are greatly impacted by homelessness and housing instability. Schools are an important community resource for supporting unhoused students and young Angelenos at risk of homelessness. This blanket expansion does not take into consideration how this could affect this population. Since the passage of 41.18 one year ago, unhoused deaths have increased by 22% (https://twitter.com/ReporterClaudia/status/1541943333894860800?s=20&t=nY_z3F4M_WwdebxhoyWDdg). 41.18 = death! Thank you for your time and consideration. Please serve the public, the poor, and the marginalized; instead of catering to wealthy families, businesses, and those who already have.

Communication from Public

Name: Adrian Tenney

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 12:02 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Adrian Tenney. I vote in every election and I live in CD 1. Council Member Cedillo, you represent me. I'm writing to urge the Council to vote NO on the 41.18 amendment. It is criminally irresponsible, as a representative of public office to vote for this amendment without creating a plan for where people will go; without creating a map to show your constituents the additional 46 square miles of exclusionary zones that will be created; without following through with any significant social services for affordable housing, mental healthcare, childcare services, or services for veterans (who in Los Angeles, make up 10% of the nation's unhoused veteran population). It is irresponsible because your constituents do not believe that being poor, that being without options, that living in a city where your income cannot cover your basic needs should be cause for you to be harassed by armed police. Of course we want solutions to homelessness. But not this way. Not by more policing. And not without social services. I really hope that you are all acutely aware of what it feels like to have nowhere to go to escape a Los Angeles heatwave. I really hope you are all acutely aware of the impacts of this amendment, and that since the 13 of you voted yes last year, there's been an increased death rate in our unhoused community of 25%. So I ask each of you to consider: if the death rate has gone up by 25%, what do you think is going to happen when the number of these exclusionary zones increases by over 300%? How many veterans experiencing homelessness, how many single mothers experiencing homelessness are going to die as a result of you using your power without understanding the impacts? Because you cannot convince me that you truly understand these impacts and would still choose to vote yes.

Communication from Public

Name: Janis Yue

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 12:24 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: How much longer do we need to shout that criminalizing the unhoused is not the answer? This dehumanizing policy must be completely abolished, not expanded. Los Angeles City Council must vote NO on expanding 41.18 and instead invest in actual life-giving resources, such as preserving affordable housing and investing in social housing. Stop killing the unhoused.

Communication from Public

Name: Kristina Meshelski

Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 03:43 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: 41.18 is cruel, it is unconstitutional, and it makes homelessness worse. The council cannot allow this expansion of 41.18, and must in fact repeal it entirely. Kevin De León in particular is evicting 500 people from The Grand hotel this month, people that entered Project Room Key thinking it would be a path to housing. They have followed all the ridiculous rules and just because no landlord will rent to them, the city is now saying it's illegal for them to stay in the Grand, and illegal for them to stay on the street. Where are people supposed to go????

Communication from Public

Name: Thomas

Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 12:10 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: In 50 years from now we as a society we be abhorred how badly our city treated have their unhoused neighbors. Stop playing politics with peoples' lives. Work on building affordable housing not blaming and displacing the victims of our severe and inequitable system. Housing is the solution not criminalization of people in abject poverty.

Communication from Public

Name: Rick Garvey

Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 12:55 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, I urge you to vote NO on the expansion of 41.18. For over 20 years I have worked as a public policy researcher working with unhoused people living in parks and on sidewalks in Los Angeles. I have seen the City attempt to deal with the homelessness problem again and again by instituting ordinances that do nothing to deal with the root cause of the problem, a lack of housing. We simply do not have enough shelter or housing resources to place everyone. Clearing encampments without the adequate placement options results in displacement. This is a terrible policy and should not be expanded. When encampments are destroyed and unhoused people are moved, they are often harmed by being disconnected from services and providers. It especially harms people who are sick or disabled. In our recent RAND study, we found that the overwhelming majority of people wanted housing, and the main reason they were not currently housed was because they were never contacted by outreach workers for move-in. One reason for this is because they were forced to leave the area they were to meet the outreach worker and the housing slot went to someone else. This is a terrible policy and should not be expanded. Most unhoused people do want some type of housing option, but there is not enough to offer. Clearing encampments merely displaces most of the camp residents to another location. Some are disabled, sick and in need of care. We should have real housing solutions connected to our outreach services. And we should offer that before we just sweep people away. It is wrong. We need to do better. Kudos to Councilman Bonin for securing at least temporary housing placements ahead of the sweep of Ocean Font Walk last year, however the more recent sweep of the library resulted in over 80 removals and only 40 housing placements. The other 40 folks had to move further into the neighborhood and under the proposed expansion they would be subjected to harassment and citation. This is a terrible policy and should not be expanded. As the hotter weather rolls in, unhoused people will need shade and cool places even more, but they always need access to sanitary facilities. These are found in or by our parks and libraries. Until we can offer adequate shelter or housing to our unhoused population, we should stop displacing them in response to the complaints made by housed residents. That is no solution,

and it is not the humane thing to do. These are public spaces and should be open to all of us, both housed and unhoused. Thank you for your consideration. Rick Garvey, 234 Horizon #5, Venice, CA 90291

JASON M. WARD, RICK GARVEY, SARAH B. HUNTER

Recent Trends Among the Unsheltered in Three Los Angeles Neighborhoods

An Interim Report on the Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey (LA LEADS) Project

The overwhelming scope of homelessness ranks as the most serious problem facing Los Angeles among both voters (Hart Research Associates, 2021) and candidates seeking to replace outgoing mayor Eric Garcetti (Oreskes and Wick, 2021). The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic exacerbated the incidence of unsheltered individuals through a dramatic decline in shelter capacity and the cessation of activities aimed at reducing the risk of transmission, such as routine street and sidewalk sanitation. California's ambitious Project Room-key program, which aimed to place 15,000 vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness into underutilized hotel rooms, ultimately sheltered about 4,000 people in Los Angeles, and many individuals housed under this program returned to the streets, citing such factors as excessive rules and lack of privacy (Oreskes and Smith, 2021; Smith and Oreskes, 2020).

Through 2021 and into early 2022, there has been a deluge of policy actions related to the increase in unsheltered homelessness. In March 2021, city council member Mitch O'Farrell initiated the removal of more than 200 individuals living in Echo Park (Chiotakis, 2021; Oreskes, 2021). Despite the claim that all individuals were offered housing prior to a forcible cleanup and closure of the park, many individuals were dispersed to other areas (Smith, 2021). In April 2021, Judge David O. Carter, ruling in an ongoing lawsuit brought by residents and local businesses in the Skid Row neighborhood against the city and county of Los Angeles, ordered that offers of housing or shelter be provided to the dense population of unsheltered individuals living in the Skid Row area by mid-October 2021 (Williams, 2021). This order was later stayed by a federal appeals court, but the case is ongoing (Oreskes, Dolan, and Zahniser, 2021).

Over summer 2021, community opposition to encampments on the oceanfront walk in Venice led to a political tug of war between city council member Mike Bonin and Los Angeles County

KEY FINDINGS

- Between late September 2021 and January 2022, the total number of unsheltered people, vehicles, tents, and makeshift structures averaged 1,358 in Skid Row, 685 in Hollywood, and 523 in Venice. Across this period, the total number of individuals, vehicles, and makeshift structures across these three areas increased by around 17 percent.
- We conducted systematic random surveys of 216 unsheltered people in Hollywood, Skid Row, Venice, and “Veterans Row” during this same period. Around 90 percent of survey respondents indicated interest in receiving housing; nearly half reported being offered housing in the past, and one-third indicated that they were currently on a housing waitlist.
- Around 80 percent of respondents said that they would accept a private room in a shelter or hotel, a permanent stay in a motel- or hotel-like setting, or permanent supportive housing. About half would accept interim housing with access to services, shared housing, or safe camping. Less than one-third would accept a group shelter or a recovery or sober living housing offer.
- The most commonly reported factors that prevented respondents from moving into housing in the past were never being reached to complete the housing intake process (41 percent), privacy concerns (38 percent), and safety concerns (32 percent).
- Over 75 percent of respondents have been continuously homeless for over a year, and over 50 percent have been continuously homeless for more than three years. Over 75 percent of respondents have spent six months or longer living in the neighborhood where they were surveyed. The majority of respondents resided in Los Angeles County before their current location, and nearly 75 percent reported residing within California.
- The share of respondents identifying as Black/African American was 38 percent higher in our sample than in 2020 data from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, while the share of respondents identifying as Hispanic was 24 percent lower.

Abbreviations

COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
LAHSA	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
LA LEADS	Los Angeles longitudinal enumeration and demographic survey
PIT	point in time
TAY	transition-aged youth
VA	Veterans Affairs

Sheriff Alex Villanueva (Tchekmedyan, Smith, and Rector, 2021), followed by a major and, thus far, largely successful effort to house more than 200 individuals (Oreskes and Molina, 2021).

Most recently, the Los Angeles City Council introduced an updated camping ban (city ordinance 41.18) that allows individual council members

to nominate locations satisfying a list of criteria (e.g., near a school, library, business entrance, or homeless shelter) to be off limits for camping once all individuals camping in the area have been provided with an offer of housing (Office of the City Clerk, 2021). Thus far, there has been significant variation in the utilization of this policy across city council districts (“City Council Enforces LA’s Anti-Camping Law at 58 Locations,” 2022).

One common thread affecting all of these actions has been an ongoing lack of accurate data on both the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness and the housing needs and preferences of these individuals. Typically, policymakers and the public rely on annual data provided by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the agency responsible for conducting a point-in-time (PIT) census of Los Angeles County’s unhoused population.¹ The PIT count typically takes place each January and is accompanied by a demographic

survey, conducted between December and February each year, that is designed to help estimate specific characteristics of the population experiencing homelessness, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, length of homelessness, and disability status. These efforts result in a public report, published several months later, that provides estimates of the number of people experiencing homelessness across the county. Federal, state, and regional policymakers use these figures to make programmatic decisions about housing supports and related services.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual PIT count did not take place in 2021. As a result, there are no current estimates available on the number of people experiencing homelessness or on their characteristics.² In addition, the current structure of the annual PIT count and demographic survey leaves important knowledge gaps. First, even with annual PIT estimates, we know little about how these numbers may vary over the year depending on seasonal changes, such as inclement weather, the opening of winter shelters, or shifts in policies or enforcement activity. Second, the demographic survey does not include information about individuals' experiences with the county's housing provision infrastructure or individuals' housing needs and preferences.

To fill these and other knowledge gaps with evidence that can inform the development of effective homelessness policy, in September 2021, we began the Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey (LA LEADS) study, an ongoing project to enumerate and survey individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in selected areas of Los Angeles. We examined areas with historically high concentrations of street homelessness or increases in street encampments in recent years that have drawn the attention of policymakers, stakeholders, and the media: Hollywood, Skid Row, Venice, and "Veterans Row" (Lopez, 2021; Oreskes, Reyes, and Smith, 2021; Sisson, 2021). In addition, we systematically collected survey data, including demographics, past experiences with the housing system, and specific housing needs and preferences, from a subsample of individuals in these areas. This evidence can contribute to a better understanding of the nature of homelessness in Los Angeles and may inform policies and strate-

gies to most effectively allocate resources targeted at ending homelessness. We plan to conduct an additional round of survey data collection while continuing enumerations. At the end of the study, its full findings will be presented as a final report.

