

Communication from Public

Name: Venice Family Clinic

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 04:15 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Venice Family Clinic, I would like to express our support to pass the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. At Venice Family Clinic, we deliver high quality, comprehensive medical care plus supportive programs and services that work together to help patients get healthy and stay that way. In 2020 Venice Family Clinic served nearly 27,000 people; 64% of which live below the federal poverty line and 16% of which are individuals experiencing homelessness. We provide medical services on 8 different street medicine teams. The proposed Street Engagement Strategy is focused on connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing. It will ensure that any enforcement efforts are preceded by outreach and engagement by trained service providers who can access people's needs and connect them to appropriate services and housing options. Without a strategy in place, 41.18 could disconnect people experiencing homelessness from the health care services they are currently receiving and make it difficult to re-engage this population if individuals become displaced. Additionally, the Street Engagement Strategy will assist in preventing the disruption of daily care health centers provide to people experiencing homelessness through street medicine and other safety net programs. We would also like to encourage the Street Engagement Strategy to include in the initial assessment specific questions that identify the client's participation with medical, psychiatric, or substance use services along with their provider information. Additionally, this information should in a central tracking system like HMIS for increased coordination in an aftercare plan. The Los Angeles City Council committed to this approach last month and I ask that they keep their commitment. The city is not currently on track to have a strategy in place by September 3 when 41.18 goes into effect. This means an ad hoc approach will begin, without clear protocols informed by best practices, leading to lawsuits related to the Boise decision. For these reasons, Venice Family Clinic supports the approval and implementation of the Street Engagement Strategy and asks Councilmembers to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Wang

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 04:19 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Members of the Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice & River Committee My name is Wendy Wang and I work for Sycamores, a multi-service non-profit organization based in Los Angeles County. We provide critical mental health treatment, child welfare programs, school based mental health services, and housing support throughout LA County . As part of the organization's commitment to serving specialized populations, Sycamores is also the lead organization for the Youth Coordinated Entry System in LA County Service Planning Area 3. First of all, we recognize your continued commitment to addressing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles. I am writing to respectfully ask you to support the immediate implementation of the Street Engagement Strategy (SES) . We are especially worried about the return to any failed enforcement led approach of criminalizing and displacing our unhoused neighbors. As a community-based provider serving young adults who are experiencing homelessness, we believe that the Street Engagement Strategy reflects the best practices of providers and different teams within public systems' to ensure that our unhoused neighbors continue to be treated with respect and dignity. The City Council has already committed to the Street Engagement approach last month and it must follow through on this promise. Right now, we are not on track to have a strategy in place by September 3rd when LA Municipal Code Section 41.18 goes into effect. This means an ad-hoc approach will begin, without clear protocols informed by best practices. Therefore, we urge you to move forward with adoption and immediate implementation of Street Engagement Strategy. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Wendy

Communication from Public

Name: Zeke Sandoval

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 02:37 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning, this is Zeke Sandoval, speaking on behalf of PATH (People Assisting The Homeless). We firmly support the proposed Street Engagement Strategy and thank the Councilmembers and city staff who we know have worked hard to fine-tune this approach. PATH outreach team members work tirelessly to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and other resources, both before and during this pandemic. We know from decades of experience and data that consistent, trauma-informed and person-centered outreach is the most effective method of housing individuals stably and sustainably. By codifying those well-established best practices, the proposed Street Engagement Strategy will be a far more useful tool than strict enforcement, and should be approved before any new enforcement regulations are implemented. All of us share the same collective goal of ending homelessness. We're heartened to see this committee take up this proposed strategy, and eager to work alongside all of your offices to implement these best practices towards that goal. We respectfully request this committee pass the proposed Street Engagement Strategy and send it to the full Council for approval. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Silver

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 02:44 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the Los Angeles City Council to support the Street Engagement Strategy and to implement it as soon as possible. The City must not return to a failed enforcement-led approach of criminalizing and displacing the unhoused. The solution to this crisis is service-led and focused on connecting people to housing, not clearing them out of sight. Enforcement alone will only make it more difficult for the unhoused to be connected to services and come inside permanently. Using LAPD resources to write citations with a penalty of a fine for people with literally no money is a huge waste of resources and counter productive to the community. The police harassment of established encampments will make it harder to provide the services that lead to housing and could force unhoused people into residential communities. Not only is issuing the citation a waste of resources there is additional waste of time and resources from service providers, city departments, and the courts to adjudicate and ultimately dismiss the citations. We know that when housing resources are available and a strategic outreach plan is in place we can successfully move people off the streets and into housing. The Street Engagement Strategy helps us accomplish this while minimizing the potential negative impacts of enforcement. We know in SPA 2 over 80% of those connected to housing remain housed. I urge the City Council to focus on the real solutions to our homelessness crisis, housing, not enforcement. The City Council committed to this approach as part of its vote to amend LAMC 41.18 and it must follow through on its promises.