Study Geography

We selected a total of four study sites, which were chosen because of their policy relevance and past data availability. For three of the sites—Hollywood, Skid Row, and Venice—area-specific data tabulations are available from the 2020 LAHSA PIT count and demographic survey. After selecting these primary study sites, we settled on a specific geography for each area through a combination of input from service providers and site assessments by our field workers that identified potential boundaries that would encompass areas of significant current encampment activity. The specific area geographies are described in detail in Appendix A, and the four sites are as follows:

- **Skid Row**, a neighborhood with a footprint of approximately half of a square mile, has been the historical ground zero of homelessness in Los Angeles since at least the late 1920s (Sheeley et al., 2021).
- The **Venice** neighborhood witnessed dramatic growth in street encampments over the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and has been the subject of numerous political disputes and lawsuits about homelessness policy, including a failed campaign to recall city council member Mike Bonin (Reyes, 2019; Zahniser, 2022).
- **Hollywood** has witnessed a large increase in street encampments over the pandemic period. Prior to the January 2021 implementation of new city council districts, it had a unique within-neighborhood city council boundary that made it subject to the policy decisions of two city council members, Nithya Raman and Mitch O'Farrell, who had differing approaches to addressing homelessness, including regarding enforcement of the city's revised anti-camping ordinance (Deegan,

2021; Reyes, 2021). In addition, Hollywood 4WRD, a local advocacy group for people experiencing homelessness, conducted a thorough count of unsheltered individuals in Central and East Hollywood in summer 2021 (Abramson et al., 2021).³

- The “**Veterans Row**” encampment along San Vicente Boulevard in front of the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs (VA) campus has been characterized by varying levels of activity prior to the pandemic, but its population grew during the pandemic. The encampment has recently become the focus of criticism related to underuse of the vast area of land controlled by the VA and the failures of the VA to effectively deploy resources aimed at housing veterans experiencing homelessness (Braslow, 2020). We did not originally plan to include Veterans Row, but when we became aware of a planned outreach effort aimed at clearing this site through a combination of offers of housing and safe camping inside the West Los Angeles VA campus (Solis, 2021), we opted to include this site by conducting two enumerations in October in the three weeks leading up to the outreach effort. We adminis-

tered surveys on the second visit. We opted to include the relatively small number of survey responses from the site ($n = 12$) in the total tabulations in this report but left site-specific enumeration results and survey tabulations to the appendixes.

Enumeration Study Methodology

We conducted counts roughly every two weeks in Skid Row and monthly in Hollywood and Venice.⁴ We alternated the timing of the counts between early morning hours (approximately 6 to 9 a.m.) and nighttime hours (approximately 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.) to determine whether there was any significant variation depending on the time of day. We also varied the days of the week and the time of the month of each count to ensure that we were not capturing variations based on those features. In addition, for each site visit, we varied the starting location and direction of movement of our survey teams to ensure that our counts were not influenced by any systematic patterns of daily migration, such as individuals waking up and moving to an area meal service at the same time each day. Further details about our enumeration methodology can be found in Appendix B.

Our Skid Row counts averaged 1,358 people, structures, and vehicles. Hollywood and Venice had significantly lower averages; the Hollywood average was 685, while the Venice average was 523.

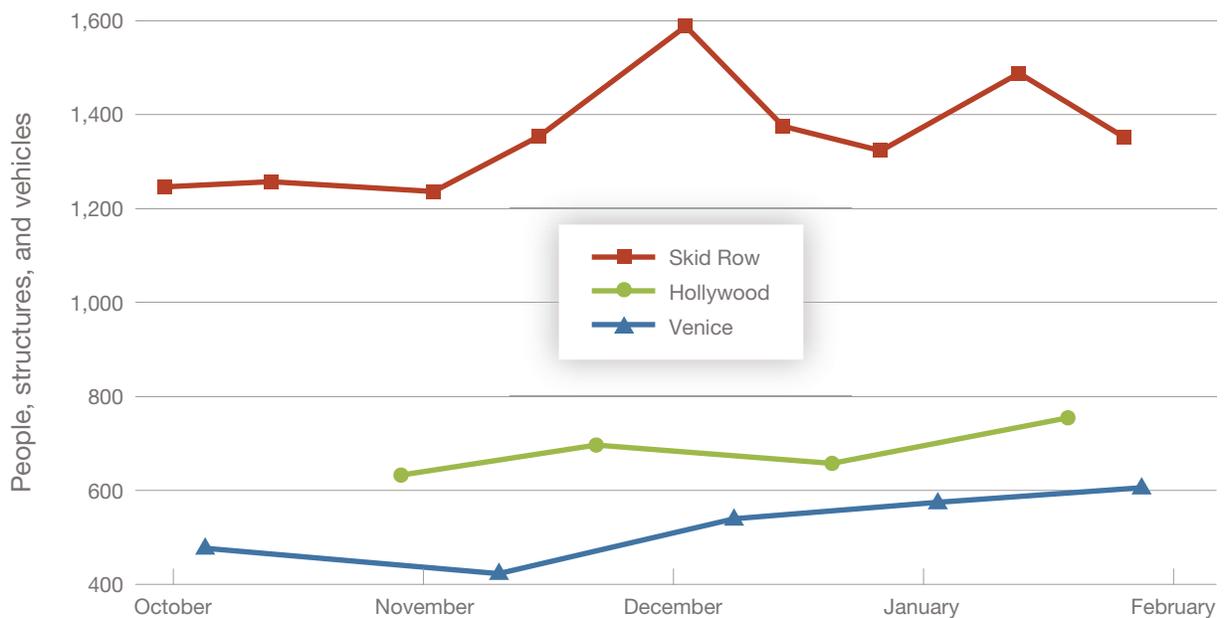
Counts of Unsheltered Individuals, Vehicles, Tents, and Makeshift Shelters

Figure 1 presents data from our enumerations of individuals, cars, vans, RVs, tents, and makeshift shelters at our three primary survey sites from late September 2021 to January 2022. We consider the sum of people, vehicles, tents, and makeshift dwellings as providing a close approximation of the number of distinct individuals experiencing homelessness. We believe that any overcounting attributable to counting empty tents or vehicles as occupied is likely to be more than offset by the possibility that we counted a makeshift dwelling inhabited by multiple people as representing only one person.

Overall, our Skid Row counts averaged a total of 1,358 people, structures, and vehicles per enu-

FIGURE 1

Enumeration Data from September 2021 to January 2022 by Site



NOTE: For each site, the first count was conducted from approximately 6 to 9 a.m. and the next count was conducted from approximately 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Each subsequent count alternated on this day/night schedule.

meration (standard deviation [SD] = 117). The large number of people enumerated in Skid Row in early December appears to be an outlier that may have been related to the presence of a large-scale COVID-19 testing and vaccination operation in the area on the day we conducted the enumeration. Hollywood and Venice had significantly lower averages than Skid Row; the Hollywood average was 685 (SD = 53), while the Venice average was 523 (SD = 74). All site estimates have trended modestly upward over time by an average of around ten people, structures, or vehicles per week across all three sites.⁵

In Appendix D, we provide a table with distinct counts for each of these categories and each enumeration shift. We do not use any weighting to convert structures and vehicles into larger numbers of individuals, as is done in the LAHSA estimates (Henwood et al., 2020). A quick approximation of our count data using the 2020 LAHSA weighting for adult individuals estimated to be in cars, vans, RVs, tents, and makeshift structures increases the totals we reported by an average of 30 percent. In a later report, we will present our results using the most recent weights from the LAHSA demographic survey.

Housing Needs and Preferences Survey

We collected survey data twice in Skid Row (the middle and end of November 2021), once in Hollywood (mid-November 2021), and twice in Venice (early October and early December 2021). Details about our survey methodology are in Appendix C. When feasible, we compared our results with the LAHSA 2020 demographic survey data for these areas (LAHSA, 2020).

Key Takeaways

Table 1 provides key demographic characteristics of the survey sample. Additional characteristics, along with separate tabulations for our Veterans Row respondents, are provided in Appendix E. From this table, we can see that respondents in Skid Row tended to be older than those in Hollywood and Venice. In addition, respondents in Venice were more likely to report being White, while respondents in Skid Row and Hollywood were more likely to report being Black/African American.⁶

TABLE 1
Demographic Characteristics of Survey Participants (percentages)

Participant Characteristic	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)
Age				
18–24	5	4	2	9
25–54	63	76	51	68
55–61	17	11	22	15
62 and older	15	9	25	9
Gender				
Male	70	70	70	68
Female	25	24	27	26
Nonconforming	2	2	1	3
Missing	3	4	2	3
Hispanic ethnicity	19	13	18	24
Race				
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	15	21	18
Asian American	6	7	4	9
Black/African American	50	57	66	28
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4	4	4	4
White	34	28	13	57
Other	15	11	17	15
Health				
Chronic health condition	46	44	44	49
Mental health condition	54	57	51	52
Substance use disorder	20	15	18	22

NOTES: n = number (sample size). Participants could indicate membership in more than one race, so these percentages add up to more than 100. Mutually exclusive percentages might not add up to 100 because of rounding. The “All” column includes 12 respondents from Veterans Row. We provide discrete tabulations for these additional respondents in Table E.1.

Nearly half of respondents reported having ever been diagnosed with a chronic health condition, while more than half reported having ever been diagnosed with a mental health condition. Only 20 percent reported having ever been diagnosed with a substance use disorder, which is 40 percent lower than the 28-percent share of respondents reporting such a diagnosis in the 2020 LAHSA demographic survey.⁷

Table 2 presents descriptive information about the lengths of periods of past and current homeless-

ness and residential status among survey participants. We found that the vast majority of respondents, 78 percent, have been continuously homeless for a year or more, and 52 percent have been continuously homeless for three years or longer. In Venice, we found that respondents tended to have shorter durations of homelessness, both currently and over their lifetimes. The shorter duration in this neighborhood may be related to the high-profile “Encampment to Home” effort to rapidly house more than 200 residents that had been encamped along the beach-

TABLE 2

Measures of Homelessness Experiences of Survey Participants (percentages)

Participant Characteristic	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)
Age at first spell of homelessness				
Less than 18	23	32	14	25
18–24	23	28	24	19
25–54	46	36	51	49
55 and older	8	4	11	6
Duration of current spell of homelessness ^a				
Less than a year	22	22	19	25
1 to 2 years	26	24	22	31
3 years or longer	52	54	59	44
Duration at current location ^a				
Less than 3 months	17	11	12	26
3–6 months	7	8	6	9
More than 6 months	76	81	81	65
Location prior to current location				
Los Angeles County	62	61	66	59
Elsewhere in California	12	15	9	12
Outside California	23	22	18	28
Incarcerated	1	2	2	0
Missing	2	0	5	1

NOTES: *n* = number (sample size). The “All” column includes 12 respondents from Veterans Row. We provide discrete tabulations for these additional respondents in Table E.2.

^a To reduce respondent burden, the RAND Survey Research Group recommended using overlapping periods (at the bounds of each grouping) for some of the response options. For clarity here, we group categories into broader periods and assume zero “edge cases” (e.g., 12 months exactly).

front in summer 2021 (Smith, 2022); this effort may have removed from the streets potential respondents with longer durations of unsheltered homelessness.

We also asked about respondents’ duration in the area where they were surveyed and found that more than three-quarters had been in the area for six months or longer. When asked where they were staying before they came to the area, nearly three-quarters of respondents said that they had been in California, and 62 percent said that they had been in Los Angeles County.

Housing Needs and Preferences

Findings on the housing needs and preferences of respondents are presented in Table 3. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the vast majority of survey respondents (90 percent across all three survey sites) indicated an interest in receiving housing. Perhaps less intuitively, nearly half of our respondents reported having been offered housing since they experienced homelessness in Los Angeles. Nearly one-third of respondents indicated that they are currently on a waitlist for housing (26 percent in Skid Row, 35 percent in Hollywood, and 34 percent in Venice).

We also asked respondents what prevented them from moving into housing since they became home-

TABLE 3

Housing Needs and Preferences of Survey Participants (percentages)

Need or Preference	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)
Interested in housing	90	89	90	88
Currently on a waitlist	32	35	26	34
Offered housing since homeless in LA	46	44	44	46
Factors that prevented housing move-in				
Never contacted for move-in	43	39	52	40
Lack of privacy	38	41	38	32
Housing safety	32	33	33	31
Paperwork issues	29	26	33	25
Hours or curfew	26	26	21	29
Housing location	26	22	21	34
Housing cleanliness	21	20	22	21
Other housing rules	19	26	11	19
Partner not allowed into housing	14	11	13	18
Handicap accessibility	11	9	17	4
Pets	10	13	5	13
Possessions	10	11	7	13
Other issues that prevented past move to housing ^a	25	28	20	24
Acceptable housing options				
Permanent stay in motel or hotel setting	81	78	88	79
Supportive housing (own apartment with case management)	80	85	87	69
Shelter or hotel with private room	77	74	83	75
Interim housing with access to services	59	52	71	50
Safe camping (organized tent space)	50	46	48	51
Shared housing (shared apartment or house)	45	44	43	49
Bridge housing (temporary shelter with onsite services)	44	37	46	49
Group shelter	31	17	38	34
Recovery or sober living housing	30	22	38	28
Specific housing/shelter needs or requirements				
Needs to be in particular neighborhood	36	33	29	45
Storage for possessions	30	33	28	29
Allowed to stay with partner, spouse, child, roommate	27	30	22	29
Allowed to stay with pet(s)	25	32	22	23
Handicap accessible	21	22	27	15

Table 3—Continued

Need or Preference	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)
Other ^a	14	20	10	8
Factors that would prevent future housing move-in				
Lack of safety	60	76	59	51
Lack of privacy	58	70	55	54
Lack of cleanliness	46	52	45	43
Negative interactions with staff	44	41	45	46
Hours or curfew	38	52	27	43
Other rules	25	26	24	25
Other ^a	6	6	5	9

NOTES: *n* = number (sample size). The “All” column includes 12 respondents from Veterans Row. We also provide discrete tabulations for these additional respondents in Table E.3.