Communication from Public

Name: Stephanie Klasky-Gamer

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 11:51 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Members of the LA City Council, We write you regarding the proposed Street Engagement Strategy currently being considered by City Council. This strategy was created to support the implementation of changes to Municipal Code 41.18, which sets limits on where a person can sit, sleep, lie, and store personal property in public space. When Council made the decision to update this municipal code, they also made a commitment to pass a Street Engagement Strategy to ensure that any enforcement efforts were preceded by outreach and engagement by trained service providers who can thoughtfully assess people's needs, connect them to appropriate services, and offer them appropriate housing options. While changes to 41.18 are set to go into effect on September 3, the Street Engagement Strategy has yet to be heard and approved by full Council. As committed agencies within the Los Angeles homeless services delivery system, our five agencies are service providers who have the experience, capacity, and track-record of successfully engaging and housing individuals living on our streets and in large encampments. When housing resources are available and requisite time given to engage unhoused residents, our organizations are extremely effective in working with people experiencing homelessness to come inside. We do this by implementing well-established best practices that are trauma-informed and person-centered and by deploying outreach and housing resources strategically. The City's proposed Street Engagement Strategy reflects these best practices and should be approved before new enforcement rules are implemented. We fully understand the pressure that Council faces on this matter. We also appreciate your leadership in passing the initial motion to create the Street Engagement Strategy. However, without additional urgency and action it seems unlikely that the strategy will advance anytime soon. Therefore, we ask that you act quickly to hear and approve the Street Engagement Strategy in full council as soon as possible. We know that an enforcement alone approach will actually only make it harder to bring more individuals inside permanently and do little to reduce the number of encampments on our streets in the long run. We also believe that a strategy built upon best practices -- which acknowledges the significant lack of available housing resources and the finite capacity of service providers to conduct the engagement necessary

for housing placement -- will move us closer to our collective goal of ending homelessness in Los Angeles. And we are open and eager to work with you in ensuring that housing focused strategies continue to be the focus of policy responses to the crisis on our streets. Sincerely, Va Lecia Adams Kellum, President & CEO St. Joseph's Center Jennifer Hark-Dietz, Deputy CEO & Executive Director People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) Stephanie Klasky-Gamer, President & CEO LA Family Housing Veronica Lewis, Director SSG/Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS) John Maceri, Chief Executive Officer The People Concern Cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti

Communication from Public

Name: Downtown Women's Center

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 12:00 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: The Downtown Women's Center remains strongly supportive of the proposed Streets Engagement Strategy being swiftly enacted by the City Council and promptly implemented by the city and its partners. The Streets Engagement Strategy is a critical opportunity for Los Angeles to powerfully center the reality that the way to end homelessness is led by trauma-informed services focused on connecting people to permanent housing, not simply pushing them farther to the margins. To minimize the risk of further traumatization, criminalization, or displacement, it is incumbent that we lead with services that address the pressing needs of our unsheltered neighbors and provide real pathways to permanent housing. A successful streets engagement strategy also requires coordination with County partners and LAHSA to ensure a clear set of objectives and to provide consistent support to our unhoused residents. As we have seen repeatedly in the city's history, leading with enforcement makes it more difficult for our unsheltered neighbors to connect or remain connected to services, and to permanently break the cycle of houselessness. Nor does enforcement actually reduce the number of encampments across Los Angeles, as it only shuffles people from one corner of the city to the next. At the Downtown Women's Center, we know that women experiencing homelessness - particularly unaccompanied women - are disproportionately survivors of trauma and violence, and they wait, on average, more than twice as long as men to access stable housing. A Streets Engagement Strategy that meaningfully and thoughtfully engages unsheltered neighbors while connecting people to permanent housing will be a powerful tool to end homelessness for both women and men in Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 01:47 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, President & CEO of St. Joseph Center, and I urge you to implement the Street Engagement Strategy as soon as possible. St. Joseph Center's recent experience on Venice Beach demonstrates that service providers working cooperatively with City departments can successfully help people move off the streets and into housing – provided a strategic outreach plan has been developed and housing resources are available. This City's history, meanwhile, has shown us that an enforcement-only approach makes it harder for unsheltered people to connect with services and get off the street for good. Enforcement tactics on their own have also failed to produce any long-term reduction in the number of street encampments. In July the City Council committed to adopting a Street Engagement Strategy grounded in best practices. You must act now to keep that promise and ensure that we have a system in place that treats all Council Districts and all of our unhoused neighbors fairly and consistently across the City.

Communication from Public

Name: John Maceri, The People Concern

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 02:14 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: As one of Los Angeles' largest housing and social services agencies, The People Concern supports the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. Enforcement alone will only make it more difficult for our unsheltered neighbors to be connected to services and to come inside permanently. We know that when housing resources are available and a strategic outreach plan is in place we can successfully move people off the streets and into housing. The People Concern deploys 18 multidisciplinary outreach teams across the County and our dedicated staff meet our vulnerable neighbors where they are, building trust and connecting people to the resources they need with the ultimate goal of moving them into best-fit housing as quickly as possible. We need to continue prioritizing trauma-informed and person-centered approaches, while strategically utilizing housing resources to get people housed quickly. The Street Engagement Strategy helps us accomplish this while minimizing the potential negative impacts of enforcement. We urge City Council to support the Street Engagement Strategy and to implement it as soon as possible.

Communication from Public

Name: Joanne Preece, Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 05:03 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC), I would like to bring to your attention the importance of passing the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. CCALAC represents 64 nonprofit community clinics and health centers that operate more than 350 sites throughout Los Angeles County and serve over 1.7 million low-income, uninsured, and underserved individuals each year. Health centers in Los Angeles County serve over 75,000 people experiencing homelessness annually and provide programs designed to address their needs, including street medicine services, housing referrals, and food distribution. The proposed Street Engagement Strategy is focused on connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing. It will ensure that any enforcement efforts are preceded by outreach and engagement by trained service providers who can assess people's needs and connect them to appropriate services and housing options. Without a strategy in place, Section 41.18 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code could disconnect people experiencing homelessness from the health care services they are currently receiving and make it difficult to re-engage this population if individuals are relocated without communication among those doing the placement and local service providers. The Street Engagement Strategy will assist in preventing the disruption of the care health centers provide to people experiencing homelessness, especially those who are served through clinics' street medicine programs. The Los Angeles City Council committed to this approach last month and we ask that they keep their commitment. The city is not currently on track to have a strategy in place by September 3 when 41.18 goes into effect. This means an ad hoc approach will begin, without clear protocols informed by best practices, which will likely lead to lawsuits related to the Boise decision. For these reasons, CCALAC urges Councilmembers to approve and implement the Street Engagement Strategy and not to let the enforcement of 41.18 go forward without a strategy in place to protect the health of those affected and mitigate potential disruptions to care. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Laura Duncan

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 05:16 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning. My name is Dr. Laura Duncan, Executive Director and I'm speaking/writing on behalf of Ascencia in support of the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. - I urge you to support the Street Engagement Strategy and to implement it as soon as possible. - The City must not return to a failed enforcement-led approach of criminalizing and displacing our unhoused neighbors. The proposed Street Engagement Strategy is an opportunity to choose a different path. It recognizes the solution to this crisis is service-led and focused on connecting people to housing, not clearing them out of sight. - Enforcement alone will only make it more difficult for our unsheltered neighbors to be connected to services and come inside permanently. Nor will it reduce the number of encampments on our streets in the long run. - We know that when housing resources are available and a strategic outreach plan is in place we can successfully move people off the streets and into housing. The Street Engagement Strategy helps us accomplish this while minimizing the potential negative impacts of enforcement. - City Council committed to this approach as part of its vote to amend LAMC 41.18 and it must follow through on its promises.

Communication from Public

Name: Veronica Lewis

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 06:03 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of SSG/HOPICS and as one of the primary operators of outreach and engagement in South LA I support the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. I urge you to support the Street Engagement Strategy and to implement it as soon as possible. The City must not return to a failed enforcement-led approach of criminalizing and displacing our unhoused neighbors. The proposed Street Engagement Strategy is an opportunity to choose a different path. It recognizes the solution to this crisis is service-led and focused on connecting people to housing, not clearing them out of sight. Enforcement alone will only make it more difficult for our unsheltered neighbors to be connected to services and come inside permanently. Nor will it reduce the number of encampments on our streets in the long run. We know that when housing resources are available and a strategic outreach plan is in place we can successfully move people off the streets and into housing. The Street Engagement Strategy helps us accomplish this while minimizing the potential negative impacts of enforcement. City Council committed to this approach as part of its vote to amend LAMC 41.18 and it must follow through on its promises.