^a In Table E.3, we include tabulations of recoded categories from the three “other” categories in this table.

less.⁸ We listed 12 options and offered them a chance to list their own. Advocates for people experiencing homelessness have focused with some regularity on the potential barriers posed by housing that does not offer accommodations for the so-called three Ps: pets, partners, and possessions (Beekman, 2017; Demsas, 2021), but relatively few respondents (between 10 percent and 14 percent of the full sample) indicated that these factors prevented them from moving into housing. Privacy (38 percent) was more commonly mentioned as a barrier, suggesting a limited role for congregate shelters in effectively moving individuals off the streets. We find corroboration for this general preference in the relatively low levels of respondent interest in group shelters and Bridge housing (i.e., congregate shelters with onsite case management and other services run by the City of Los Angeles). Safety concerns were reported by 32 percent of respondents, consistent with recent research showing that a lack of safety has contributed to some individuals in supportive housing projects returning to the streets (Milburn et al., 2021).

From a policy perspective, perhaps the most important finding is that the most common factor preventing move-in to housing in the past was never being contacted for move-in (43 percent). This finding is confluent with a recent focus on the importance of service worker staffing levels and continuity in successfully addressing unsheltered homelessness

(Thompson et al., 2021; Tobias, 2022). It may also bear on the ongoing controversy over periodic sanitation “sweeps” of encampment-heavy areas that activists claim lead to unsheltered residents being dispersed from these areas, therefore making outreach service follow-up challenging (Chou, 2020).

Respondents were asked to express interest in a variety of housing options that are part of the city and county portfolio and that have been the subject of recent debates over appropriate ways to deploy limited funding resources (Galperin, 2020; Oreskes and Smith, 2020; Smith, 2021). Around 80 percent of respondents suggested that they would accept an offer of a private room in a shelter or housing setting, a permanent stay in a hotel or motel setting, or an offer of permanent supportive housing. There was much lower interest in group shelters or sober living facilities; only 30 percent of respondents indicated that they would accept offers for these accommodations. Around half of respondents indicated that they would accept safe camping or interim, transition, Bridge, or shared housing.

Comparability with 2020 LAHSA Survey Data

Although this study used sampling geographies that do not exactly replicate those used in the LAHSA

PIT count, we were cognizant of the geographies they used when we formed our geographic boundaries. To meet budget constraints, we generally used modestly smaller geographic areas relative to neighborhood definitions used in the PIT count while still ensuring that we retained all relevant areas in the given neighborhood with significant levels of encampment activity. Overall, we believe that there is a sufficient level of comparability between area-specific data from the 2020 LAHSA demographic survey and our data for our three primary survey areas of Hollywood, Skid Row, and Venice.⁹

Unlike the LAHSA demographic survey, we did not weight our survey data for nonresponse. In the LAHSA methodology, those who either refuse to be surveyed or are passed over by the surveyors because of, for example, concern about safety, have multiple interviewer-perceived observable characteristics recorded. These data are then used to construct nonresponse weights that are applied to the collected survey data to estimate population-level characteristics (Henwood et al., 2020). However, the relatively low refusal rate among individuals whom we approached (19 percent of the 329 individuals we approached refused to participate in screening for the survey, and another 1 percent were determined by the field representative to be cognitively impaired and were passed over) suggests that any differences in our

estimates related to this type of adjustment would be small in magnitude.

We found important differences in the race and ethnicity of unsheltered individuals in our LA LEADS survey data relative to neighborhood-specific tabulations of 2020 LAHSA demographic survey data. Table 4 presents these results for two key demographic subgroups, those who self-identified as Black/African American and those who self-identified as Hispanic. The share of respondents identifying as Black/African American was 38 percent higher in our sample than in the LAHSA data, while the share of respondents identifying as Hispanic was 24 percent lower.

Our respondents are similar to respondents in the LAHSA 2020 survey data in terms of gender, with the exception of our sample having fewer women and fewer gender-nonbinary individuals in Hollywood. We are unable to assess age differences between male and nonmale respondents in LAHSA tabulations, but, in our data, women and gender-nonconforming respondents are, on average, younger than male respondents. For this reason, we suspect that the lower shares of these groups in our data are related to the fact that the annual LAHSA effort includes a distinct component aimed at counting transition-aged youth (TAY) populations that involves service provider participation.¹⁰ In Venice, our survey populations are highly comparable by age and gender. In

TABLE 4
Changes in Race and Ethnicity of Unsheltered Individuals Over Time
(percentages)

Race or Ethnicity and Site	LAHSA 2020	LA LEADS 2021	Percentage Difference
Black/African American			
Skid Row	60	69	+15
Hollywood	33	59	+79
Venice	26	31	+19
Hispanic			
Skid Row	22	18	-18
Hollywood	30	13	-57
Venice	23	24	-4

NOTE: The third column is the percentage difference between these two measures using the formula $((b-a)/b)*100$, where a is the LAHSA 2020 data point and b is the LA LEADS 2021 data point.

Skid Row, our sample has fewer 25- to 54-year-olds (51 percent versus 64 percent) and more respondents aged 62 or older (25 percent versus 14 percent).

Limitations

This report represents a first look at our data collection effort after approximately four months of fieldwork. We caution that the conclusions in this report are provisional and subject to change as the number of enumerations and the number of survey respondents increase. We are continuing both of these efforts and plan to publish an update later in 2022. As noted previously, our enumeration and survey areas differ from those used in LAHSA's 2020 effort, but not in ways that we think would result in meaningful differences in the composition of our survey respondents.

Conclusions

Preliminary evidence from our study suggests that the extent of unsheltered homelessness in the three Los Angeles neighborhoods we focused on increased by an average of around 17 percent over the approximately four months since we began the study in late September 2021. We also documented higher levels of Black/African American homelessness and lower levels of homelessness among Hispanic individuals relative to the 2020 LAHSA survey data. Our survey results show that individuals living unsheltered on the streets of Los Angeles have been homeless for extraordinarily long periods; 78 percent reported that their current spell of homelessness has lasted a year or more, and 52 percent reported that they have been continuously homeless for three years or longer.

Perhaps related to this extended exposure to the mental and physical stresses of living unsheltered, 54 percent of respondents reported having been diagnosed with a mental health condition and 46 percent reported having been diagnosed with a chronic health condition. Although our results are not directly comparable with 2020 data from the LAHSA demographic survey because of differences in our questions, these findings suggest significantly higher levels of these conditions than were reported

Almost half of respondents said that they had been offered housing since becoming homeless, which raises questions about why they have not been successfully housed.

two years ago. These findings have important policy implications in terms of the health care needs of these populations and the downstream returns of successfully housing them, such as reducing the utilization of costly emergency services and avoiding criminal justice involvement for behaviors related to treatable mental health issues. More encouragingly, we found evidence of lower rates of substance use disorder than were found in the 2020 LAHSA survey using a highly comparable question (20 percent in our data versus 28 percent in the LAHSA data).

Regarding housing preferences, we found a near-universal interest in obtaining housing among our survey respondents. Almost half of respondents reported that they had been offered housing since becoming homeless, although this is perhaps unsurprising given the substantial durations of homelessness reported. This finding, though, leads to questions about why these individuals have not been successfully housed. Respondents indicated that they strongly prefer private housing, suggesting that increasing funding for congregate shelters, as has been espoused by some policymakers, might have a limited ability to effectively address street homelessness (Galperin, 2020; "LA Councilman Buscaino Seeks Ballot Measure to Prohibit Homeless Encampments," 2021). Additionally, an inability to quickly

Over 40 percent of respondents mentioned never having been contacted for move-in as a reason they were not housed in the past.

connect eligible individuals to housing may be a significant problem, as reflected by over 40 percent of respondents who mentioned never having been contacted for move-in as a reason they were not housed in the past. This pattern may reflect the need for increasing continuity among case workers (Thompson et al., 2021; Tobias, 2022) and reducing the often extraordinary delays in connecting eligible individuals to available housing (Bishari, 2022).

Future reporting on this study will benefit from continued enumerations and an increased survey sample. A longer time series of enumerations may provide some early evidence on the effects of the recent city ordinance (41.18) that allowed city council members to nominate locations for enforcement of a camping ban, although the timeline and extent of enforcement activity pertaining to this ordinance remain unclear as of this writing. Additionally, we will provide updated estimates of the average numbers of people residing in cars, vans, RVs, tents, and makeshift structures in our survey areas.

Appendix A. Site Geography

The process through which we selected survey site geographies was guided by a desire to capture most or all significant areas of encampment activity within the scope of project resources, while maintaining boundaries that were broadly consistent with both past enumeration and survey efforts and what service providers in these areas considered to be relevant geography. In practice, this involved choosing geo-

graphic areas that could be thoroughly covered by two three-person teams (or, in the case of Venice, two three-person teams in cars and one two-person team on foot) in approximately three hours so that our projected budgeting would cover the desired number of enumeration and survey shifts over the intended study period.

Skid Row Geography

We conducted two site assessments of Skid Row in August 2021 to determine the current distribution of encampment activity. We contacted individuals responsible for area homelessness service provision as well as individuals who coordinate aspects of the annual PIT count, to receive input on what they considered to be the most relevant geographies in the area. We also shadowed the designated homelessness outreach team's efforts.¹¹ We ultimately settled on a relatively compact geography used by area homelessness service providers to define Skid Row that comprises about 50 percent of the overall geographic area assessed in the PIT count (see Figure A.1).

Hollywood Geography

For Hollywood, we began by assessing the geography used in the recent count conducted by Hollywood 4WRD. We then conducted a site assessment of this area in late September and gathered feedback on current encampment activity from area service providers. With these inputs, we decided to limit our study geography to the Central Hollywood portion of the larger Hollywood 4WRD study area (see Figure A.2).

Venice Geography

Similar to the processes described above, the process of determining our Venice geography involved multiple site assessments, outreach to area service providers, and discussions with representatives from city council district 11 regarding current hotspots for encampment activity. Because of significant recent developments affecting large encampments on the Venice boardwalk, we concentrated on the western portion of Venice (see Figure A.3).

FIGURE A.1
Map of Skid Row Site Geography

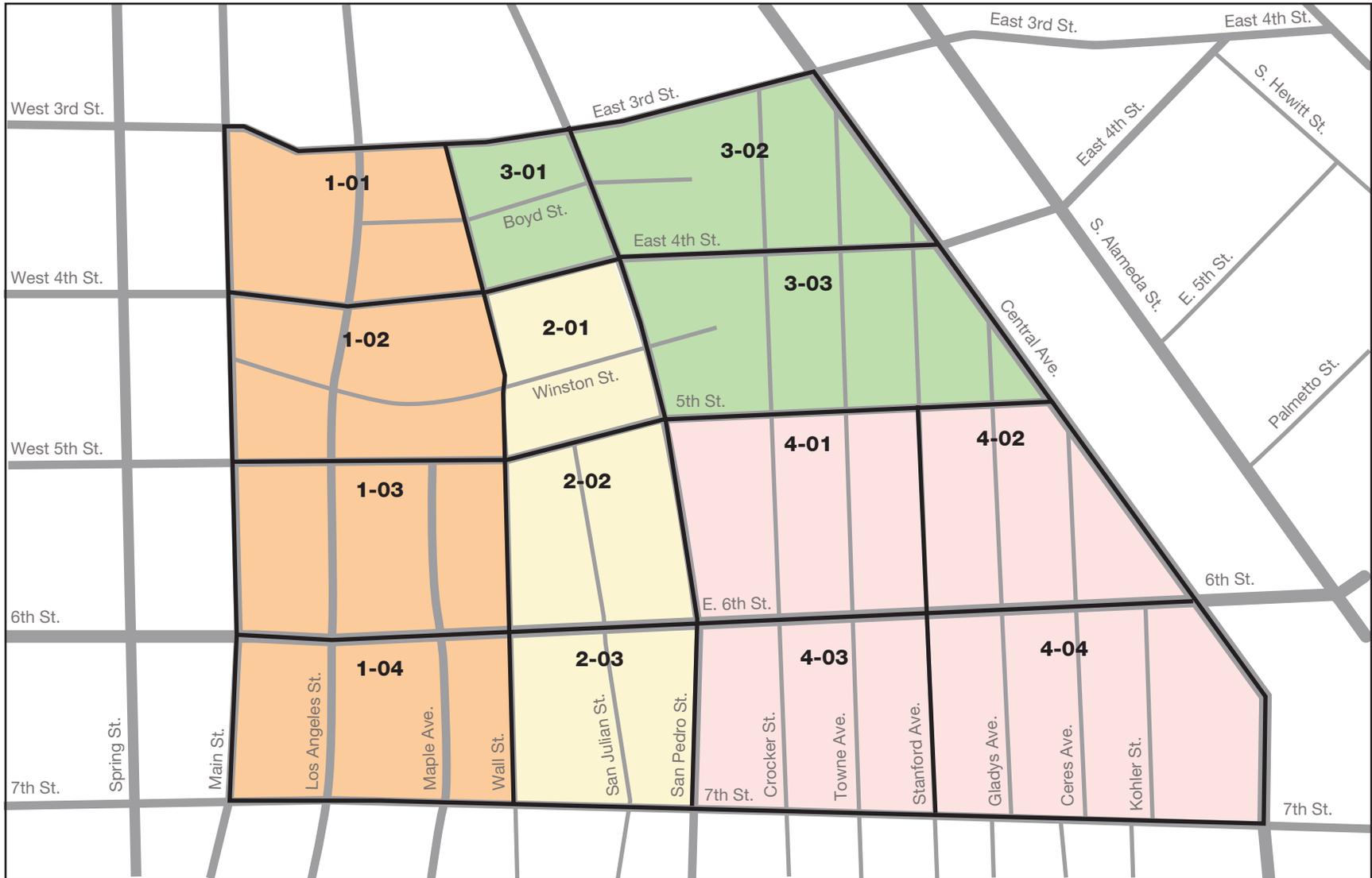


FIGURE A.2
Map of Hollywood Site Geography

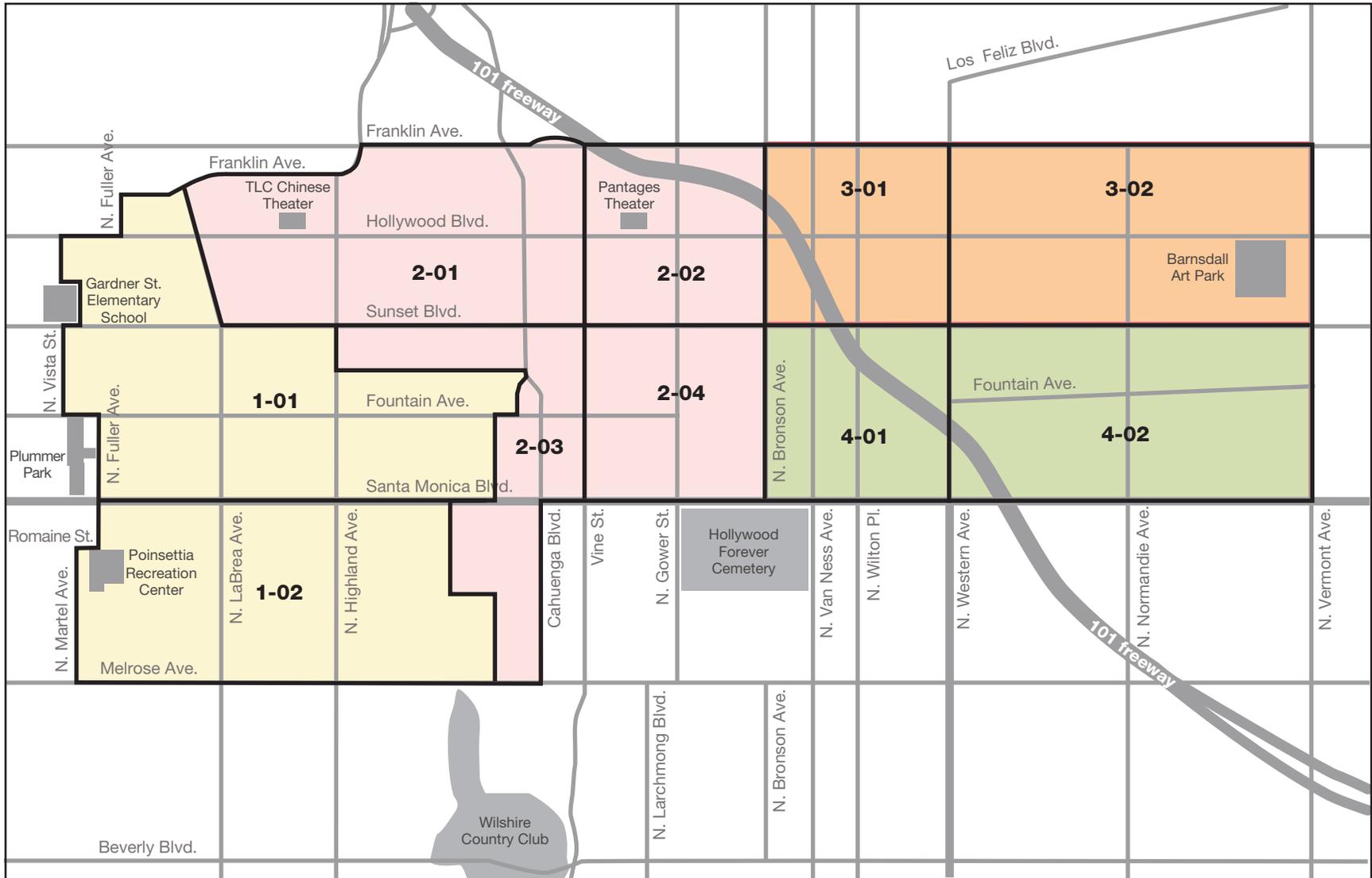
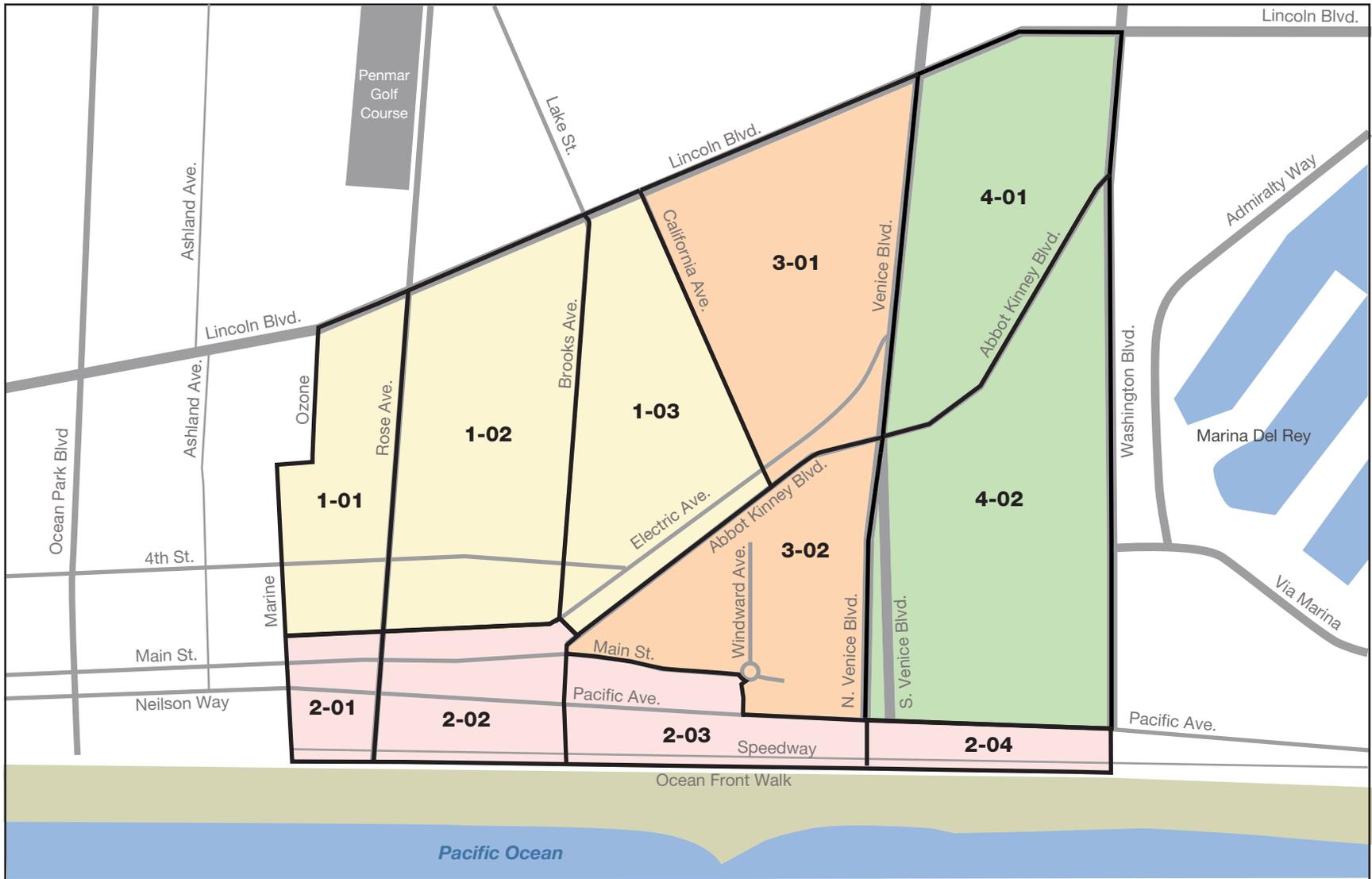


FIGURE A.3
Map of Venice Site Geography



Veterans Row Geography

This survey area was relatively straightforward to identify because of its highly compact geography—a short stretch of San Vicente Boulevard (which runs into Bringham Avenue heading northwest) that bounds the West Los Angeles VA campus to the southwest. Specifically, we enumerated and surveyed individuals who were present or encamped along the north side of San Vicente Boulevard between Kiowa Avenue to the south, northward beyond the point where San Vicente turns into Bringham Avenue, as far north as Gorham Avenue.

Appendix B. Enumeration Methodology

Our enumerations were each conducted by two teams of three individuals. For Skid Row, each team covered one-half of the geography on foot. One person per team used a clicker to count individuals, and the other two people used paper forms to tally cars; vans; RVs; and small, medium, and large tents and shelters. These were counted independently, and then, at the end of each block (e.g., block 1-01 from Figure A.1), these two counts were averaged and rounded to the nearest integer value.

Using a similar approach to that of the LAHSA PIT count, we did not approach vehicles or structures to assess whether they were occupied; they were simply counted. Our field team was trained in using common factors to identify vehicles serving as places of residence, including signs that the vehicle was not being regularly moved, had covered windows, or had large amounts of possessions in or around the vehicle.

One difference in our approach relative to the approach used in the LAHSA PIT count was with regard to tents and makeshift structures. We divided these into three groupings: small (6 ft or less across), medium (6 to 12 ft across), and large (greater than 12 ft across). We counted continuous structures of greater than 12 ft (as are seen in parts of Skid Row) as multiple structures. We did not count structures that appeared to obviously serve only a storage purpose.

The training that our small field team underwent is more rigorous than the approach used by volun-

teers in the LAHSA PIT count, who are trained in a single short session and survey one or two census tracts each. Additionally, several of our survey team members have significant prior or current experience working or volunteering in homelessness services or adjacent fields that likely led to greater accuracy, relative to the LAHSA PIT count, in distinguishing individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as associated vehicles and structures.