Communication from Public

Name: Olivia Lee

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 06:30 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: September 1, 2021 Los Angeles City Council 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: Agendize and Pass the Street Engagement Strategy Dear Councilmembers: On behalf of AltaMed Health Services, I would like to express our support to agendize and pass the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. As the largest independent Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in California, AltaMed has been providing quality health and human services in Southern California for over 50 years. AltaMed delivers care to over 400,000 patients at more than 50 service sites in Los Angeles and Orange County, including people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, AltaMed provides specialized case management services for our homeless patients, including housing navigation, as well as medical care through our Clinician Home Visit Program (CVHP). The proposed Street Engagement Strategy is focused on connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing. It will ensure that any enforcement efforts are preceded by outreach and engagement by trained service providers who can access people's needs and connect them to appropriate services and housing options. Without a strategy in place, 41.18 could disconnect people experiencing homelessness from the health care services they are currently receiving and make it difficult to re-engage this population if individuals become displaced. Additionally, the Street Engagement Strategy will assist in preventing the disruption of daily care health centers provide to people experiencing homelessness through street medicine and other safety net programs. The Los Angeles City Council committed to this approach last month and I ask that they keep their commitment. The city is not currently on track to have a strategy in place by September 3 when 41.18 goes into effect. This means an ad hoc approach will begin, without clear protocols informed by best practices, leading to lawsuits related to the Boise decision. For these reasons, AltaMed supports the approval and implementation of the Street Engagement Strategy and asks Councilmembers to do the same. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Cástulo de la Rocha, J.D. President & CEO cc: Los Angeles City Councilmembers Mayor Eric Garcetti



September 1, 2021

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



RE: Agendize and Pass the Street Engagement Strategy

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of AltaMed Health Services, I would like to express our support to agendize and pass the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. As the largest independent Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in California, AltaMed has been providing quality health and human services in Southern California for over 50 years. AltaMed delivers care to over 400,000 patients at more than 50 service sites in Los Angeles and Orange County, including people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, AltaMed provides specialized case management services for our homeless patients, including housing navigation, as well as medical care through our Clinician Home Visit Program (CVHP).

The proposed Street Engagement Strategy is focused on connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing. It will ensure that any enforcement efforts are preceded by outreach and engagement by trained service providers who can access people's needs and connect them to appropriate services and housing options. Without a strategy in place, 41.18 could disconnect people experiencing homelessness from the health care services they are currently receiving and make it difficult to re-engage this population if individuals become displaced. Additionally, the Street Engagement Strategy will assist in preventing the disruption of daily care health centers provide to people experiencing homelessness through street medicine and other safety net programs.

The Los Angeles City Council committed to this approach last month and I ask that they keep their commitment. The city is not currently on track to have a strategy in place by September 3 when 41.18 goes into effect. This means an ad hoc approach will begin, without clear protocols informed by best practices, leading to lawsuits related to the Boise decision.

For these reasons, AltaMed supports the approval and implementation of the Street Engagement Strategy and asks Councilmembers to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cástulo de la Rocha".

Cástulo de la Rocha, J.D.
President & CEO

cc: Los Angeles City Councilmembers



Mayor Eric Garcetti

Communication from Public

Name: Eric Ares

Date Submitted: 09/01/2021 06:47 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Eric Ares and I am with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles/Home For Good. I am writing to urge City Council to move forward and implement the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. When councilmembers voted to update LAMC 41.18, they also made a commitment to pass a Street Engagement Strategy to ensure that any implementation of the new code would be preceded by outreach and engagement to ensure connections to services and housing and to minimize the role of law enforcement. Years of failed approaches have taught us that enforcement-led approaches to unsheltered homelessness only make it more difficult for people experiencing street homelessness to come inside permanently. In actuality, the displacement, trauma, and service-disconnection created by enforcement-based policies actively harm unsheltered individuals while doing little to reduce the number of encampments in our communities. We know that when housing resources are available and a strategic outreach plan is in place we can successfully move people off the streets and into housing. The Street Engagement Strategy helps us accomplish this while minimizing the potential negative impacts of enforcement of 41.18.