For Hollywood, our teams were in cars. One person served as the driver, and the other two individuals counted people, cars, vans, RVs, tents, and other makeshift structures. The same process for reconciling the two counts described above was used. The approach used in Venice was a hybrid of the approaches used in Skid Row and Hollywood. In Venice, we had one team walking along the area proximate to the boardwalk and two other teams driving through the more eastern portion of the neighborhood.

As mentioned earlier, we alternated our enumeration shifts between early morning (approximately 6 to 9 a.m.) and nighttime (approximately 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.). These both tend to be periods during which, at least toward the beginning of the morning shift and the end of the nighttime shift, most individuals with access to a vehicle, tent, or makeshift shelter are inside them. To try to further address any remaining bias in our counts that could be related to individuals systematically moving about in our survey subareas at given times of the day or night (e.g., individuals waking up and going to an area meal service, where it would be possible to count them twice as we walked our survey routes), we also varied the direction in which we walked or drove through each subgeography.

One issue with any attempt to enumerate individuals with a characteristic that is not readily observable, such as homelessness, is the inherent difficulty of using a heuristic approach to determine whether an individual is currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness. For example, any given individual whom we observe and identify as experiencing homelessness in our enumerations might have some type of formal shelter but might be visiting an area where they used to reside when homeless. This

may tend to overstate the number of individuals we count as experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

However, evidence on the probable extent of this issue is provided by our screening instrument for administering the demographic survey, which asks people whether they have an overnight place to stay that meets the definition of shelter. Of the 256 individuals who completed the screening, only 16 percent were ineligible because of this criterion. Additionally, unlike our survey shifts, our enumerations primarily occurred during hours (early morning and nighttime) when people were more likely to be where they would sleep for the night.

This critique is relevant to any such enumeration exercise. We have no reason to believe that our own enumerations would be any more biased than past analogous efforts. Our use of a small, stable team of field workers who were professionally trained and accompanied by experienced supervisors, as well as the fact that we enumerated the same areas repeatedly, suggests that we *may* do a better job than teams of ad hoc volunteers, which are, of necessity, used to conduct the annual LAHSA PIT count.

Appendix C. Survey Methodology

Our survey data collection was conducted on separate days from the enumeration shifts (with the exception of Veterans Row, as described earlier). Our goal was to collect 40 completed surveys in Skid Row, 34 in Hollywood, and 34 in Venice during each outing. This report includes survey data collected from two Skid Row visits, one Hollywood visit, and two Venice visits.

Each survey shift began at approximately 8 a.m. and comprised two teams of three people who approached individuals on foot. During each visit, staff systematically approached individuals who appeared to be unsheltered and offered them an opportunity to participate in a ten-minute survey for \$5 cash. In Skid Row, we approached every third person encountered, and, in Hollywood and Venice, every other person encountered. We varied the “skip rule” that we used depending on the differential concentration of people experiencing homelessness in each area (i.e., higher in Skid Row than in Hollywood or Venice). We did not

use a skip rule for our single survey visit to Veterans Row, since this was a small population and our main motivation was to access as many individuals as possible before the site was cleared.

Every potential respondent was first screened for eligibility using two questions. The first was an item from the LAHSA demographic survey to determine whether the individual had been unsheltered for the past 30 days (i.e., the individual reported spending the past 30 nights on or at one of the following: street, sidewalk, or alley; bus or train; bus or train stop or station, transit center, or airport; unconverted garage, attic, or basement; campground or woods; park, beach, or riverbed; bridge or overpass; other outdoor location; abandoned building; parking lot [surface]; parking structure; car, truck, or van; RV or camper; outdoor encampment or tent; or other makeshift shelter not meant for human habitation). The second item asked whether the individual lacked another place to stay, such as a bed in a Bridge housing facility or other interim congregate housing, a hotel or motel room, or a room in a transitional housing building. Only respondents who reported staying in an unsheltered location and not having another place to stay were eligible to complete the survey.

Among respondents who reported staying in a car, van, RV, camper, tent, or other makeshift structure, we asked how many other people they shared the vehicle or structure with. We anticipate providing these data in future reports.

Overall, we approached 329 people, of which 216 screened eligible. Seventy-three were of unknown eligibility status because they refused the screening ($n = 63$); walked away ($n = 4$); were too disoriented, intoxicated, or cognitively impaired ($n = 4$); or had a language barrier ($n = 2$). Of those that completed the screening, 40 were deemed ineligible because of their homelessness status ($n = 40$).

Appendix D. Enumeration Counts by Category

Table D.1 provides distinct counts for each category (people; cars and vans; RVs; and small, medium, and large tents) and for each enumeration shift.

TABLE D.1

Enumeration Totals by Category

Date, Time, and Location	People	Cars and Vans	RVs	Small Tents	Medium Tents	Large Tents	Total
Hollywood							
10/29/21 (AM)	280	53	22	85	76	116	632
11/22/21 (PM)	302	91	29	90	58	126	696
12/21/21 (AM)	222	87	36	109	74	129	657
01/19/22 (PM)	341	82	32	80	74	145	754
Skid Row							
09/30/21 (AM)	595	24	6	166	135	320	1,246
10/13/21 (PM)	586	69	5	168	153	276	1,257
11/02/21 (AM)	529	52	7	190	133	325	1,236
11/15/21 (PM)	611	62	5	215	147	314	1,354
12/03/21 (AM)	757	108	5	216	166	336	1,588
12/15/21 (PM)	586	49	5	233	228	274	1,375
12/27/21 (AM)	604	50	5	246	143	275	1,323
01/13/22 (PM)	701	48	4	252	179	304	1,488
01/26/22 (AM)	620	43	3	214	198	273	1,351
Venice							
10/05/21 (AM)	110	138	80	46	46	56	476
11/10/21 (PM)	109	89	92	39	49	44	422
12/09/21 (AM)	167	152	85	49	39	47	539
01/03/22 (PM)	149	172	80	69	39	65	574
01/28/22 (AM)	165	188	72	59	63	58	605
Veterans Row							
10/06/21 (4 PM)	6	0	1	1	2	44	54
10/26/21 (9 AM)	9	0	1	2	3	34	49
11/18/21–2/4/22 ^a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^a Over the period of November 18, 2021, to February 4, 2022, our field coordinator made seven site visits and found no evidence of unsheltered individuals or associated vehicles or structures at this site.

Appendix E. Additional Survey Demographic Characteristics

Table E.1 reproduces the data in Table 1 but presents additional demographic characteristics that were omitted for brevity. We also provide separate tabulations for the 12 respondents whom we interviewed from Veterans Row.

Table E.2 reproduces Table 2 but includes separate tabulations for these Veterans Row respondents. Table E.3 reproduces Table 3 with two differences. First, we add in a tabulation of the Veterans Row respondents. Second, we add in the results of answers in the “other” categories for questions about issues that prevented past housing move-in, specific housing needs not otherwise asked about, and issues that would prevent a future move-in to offered housing. These free-form responses were first examined to identify numerous cases in which responses duplicated choices already presented. Then, we combined the remaining unique answers into a more succinct set of categories.

Finally, Table E.4 reproduces the responses to the question “What issues stopped you from moving into housing in LA?” (See the row labeled “Factors that prevented housing move-in.”) The table presents the results we obtained when we conditioned this question on respondents having answered “yes” to the prior question, “Since you have been homeless in LA, have you been offered housing?” The question about factors preventing respondents from obtaining housing better addresses the issue of barriers encountered in housing offers obtained through the provision of homelessness services rather than issues encountered by individuals seeking housing outside the homelessness housing service provision framework (e.g., in the private market or in other informal ways, such as doubling up). Broadly, the answers as to what factors prevented moving into housing are quite similar, but there are some survey site-specific differences. We intend to revisit these differences through a statistical lens in a later report that will have a substantially larger sample of survey respondents.

TABLE E.1
Full Demographic Characteristics of Survey Participants (percentages)

Participant Characteristic	All (<i>n</i> = 216)	Hollywood (<i>n</i> = 54)	Skid Row (<i>n</i> = 82)	Venice (<i>n</i> = 68)	Veterans Row (<i>n</i> = 12)
Age					
18–24	5	4	2	9	0
25–54	63	76	51	68	64
55–61	17	11	22	15	18
62 and older	15	9	25	9	18
Gender					
Male	70	70	70	68	91
Female	25	24	27	26	9
Nonconforming	2	2	1	3	0
Missing	3	4	2	3	0
Hispanic ethnicity	19	13	18	24	17
Race ^a					
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	15	21	18	42
Asian American	6	7	4	9	8

Table E.1—Continued

Participant Characteristic	All (<i>n</i> = 216)	Hollywood (<i>n</i> = 54)	Skid Row (<i>n</i> = 82)	Venice (<i>n</i> = 68)	Veterans Row (<i>n</i> = 12)
Black/African American	50	57	66	28	25
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4	4	4	4	8
White	34	28	13	57	75
Other	15	11	17	15	17
Marital status					
Married	5	9	1	7	0
Serious relationship, not married	4	4	4	6	0
Widowed	5	7	4	4	0
Divorced or separated	25	24	26	21	55
Never married	61	56	65	62	45
Educational attainment					
Less than high school	27	33	28	22	25
High school graduate	31	28	33	29	33
Vocational, business, or trade school	5	7	2	6	0
Some college	25	26	21	28	33
Associate's degree	6	4	7	6	0
Bachelor's degree or postgraduate degree	7	2	7	9	8
Health rating					
Excellent	22	30	20	21	8
Very good	20	19	18	21	33
Good	29	23	35	26	33
Fair	20	15	20	26	8
Poor	9	13	7	6	17
Chronic health condition	46	44	44	49	58
Mental health condition	54	57	51	52	67
Substance use disorder	20	15	18	22	50
Regular use—alcohol	30	30	33	25	42
Regular use—marijuana/cannabis	51	59	38	54	92
Regular use—methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, or prescription opioids	25	31	22	19	58
Arrested in past 30 days	5	4	7	3	0
Jail or prison stay in past 30 days	4	4	6	3	0

NOTES: *n* = number (sample size). Mutually exclusive percentages might not add up to 100 because of rounding.

^a Participants could indicate membership in more than one race, so these percentages add up to more than 100.

TABLE E.2

Measures of Homelessness Experiences of Survey Participants (percentages)

Participant Characteristic	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)	Veterans Row (n = 12)
Age at first spell of homelessness					
Younger than 18	23	32	14	25	33
18–24	23	28	24	19	17
25–54	46	36	51	49	42
55 or older	8	4	11	6	8
Duration of current spell of homelessness ^a					
Less than a year	22	22	19	25	33
1 to 2 years	26	24	22	31	25
3 years or longer	52	54	59	44	42
Duration at current location ^a					
Less than 3 months	17	11	12	26	17
3–6 months	7	8	6	9	8
More than 6 months	76	81	81	65	75
Location prior to current location					
Los Angeles County	62	61	66	59	50
Elsewhere in California	12	15	9	12	25
Outside California	23	22	18	28	25
Incarcerated	1	2	2	0	0
Missing	2	0	5	1	0

NOTES: n = number (sample size).

^a To reduce respondent burden, the RAND Survey Research Group recommended using overlapping periods (at the bounds of each grouping) for some of the response options. For clarity here, we group categories into broader periods and assume zero “edge cases” (e.g., 12 months exactly).

TABLE E.3

Housing Needs and Preferences of Survey Participants, with Recoded “Other” Responses Included (percentages)

Need or Preference	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)	Veterans Row (n = 12)
Interested in housing	90	89	90	88	100
Currently on a waitlist	32	35	26	34	50
Offered housing since homeless in LA	46	44	44	46	75
Factors that prevented housing move-in					
Never contacted for move-in	43	39	52	40	17

Table E.3—Continued

Need or Preference	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)	Veterans Row (n = 12)
Lack of privacy	38	41	38	32	50
Housing safety	32	33	33	31	33
Paperwork issues	29	26	33	25	33
Hours or curfew	26	26	21	29	50
Housing location	26	22	21	34	33
Housing cleanliness	21	20	22	21	17
Other housing rules	19	26	11	19	33
Partner not allowed into housing	14	11	13	18	8
Handicap accessibility	11	9	17	4	8
Pets	10	13	5	13	8
Possessions	10	11	7	13	8
Other issues that prevented past move to housing	25	28	20	24	50
<i>Respondents reporting nonredundant “other” issue^a</i>	<i>(n = 57)</i>	<i>(n = 16)</i>	<i>(n = 17)</i>	<i>(n = 18)</i>	<i>(n = 6)</i>
<i>Lack of income or employment</i>	26	31	12	39	17
<i>Lack of support or assistance</i>	26	25	29	33	0
<i>Lifestyle (including drug use)</i>	25	6	47	6	67
<i>Incarceration history</i>	9	13	6	6	17
<i>Lack of housing or ineligibility for housing</i>	7	13	0	11	0
<i>Discrimination</i>	4	0	6	6	0
<i>Need for special housing (e.g., LGBTQ+)</i>	4	13	0	0	0
Acceptable housing options					
Permanent stay in motel or hotel setting	81	78	88	79	67
Supportive housing (own apartment with case management)	80	85	87	69	75
Shelter or hotel with private room	77	74	83	75	67
Interim housing with access to services	59	52	71	50	58
Safe camping (organized tent space)	50	46	48	51	75
Shared housing (shared apartment or house)	45	44	43	49	50
Bridge housing (temporary shelter with onsite services)	44	37	46	49	42
Group shelter	31	17	38	34	42
Recovery or sober living housing	30	22	38	28	25
Specific housing/shelter needs or requirements					
Needs to be in particular neighborhood	36	33	29	44	42
Storage for possessions	30	33	28	28	33

Table E.3—Continued

Need or Preference	All (n = 216)	Hollywood (n = 54)	Skid Row (n = 82)	Venice (n = 68)	Veterans Row (n = 12)
Allowed to stay with partner, spouse, child, roommate	26	30	22	26	42
Allowed to stay with pet(s)	25	31	22	22	25
Handicap accessible	21	22	27	13	25
Other specific housing needs	14	20	10	16	8
<i>Respondents reporting nonredundant "other" issue^a</i>	<i>(n = 32)</i>	<i>(n = 10)</i>	<i>(n = 10)</i>	<i>(n = 11)</i>	<i>(n = 1)</i>
<i>Apartment amenities</i>	28	10	30	45	0
<i>Safety of neighborhood or community</i>	25	30	20	27	0
<i>Access to public transit</i>	19	20	20	9	100
<i>Special population (e.g., LGBTQ+, Catholic, older)</i>	19	40	10	9	0
<i>Desire for privacy</i>	9	0	20	9	0
Factors that would prevent future housing move-in					
Lack of safety	60	76	59	51	50
Lack of privacy	58	70	55	54	50
Lack of cleanliness	46	52	45	43	50
Negative interactions with staff	44	41	45	46	42
Hours or curfew	38	52	27	43	33
Other rules	25	26	24	25	33
Other ^a	6	6	5	9	0

NOTES: LGBTQ+ = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning; n = number (sample size). All but 13 of the "other" responses to "Factors that would prevent future housing move-in" included an "other" reason that we categorized as redundant with one of our included categories, so we recoded these as such. Of the remaining 13 respondents, ten answered "yes" to "other" reasons but did not specify a reason. Of the remaining three answers (all in Venice), two answers concerned needing some form of onsite medical care and one answer concerned needing a workspace as part of acceptable housing. Italics indicate freeform answers that were given by respondents in response to an "other" option at the end of a series of questions.

^a Some respondents reported a response to "other" that was consistent with one of the specified survey response options that we recoded as such, and some reported an "other" issue but did not specify one.

TABLE E.4

Factors Preventing Past Housing Move-In Only Among Those Offered Housing Since Becoming Homeless in Los Angeles (percentages)

Factor Preventing Housing Move-In	All (n = 99)	Hollywood (n = 24)	Skid Row (n = 36)	Venice (n = 30)	Veterans Row (n = 9)
Never contacted for move-in	41	29	44	57	11
Lack of privacy	41	50	36	37	56
Housing safety	36	38	31	43	33
Hours or curfew	31	42	19	33	44
Paperwork issues	30	13	33	37	44
Housing location	28	17	28	33	44

Table E.4—Continued

Factor Preventing Housing Move-In	All (n = 99)	Hollywood (n = 24)	Skid Row (n = 36)	Venice (n = 30)	Veterans Row (n = 9)
Housing cleanliness	25	21	25	30	22
Other housing rules	20	33	8	23	22
Partner not allowed into housing	14	13	11	20	11
Pets	10	17	6	10	11
Handicap accessibility	9	4	17	7	0
Possessions	8	17	0	13	0
Other issues that prevented past move to housing	23	33	17	17	44
<i>Respondents reporting nonredundant "other" issue^a</i>	<i>(n = 23)</i>	<i>(n = 8)</i>	<i>(n = 6)</i>	<i>(n = 6)</i>	<i>(n = 4)</i>
<i>Lifestyle (including drug use)</i>	33	0	50	17	100
<i>Lack of income or employment</i>	29	38	17	50	0
<i>Lack of support or assistance</i>	21	38	33	0	0
<i>Need for special housing (e.g., LGBTQ+)</i>	8	25	0	0	0
<i>Lack of housing or ineligibility for housing</i>	4	0	0	17	0
<i>Discrimination</i>	4	0	0	17	0
<i>Incarceration history</i>	0	0	0	0	0

NOTES: LGBTQ+ = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning; *n* = number (sample size). This table conditions answers to the question "What issues stopped you from moving into housing in LA?" (see row labeled "Factors that prevented housing move-in" in Tables 5 and E.3) on answering "yes" to the question "Since you have been homeless in LA, have you been offered housing?" Italics indicate freeform answers that were given by respondents in response to an "other" option at the end of a series of questions.

^a Some respondents reported a response to "other" that was consistent with one of the specified survey response options that we recoded as such, and some reported an "other" issue but did not specify one.

Notes

¹ The Los Angeles County Continuum of Care, where LAHSA's PIT count is conducted, excludes the cities of Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena.

² A few local groups, including Hollywood 4WRD, conducted area-specific counts modeled after the LAHSA procedure in 2020 or 2021.

³ Other neighborhoods that were the subject of grassroots efforts to enumerate the unsheltered population include Mid-City West (Folven, 2021), Eagle Rock/Highland Park, Lafayette Park, and Venice. We did not find formal release data for these efforts, only limited information about them from social media and community members.

⁴ We conducted counts in Skid Row at a higher frequency because of the much higher level of encampment activity in this area. On average, the roughly 0.4-square mile area of Skid Row that we surveyed has the equivalent of the combined number of unsheltered individuals in our other two, much larger survey sites.

⁵ To estimate the average change in homelessness across our study period in a manner that could isolate systematic variation over time from idiosyncratic variation from period to period, we used a linear regression of people on weeks that included site fixed effects (i.e., site-specific indicator variables that allow each survey site to have a constant estimated difference in levels). This approach yielded a coefficient of 9.96 people per week with a 95-percent confidence interval of 2.4 to 17.5. Site-specific regressions yielded coefficients that were tightly clustered around this estimate (10.49 for Skid Row, 8.18 for Hollywood, and 9.96 for Venice) but that had less statistical precision.

⁶ In our final report, which will have a larger survey sample, we plan to present statistical tests to examine differences between respondents across the three sites.

⁷ The questions about chronic and mental health conditions do not have direct analogues in the LAHSA survey, which asks instead about the presence of HIV/AIDS-related illness, a physical disability, a traumatic brain injury, a developmental disability, or a physical illness. The tabulated results do not provide data on answers to questions also included in the survey instrument about physical illness or traumatic brain injury.

⁸ We did not condition this question on having answered "yes" to the prior question, "Since you have been homeless in LA, have you been offered housing?" However, in Table E.4, we present frequencies of these same answers after first conditioning on respondents having answered "yes" to this question. Broadly, the frequency of issues is similar, although there are a few larger differences that we will explore more thoroughly with a larger respondent sample in a future report.

⁹ Comparisons of the enumeration data between LAHSA 2020 and LA LEADS are not possible without block-specific counts from the 2020 PIT count, which we were unable to secure prior to the publication of this report.

¹⁰ The ages that are included in TAY differ across agencies and organizations, but the term generally covers populations from approximately ages 16 to 25.

¹¹ *Shadowing* is a qualitative approach in which researchers observe other individuals conducting their normal daily activities (McDonald, 2005).

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About This Report

Homelessness is a serious problem in Los Angeles, but there is a lack of accurate data on the number and characteristics of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in this area. To better inform the development of effective homelessness policy, RAND researchers set out to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in Skid Row, Hollywood, Venice, and “Veterans Row”—areas of Los Angeles with historically high concentrations of street homelessness or recent increases in street encampments. The researchers also gathered data on unsheltered individuals’ demographic characteristics, history of homelessness, experiences with the housing system, and housing needs and preferences. In this report, the researchers present results from the first four months of fieldwork. They plan to continue conducting counts and will present the full study findings in a final report.

This research was conducted by the RAND Center on Housing and Homelessness in Los Angeles, part of the Community Health and Environmental Policy Program within RAND Social and Economic Well-Being. The center is focused on providing policymakers and stakeholders with timely research and analysis addressing the crises of housing affordability and homelessness in the Los Angeles region and beyond. For more information, visit www.rand.org/chhla.

Community Health and Environmental Policy Program

RAND Social and Economic Well-Being is a division of the RAND Corporation that seeks to actively improve the health and social and economic well-being of populations and communities throughout the world. This research was conducted in the Community Health and Environmental Policy Program within RAND Social and Economic Well-Being. The program focuses on such topics as infrastructure, science and technology, community design, community health promotion, migration and population dynamics, transportation, energy, and climate and the environment, as well as other policy concerns that are influenced by the natural and built environment, technology, and community organizations and institutions that affect well-being. For more information, email chep@rand.org.

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Communication from Public

Name: Nicholas Previsich
Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 03:07 PM
Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: My wife and I support full implementation and enforcement of LAMC 41.18. As long-time DTLA/CD14 residents we have seen the progressive deterioration and destruction of our public spaces even to the point of inability to use sidewalks caused by failing to enforce this common-sense law. Worse, such abject lack of enforcement has fostered an environment of rampant criminality and human degradation that is capitalized upon by unscrupulous elements to line their own pockets. Persons suffering from severe mental illness and addiction are being not merely used but horribly abused by these elements for everything from human trafficking to frivolous lawsuits such as Mitchell that actually harm the purported victims while greatly enriching some who live in mansions far from encampments via employment of a grotesquely cynical--and demonstrably profitable--interpretation of individual rights that frankly encourages the most vulnerable people in our society to refuse the very services that would give them a chance to lead independent lives of dignity. The only 'right' granted thereby to those afflicted is the unimpeded right to suffer, scream, and die in the gutter. This is more than cynicism; it is horror. We respectfully request the Council to fully enforce LAMC 41.18 and to simultaneously seek all possible county, state, and Federal resources as well as fundamental changes in detrimental laws such as the Lanterman Act to finally begin to make a real attempt to end this disaster. The vast majority of people in Los Angeles STRONGLY support such immediate and direct action, but of course few are able to attend Council meetings in person and in numbers; please do not be misled by noise that tries desperately to overwhelm the signal that must be heard for the very future of our City.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 06:52 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: We are a large coalition of community members in CD-11, and we stand in strong support of this motion. Unfortunately, our Council Member refuses to file a resolution to ban camping within 500 feet of any school in the district, so children in our district have been seen things children should never see. Students in our district have witnessed from their schools the following by homeless people camping near their schools: Drug usage, drug overdoses, drug overdose deaths, unclothed people, people having drug-induced meltdowns, RVs igniting and burning, and more. No child should have to witness this while going to or from school or while in school. While we have compassion for people who are homeless, we also have compassion and concern for children. It is not too much to ask that homeless people not be allowed to camp within 500 feet of schools. This is a very reasonable ordinance, and we ask for your Aye vote.

Communication from Public

Name: Christopher James Thomas

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 07:00 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: This proposed amendment is the most dramatic expansion of 41.18, creating unhoused exclusion zones across a massive portion of Los Angeles. Despite what council believes, a significant portion of Angelenos oppose criminalization as a tool to address homelessness, knowing that it is expensive, ineffective, and inhumane.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 07:33 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: FUCK 41.18 and fuck all criminalization of poverty. no one can afford the rent here and someone dies on our streets every five hours, often outside an empty fucking building with an armed private security guard watching to ensure no one dares to seek shelter. this city is devastatingly obsessed with policing the unhoused, and throwing anyone who doesn't survive under white supremacist ableist capitalism into the slave labor force through criminalization and incarceration. DECRIMINALIZE POVERTY

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 08:28 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: voting to expand the laws you've already set up against unhoused folks is truly vile. you're supposed to represent the people who live in this city and you keep turning your back on them and policing/jailing them. it's truly disgusting and none of us understand how you sleep at night. you MUST vote no on this. be a true human being: stand up for the people who need you. housing not handcuffs.

Communication from Public

Name: Courtney

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 10:41 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Homelessness has nearly doubled in LA since 2013, a time period that many of our City Council members have been present throughout. Kicking the problem down the block into the next District is not working, and it never will. Expanding the UNCONSTITUTIONAL anti-camping ordinance to include 20% of our city will do nothing but harm to our community. There are more vacant housing units in LA than unhoused neighbors. Stop siding with greedy corporate developers and selling out your constituents. We do not need more money spent on policing these “zones,” we need to be spending that money on case management services for the unhoused and the seizure of vacant properties for providing actual, permanent housing. We have proven that shelter-first initiatives work. When people have a roof over their head, they can start to get ahead. When people have community around them to support them, they can get ahead. Stop the madness of 41.18 from doing any more harm than it already has.

Communication from Public

Name: Torey

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 10:46 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: In case you were too busy watching Hannah Montana when it premiered in 2006 and not paying any attention to the world around you, I'd like to remind you that in 2006 the court upheld a ruling that 41.18 was a violation of the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. (Jones v. The City of LOS ANGELES). Later, I guess when you were busy participating in the Tide Pod challenge of 2018, you missed that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld in Martin v. Boise that cities cannot enforce anti-camping ordinances if they do not have enough homeless shelter beds available for their homeless population. I get it. You weren't paying attention before. Do we have your attention now?? You have the chance to stop the expansion of a cruel and unusual (read: fucked up) law in the city you pretend to care about and to do the right thing. And not just the morally right thing to do either. The courts have told you straight up that passing 41.18 is the wrong thing to do. If you do not stop 41.18, you are perpetuating violence and the death of our neighbors will be on your hands. The whole world is watching you. Come up with something better. Literally anything that hasn't already been ruled as unconstitutional would be cool with us. Better yet, listen to the unhoused that are trying to have a voice at the table. The fact that this meeting was rescheduled to a time when the city scheduled Sweeps to dissuade them from using their voice is seriously fucked up. In the United States, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 was passed to fight the practice of redlining. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to discriminate in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale of a dwelling" So why the hell is Los Angeles determined to let classism be its ruin!? The blueprint has been laid out for you. You just need to make the right decision today and work to repeal 41.18 immediately. The corruption of LA Housing will be the demise of the City if you cannot heed the word of the people. Don't let the Slap at the Oscar's be the only thing people remember happening in this city in 2022. Do the surprising, repeal 41.18, and don't go back to court over a question that has already been answered. Just be better.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah T

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 10:56 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Expanding 41.18 is completely counterintuitive to solving either our homelessness crisis or even catering to the concerns folks have of wanting our unhoused neighbors out of sight, out of mind. Putting the limited resources we have toward shuffling people around and throwing away their limited documents, medications, etc only traumatizes people and prolongs homelessness. It serves literally no one. Do not expand 41.18! Put efforts toward true solutions like permanent housing. Permanent being the key word there.

Communication from Public

Name: B. James

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 08:52 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: For those residing or operating a business in the Los Angeles area, it is apparent that we are being let down, more so ignored by the elected officials of this once beautiful city. The need for Section 41.18 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to be expanded is imperative. Our streets are quite frankly unrecognisable, with loitering, and sleeping in doorways and sidewalks considered acceptable. Invariably one is met with aggression, at times violence when an individual(s) is asked to kindly refrain from loitering in front of our businesses, doorways, sidewalks and residences (often open heavy drug use is taking place, which is shocking). We the public are met with a consistent lack of assistance, feeling we have nowhere to turn for help. Our streets are dangerous. We should feel safe. 41.18 is a good beginning to a safer and better Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Shawn Richardson

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 08:55 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Vote "NO" on the 41.18 amendment. 41.18 is bad policy and must be repealed altogether. The new amendment will do nothing to reduce unsheltered homelessness across Los Angeles and will be devastating to the lives of the unhoused. It is immoral and deranged for city council members who earn cushy 6-figure salaries and pensions to further oppress marginalized citizens in Los Angeles. This ordinance was introduced by Mark Ridley Thomas (who was removed from council after he was indicted for federal corruption charges) after a series of backdoor meetings with a billionaire. He introduced it in a way that bypassed committee and public input using an obscure technical rule. This is completely undemocratic and unethical. Instead, you need to regulate the billionaire housing developers that are pricing out working class Angelenos with endless luxury apartments. You need to stop the endless waste of tax dollars spent on LAPD that murder and create endless noise pollution with helicopters. There is plenty of wealth in Los Angeles to end homelessness. Ordinance 41.18 has been an abysmal failure and produced no tangible benefits or improvement.

Communication from Public

Name: Nicholas Gauger

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 09:06 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: 41.18 is bad policy and should be repealed immediately. This proposed amendment makes it even worse. If this passes, a full one-fifth of LA will be off-limits to our most vulnerable residents. The criminalization of housing encampments is ineffective, expensive, and cruel. Without housing options, clearing encampments only results in displacement. And I'm not sure if you've noticed, but affordable housing isn't exactly abundant in this city. Do better.

Communication from Public

Name: Melissa Manousos

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 09:32 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to vote to REPEAL 41.18 - For previous amendments, every address of a 41.18 zone was listed, reviewed and voted upon, and transparent to the public. At this point it's unclear how many neighborhoods and people will be impacted by this because City Council has not done the work of determining the specific locations. Beyond that, criminalization of our neighbors for simply being unhoused is inhumane, ineffective, and expensive. There are better uses of our efforts and money than prosecuting people for sleeping outside!

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Galbraith

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 09:58 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose 41.18 and any further expansion. Criminalizing and displacing our unhoused neighbors is counterproductive, cruel, and inhumane. Los Angeles needs to expand public housing, mental health services, harm reduction policies, and accessible public space before sweeping our problems under the rug. Criminalization will not solve our housing crisis. VOTE NO.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Beckerman

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 10:19 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I read a statistic that since the passage of 41.18 last year, unhoused deaths have increased by 22%. I can't be the only person who is sick of the way we treat our unhoused neighbors. Our city has the money and resources to give these people a place to stay, and yet instead, city council goes for the the laziest and most violent solutions possible. Just a suggestion, since there is money earmarked to help these people, instead of creating a society so inhospitable to the unhoused, you actually do some work and help them. I know, I know, it's a crazy suggestion. I would try to appeal to your ethical beliefs or sense of shame, but for those who are pro-41.18, I doubt that is persuasive. But I can promise you that helping the unhoused, instead of hounding them to (literally) death, will actually create a better city for everyone.

Communication from Public

Name: Erin M
Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 10:38 PM
Council File No: 20-1376-S1
Comments for Public Posting: Please vote NO on expanding 41.18. It is already so harmful and deadly and this will make it even more so. Vote no. Abolish 41.18!

Communication from Public

Name: Ignat Printsev

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 02:38 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am against the expansion of 41.18. In fact, I wish for 41.18 to be repealed entirely. It is morally wrong to criminalize homelessness and conduct sweeps, as a result of 41.18. Please deeply consider this.

Communication from Public

Name: Josh Cretella

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 03:01 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: STOP CRIMINALIZING THE UNHOUSED This proposed amendment is the most dramatic expansion of 41.18, creating unhoused exclusion zones across a massive portion of Los Angeles. Despite what council believes, a significant portion of Angelenos oppose criminalization as a tool to address homelessness, knowing that it is expensive, ineffective, and inhumane. For previous amendments, every address of a 41.18 zone was listed, reviewed and voted upon, and transparent to the public. At this point it's unclear how many neighborhoods and people will be impacted by this because City Council has not done the work of determining the specific locations. Mapping and analysis by the Kenneth Mejia campaign estimates at least 1,900 NEW criminalization zones –a 376% increase in exclusionary zones across the city. 41.18 will cover at least 88 sq miles (that's 20% of the entire city). The proposed mandatory enforcement within 500 feet of schools and daycare centers will have an even greater negative impact on youth and adults experiencing homelessness. Students and children are greatly impacted by homelessness and housing instability. Schools are an important community resource for supporting unhoused students and young Angelenos at risk of homelessness. This blanket expansion does not take into consideration how this could affect this population. Since the passage of 41.18 one year ago, unhoused deaths have increased by 22% (source). 41.18 = death The only solution to ending the housing crisis is to BUILD HOMES. We need homes for all income levels, across the city, as quickly as possible. Project Roomkey is a stop-gap measure. The city must sign off on any/all development in progress and increase the number of homes across Los Angeles. STOP WEAPONIZING CONSERVATIVE, RIGHT-WING TALKING POINTS filtered by "Democrats" like Councilman Busciano as a sensible or humane solution. It's not.

Communication from Public

Name: Lionel Mares

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 03:23 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed amendment to L.A.M.C. 41.18 (Council File: 20-1376-S1) which would expand the criminalization of homeless individuals. I have attached my Written Public Comment as an attachment. Please, consider hearing my concerns and why I am opposed to further criminalization of our un-housed neighbors. Enough is enough. We need to provide services and mutual aid assistance to our un-housed neighbors... NOT to criminalize them! This proposed amendment is the most dramatic expansion of 41.18, creating unhoused exclusion zones across a massive portion of Los Angeles. Despite what the council believes, a significant portion of Angelenos opposes criminalization as a tool to address homelessness, knowing that it is expensive, ineffective, and inhumane. For previous amendments, every address of a 41.18 zone was listed, reviewed, voted upon, and transparent to the public. At this point, it's unclear how many neighborhoods and people will be impacted by this because City Council has not done the work of determining the specific locations. Mapping and analysis by the Kenneth Mejia campaign estimate at least 1,900 NEW criminalization zones –a 376% increase in exclusionary zones across the city. 41.18 will cover at least 88 sq miles (that's 20% of the entire city). The proposed mandatory enforcement within 500 feet of schools and daycare centers will have an even greater negative impact on youth and adults experiencing homelessness. Students and children are greatly impacted by homelessness and housing instability. Schools are an important community resource for supporting unhoused students and young Angelenos at risk of homelessness. This blanket expansion does not take into consideration how this could affect this population. Since the passage of 41.18 one year ago, unhoused deaths have increased by 22% (source). 41.18 = death

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the proposed amendment to **L.A.M.C. 41.18 (Council File: 20-1376-S1)** which would expand the criminalization of homeless individuals from living near schools, libraries, etc... I understand the concerns of so many homeless advocates and activists who are concerned that the homeless population will have nowhere else to go. The city should provide Services such as trash pick-up and recycling to minimize the amount of trash that is accumulated at these encampments. I understand the concern of so many residents BUT at the same time, the city should provide SERVICES and Outreach to provide long-term housing to these individuals experiencing homeless and need medical attention; including social services because many of them suffer from mental illness. These individuals are the most vulnerable because of mental illness, they cannot function in their present state of mind. **They need HELP!**

My community in Sun Valley and the surrounding areas lack Mutual Aid Groups. I would like for Mutual Aid Groups and for the City of Los Angeles; including my councilmember **Nury Martinez** to coordinate and implement a plan to do Community Outreach to provide food and water to our unhoused neighbors experiencing homelessness. I have asked the city and **Mutual Aid Groups** like **Ktown for All, Street Watch, DSA-LA, Everyone In (United Way of Los Angeles)**, and other **Mutual Aid Groups** for support and outreach in my community. I would like for **Jane Nguyen (Ktown for All)** and **Trinity Tran (Urban Partners LA)** to provide outreach to my community as well.

I want to see other Mutual Aid Groups and Activists to reach out to Sun Valley un-housed neighbors and work with me on helping my community. This is urgent and we demand Social Action to address this concern. **It is a Humanitarian Crisis!**

Sincerely,

Lionel Mares, MPA

Advocate & Activist

Communication from Public

Name: Citizen in CD13
Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 03:27 PM
Council File No: 20-1376-S1
Comments for Public Posting: Per Agenda Item 14: 41.18 is BAD POLICY and should be repealed. The new amendment will do nothing to reduce unsheltered homelessness across Los Angeles and will be cruel to our unhoused neighbors.

Communication from Public

Name: Topher Hendricks

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 03:28 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Homelessness is a housing supply issue first and foremost and we cannot police our way out of it. The criminalization of 41.18 will only entrench people further and further into the depths of homelessness. I assume you are completely unable to see the humanitarian moral issues at stake here (otherwise 41.18 would never have existed in the first place), so I'll speak in terms of what you apparently only understand: money. Why are we spending even more money on police-based approaches, while the homelessness situation only becomes worse and worse. Look to other cities who have already led the way with more effective, non-violent solutions (like unarmed mental health crisis teams), that SAVE lots of money and actually work. You know what cities have the least amount of homelessness? The ones who BUILT HOUSING. Not shelters, not photo-opp Home Depot sheds in a parking lot. Full-on housing. Expanding the enforcement zones of 41.18 will lead to a drastic increase in police activity, which is both extremely expensive, and extremely ineffective at actually solving the problem. Los Angeles does NOT have the budget for expanding 41.18. I will not ask politely, I will not say please: I absolutely demand with every fiber of my being that you vote no, and get to work on something that will actually help, instead of making of city even worse than what every last one of you has already done to it.

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Berman
Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 03:48 PM
Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am in support of extending the time for 41.18 enforcement zones. I am a 21-year resident of the Historic Core in Downtown. The people who live here should have the ability to easily walk the area in which they live. Children should not be subjected to the visuals that accompany encampments. And how do we get retail back and flourishing if potential customers must go through encampments to reach the stores. Allowing people to live and die on sidewalks is not any kind of a solution to the issues that the unsheltered face. Turning over the public right-of-way as a default instead of finding the harder and better answers, is just not acceptable. Pass this round of 41.18 and then start the real, hard work of getting unsheltered persons the help that they need.

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Bednar
Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 03:54 PM
Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am urging you to vote no on the 41.18 amendment. To de facto exclude the homeless from large swaths of the city, while making no provision or budget increases whatsoever to build more affordable housing, increase the number of outreach workers, and ensure that every person on the street is connected with needed services is, put simply, barbaric and monstrous. This amendment will do absolutely nothing to reduce homelessness in the city of Los Angeles, and as a matter of fact, will be devastating and in many cases most likely deadly for our homeless neighbors. Expanding the number of "homeless-free zones" will not help the homeless, it will not make them go away, and it will not solve any pressing issues. All it will do is cause distress and disturbance in the lives of people who are already at their breaking point. Find it in yourself to vote no the 41.18 amendment and work with your colleagues on actual solutions to this problem, instead of cruel, discriminatory laws.

Communication from Public

Name: Jenna

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 04:29 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in favor of expanding 41.18. I work in DTLA everyday and I see what takes place in these encampments. I also see "homeless" individuals deal drugs from encampments, and then turn around and walk right into their affordable housing. I see outreach coordinators every day try and get people on the streets shelter, but they do not want it. They want to be on the streets where they do not have to comply with the social rules everyone else does. I strongly believe we have a drug addiction/mental health problem...not homelessness. However, sleeping on the streets, dealing on the streets, using on the streets, and living on the streets is simply unacceptable and should no longer be tolerated.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 04:32 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I disagree with the existence and expansion of 41.18. Government is always pushing vulnerable residents out of the way of affluent residents even though it is the affluent population who has a political voice, secure housing and the mobility to choose where to live. It is wrong and monotonous that our representatives favor the wealthy over the poor, which ensures there will always be a supply of newly impoverished people evicted by a gentrification-happy council with its fingers in its ears. 41.18 solves nothing and exposes a blatant attempt to displace and therefore disenfranchise the civil rights of the unhoused who lack a permanent address in the districts where they live. There is so much wrong with a system who first harms vulnerable citizens by choosing to cater to the needs of those who have more than they need, and then harms them again by trying to banish and criminalize them for poverty. The racialized impacts of policies like 41.18 make plain its reprehensible intentions. My council member, Mitch O'Farrell, has done grave harm to this city during his tenure, and I am quite tired of him placing a finger on the scale to empty the city of its poor, rather than actually helping them to prosper. Levying fines against the poor for existing near schools, libraries and other publicly accessible venues is a tasteless, punitive and burdensome measure for the "crime" of trying to seek shelter from heat, cold, wind, and rain, as well as a measure of safety from harassment. It's clear the Council has no regard for the conditions that unhoused women and teens, in particular, struggle with already. The lust to help the rich get richer at any expense to the city and to the lives of the poor is out of control. Voting for 41.18 is shameful and cowardly. No one in our city deserves to have legislative powers used as a weapon targeting them uniquely for their financial circumstances. The cruel deployment of Jim Crow tactics in 21st century Los Angeles embarrass us as a city and make plain the racism is trickling down from the top. The poor should have exactly the same rights to dignity and civil rights that Mitch O'Farrell and other members enjoy while they workshop ideas to quarantine poverty block by block and engineer substandard tent-and-shed slums from the comfort of their air-conditioned meetings with our city's wealthiest. 41.18 must end.

Communication from Public

Name: Eleanor

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 05:11 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: 41.18 is draconian policy that criminalizes people for being poor. Without true supportive systems in place and enough affordable housing in the city, ticketing or arresting people for simply trying to exist is cruel and unusual. 41.18 does not and will not solve homelessness. Expanding 41.18 is a waste of money, time, and resources. In previous amendments, the zones were made transparent to the public. This feels like a drastic measure wherein the public won't even really know what areas are a part of 41.18. Please do not expand 41.18, a policy that already punishes poor people as it is, to make things even worse for the least privileged in our communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Javier Solis

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 05:25 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The City of Los Angeles has been turned into other cities' dumping grounds for their homeless. I support LAMC 41.18 and URGE the City Council and Mayor to stand up for taxpayers as we pay your salaries and we finance the operations of the City of Los Angeles. Other cities enforce their ordinances but there at Los Angeles' City Hall the homeless advocacy groups want to continue the disordered public sphere that allows violence and environmental hazards to go on full display every day and night to be witnessed by the children of the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and private schools. Our children deserve the best first-world environment yet the homeless advocacy groups want to continue the third-world conditions in our City. Why don't the homeless activists/organizations take the homeless to the places they live in like: Sierra Madre, Thousand Oaks, Toluca Lake, Brentwood, La Crescenta, South Central, Glendale, Burbank, Huntington Beach, Claremont, La Verne, San Dimas and see how they like it when the homeless are screaming at all hours of the night keeping both parents and children awake?

Communication from Public

Name: Brendan Coates

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 12:37 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: You know, I think I commented on this last week when it was first proposed. But I don't know if that comment "counts" this week, when it seems like you'll actually be dealing with it. Seems like a confusing way to disenfranchise people but what do I know? Anyway, deaths among unhoused people are up over 20% since 41.18 was passed. We're up to about 6 people dying in the streets every single day. 41.18 does fuck all to fix that - in fact, an expansion of 41.18 increases the likelihood that more people will die. I did the math the other day because I was so upset with you all. My CM, Mitch O'Farrell (aka "the worst.. except Joey Buckets"), has been in office for 3,318 days. The number of unhoused people has varied over that time, as have their death rates (can't believe I have to type these words in this, the wealthiest nation to ever exist). Let's say that the range is 3-5 people die per day over the course of his tenure. That's 9954 - 16590 people. At 6 per day, the current rate, that's 19908 people. Does 41.18 keep 10,000 - 20,000 people alive over the next nine years? fuck and no Does O'Farrell's trotting out "oh we housed 200 people at Echo Park Lake, look how good we're doing" make a dent in those numbers? Reader, 7 of the 200+ people evicted from EPL found permanent housing. There's words for the systematic targeting, displacement, and murder of a class of people. My sincere hope is that you'll learn what those words are ahead of your trial at The Hague. Repeal 41.18. Don't vote to kill more people. How is this even an issue?

Communication from Public

Name: Dion

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 12:39 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: This is an absolute necessity. We cannot let our city, especially around schools and kids, to deteriorate even further. As one example, I urge you to visit leicthy middle school on wilshire and Lucas to see what has happened to that block just in 2 months since the first tent went up. A complete mess with trash and debris everywhere, mentally ill and drug addicted people wandering naked, doing drugs in the open, harassing people, etc. Please stop giving in to the advocates who most certainly do not speak for a vast majority of the citizens of our city

Communication from Public

Name: Krista
Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 02:12 PM
Council File No: 20-1376-S1
Comments for Public Posting: 41.18 is a repugnant and inhumane treatment of our neighbors, friends, and family. No human should have to experience this, and this must be reversed as soon as humanly possible. Have a heart. Have a mind.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Thompson

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 05:33 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am asking the City Council to VOTE NO on the 41.18 amendment. 41.18 should be repealed altogether. To see someone destitute and think "what they need is punishment" is immeasurably cruel. Forcing people to move out of your line of sight does not solve homelessness. Put all the money you would spend enforcing this ineffective, inhuman amendment into actually providing services and shelter.

Communication from Public

Name: Lane M

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 05:57 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: 41.18 is BAD policy. It does nothing to help fix homelessness. Expanding it as this ordinance would do is not only evil, it's stupid. When 20% of the city is off limits to a homeless population with nowhere to go, what's going to happen? What's going to happen is more criminalization, more incarceration, and more death. What's going to happen is a fracturing of outreach and networks of support. What's going to happen is more isolation of the unhoused community. What will NOT happen from this ordinance is more housing, more people getting into shelter beds, more help given. This ordinance will not provide any of that and will actively harm the efforts to offer those services. And you all know that. This is a blatant excuse to criminalize the poor, throw more money at the cops, and appease the real estate interests that line all of your pockets I vehemently reject this law and urge every single one of you to vote NO.

Communication from Public

Name: Stacy Dawson Stearns

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 05:59 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Hard No on 41:18. Council members, please remember that you can put lipstick on your pigs but we still recognize crimes against humanity when we see them. 41:18 has been ruled unconstitutional twice. You as a body and as individuals have failed to create appropriate housing to offer Angelenos in need, instead choosing to dehumanize them as well as the police officers and sanitation workers you have turned into agents of waste and cruelty. HHH funds have been squandered, many of your colleagues have been found guilty of racketeering and corrupt dealings with developers- yet you cling to one another and your shared lies because you all seem to have dirty hands. You are clearly more afraid of the LAPD than you are of judgement day (if you believe in one)- otherwise you would be disgusted about their control of our budget and the fact that they are holding this city hostage, economically and spiritually. When will any of you choose the side of right? Criminalizing poverty in a city that has been sold out from underneath the people who have lived, worked, and struggled there until their backs and spirits are broken is beyond reprehensible. You pour our resources into the LAPD but have nothing for the youth and nothing for crisis management. Aren't you embarrassed by your collective ineptitude and lack of compassion? But its not too late to claim your humanity and decide that you will listen to the people (not just the "homeowners" who seem to think that their children are more threatened by unhoused ppl than they are by a city that cares so little for them it has nothing invested in disaster preparedness or youth development.) We don't want to see our neighbors thrown into jail, fined, traumatized, and harassed by cops. We want to see sanitation workers delivering showers and restrooms to encampments until you get your heads out of your own asses and figure out how to behave like HUMAN BEINGS instead of soulless cyphers who are so scared of their constituents that they do everything they can to avoid contact or conversation with anyone who doesn't agree with their actions. You all ran for office to be public servants- but you behave like little tools. Wake up and smell the stench of the tactics you are embracing- you are one step away from sharing a historical bunker with the Nazis.

Communication from Public

Name: Josh James

Date Submitted: 08/01/2022 06:26 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Displacing the unhoused is just kicking the can down the road. Regular volunteers are doing way more than the CC is. We didn't elect you to criminalize poverty - we elected you to help FIX it! Do your job ..

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 04:43 PM

Council File No: 20-1376-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The homeless situation continues to be out of control. The risk to the general public continues. We have to walk in the street to avoid the dangerous situation that has become endemic. Please continue enforcement of current laws and as well as implementing this new tool to help with quality of life for community members.