

Communication from Public

Name: james murez

Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 08:21 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I'm in support of sidewalk access and anything you can do to stop people from living on our streets and sidewalks.

Communication from Public

Name: Collin St. Johns
Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 08:38 PM
Council File No: 20-1376
Comments for Public Posting: I pledge my support for this motion.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/27/2020 10:39 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Please work harder to clean up our city. It has steadily declined into a dystopian nightmare of filth and lawlessness. I guarantee if unchecked this will result in an exodus of your next generation of tax paying residents. No more unchecked homelessness straining our social services and ruining the quality of life for regular citizens who are just trying to make it by. No more thieves and junkies terrorizing us. Act or be voted out.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 12:24 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. We demand that the city take the following actions immediately: Focus efforts on providing hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently Respect CDC guidelines and work with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement Halt all CARE+ “comprehensive cleanup” operations Remove law enforcement from outreach Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents

Communication from Public

Name: Clari

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 07:26 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: We need to fix this problem of homeless encampments being able to make a mess out of our streets and sidewalks and take back our sidewalks

Communication from Public

Name: Joe Gamache

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:33 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal codes 41.18 and 56.11. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I DEMAND that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused neighbors while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Signed, Joe Gamache, resident of district 13.

Communication from Public

Name: claire

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:41 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Hello. This is clark, addressing Item 42. This cruel motion and draft ordinance are the wrong approach to solving homelessness. All people have an equal right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. Pushing people from one public space to another does not end homelessness. As outreach workers and homeless service providers work tirelessly to move those most vulnerable to COVID-19 into permanent housing, this proposal conflicts with their efforts and depends on the misuse of limited housing and financial resources while jeopardizing the health and safety of those most in need of being inside. The guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades. I urge the council to vote no on this motion and instead focus on increasing access to immediate housing in every neighborhood so that our unhoused neighbors can come safely indoors.

Communication from Public

Name: Suzanne

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:41 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly urge the Council to stop the ordinance that would remove encampments from our streets. I understand that it is difficult to see so many of our neighbors unhoused but removing their option to stay in their shelters when there is NOT enough decent and safe alternatives for them is just plain cruel. Please do not let this motion pass.

Communication from Public

Name: Jonathan Shomof

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:41 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I have been a resident in LA my entire 32-year life. This is the worst I have seen it. We are not able to utilize our public right of way because the sidewalks have been taken over by tents, garbage, and literal feces. Let's please get our sidewalks cleaned up again so everyone can enjoy them. Thanks

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:42 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Hello. This is cj, addressing Item 42. This cruel motion and draft ordinance are the wrong approach to solving homelessness. All people have an equal right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. Pushing people from one public space to another does not end homelessness. As outreach workers and homeless service providers work tirelessly to move those most vulnerable to COVID-19 into permanent housing, this proposal conflicts with their efforts and depends on the misuse of limited housing and financial resources while jeopardizing the health and safety of those most in need of being inside. The guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades. I urge the council to vote no on this motion and instead focus on increasing access to immediate housing in every neighborhood so that our unhoused neighbors can come safely indoors.

Communication from Public

Name: Courtney Davis
Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:45 AM
Council File No: 20-1376
Comments for Public Posting: I am a Los Angeles resident and I am OPPOSED to the Mike Feuer's proposed revisions to the city's anti-camping law that would allow authorities to remove homeless camps anywhere in the city. This legislation is cruel and does nothing to actually help our unhoused residents.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelvin Martinez
Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:46 AM
Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I'm a mental health professional. In 2015, I started working with unhoused community in Mitch O'Farral's district. I want to be clear. Voting to expand 4118 will make the homelessness crisis much worse. *Anyone* who's been unhoused or who's had success in the housing process can tell you 4118 PROLONGS homelessness. This kind of enforcement has gone on for decades and it dramatically slows progress. You keep making things worse, yet the city council continues to enact the same failed strategy. We don't have nearly enough shelter beds. The one's we have were't made for the COVID era. Some are infested with rats. Every day, more and more people are getting evicted and adding to the number of people experiencing homelessness. As a mental health expert, I want to be very clear. Enforcement of 41.18 and its expansion will compound people's existing trauma and continue rupturing the trust between unhoused individuals and the city. The idea that merely being "offered" shelter is enough to justify displacing people can only come from a very naive understanding of homeless services. People DON'T accept services from a random social worker, accompanied by an armed police officer & a dump truck for their belongings. People DO accept services from the people who work with them on a daily basis, who support them through the trauma of living on the streets. By expanding 41.18 you're making such effective services much much harder to deliver. Additionally, to take into consideration such callous priorities - like conditions of sidewalks, over the wellbeing of people in poverty - criminalization & displacement makes the conditions of sidewalks *worse*. It will not accomplish what you think it will. Sidewalks & streets look like trash bc, despite the not having enough shelter beds, the city refuses to help unhoused Angelenos keep encampments safe & hygienic. Supporting encampemnts with regular trash pick up, showers, bathrooms, equipment & regular social services would be MUCH more effective for maintaining cleanliness. Pushing people around makes it impossible to provide reliable hygiene and safety services. When people know that their encampment will be pushed out in a matter of days or weeks, it removes the incentive to keep the area clean. Work WITH our unhoused residents, not against them. Displacement only keeps the sidewalk clear for a few days at most, but it disrupts progress

in the longterm bc people are constantly have to recover their discarded belongings, while getting pushed further from service providers who then have to scour the city for their clients. You don't know what is best for unhoused Angelenos, unfriendly housed neighbors do not know what is best for them. As someone who works in healthcare, I know that the only way to provide services efficiently and effectively is to build trust with clients, and help them achieve THEIR goals, not MY goals. This motion erodes necessary trust, compounds trauma, and further marginalizes our most neglected citizens. The deterioration of mental and physical health that will result from ongoing enforcement will absolutely prolong people's stay on the streets and make them less trusting of the city, and therefor making it less possible for the city to make progress towards diminishing homelessness. This is a simple truth, observed by me and many others who have frontline experience getting people into housing. A vote for this motion is a vote to make the homelessness crisis even worse. Anyone with actual experience with services would agree with this.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:48 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: During a global pandemic, what's to stop any of us renters or even homeowners from becoming unhoused on the whim of a landlord or a company layoff decision? Homelessness should not be a crime - it's bad enough on its own. I'm afraid that's what this motion implies, and that is infuriating, especially at this time in LA's history. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.

Communication from Public

Name: Dalia Rangel

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:49 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I do not believe that we should be passing laws to further criminalize homelessness which is what measures like 41.18 are doing. It is cruel and inhuman to focus on getting homeless people out of our streets rather than giving them shelter. We should focus efforts to providing hotel rooms and permanent housing to homeless people.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:49 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: It is time for the Council to step up and help those living on the sidewalks. Way past due.

Communication from Public

Name: Rosalyn

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:50 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: As a long time resident, teacher, and property owner in Boyle Heights, I will admit I have placed 311 requests to clear up freeway exits and freeway bridges in the past. I, too, want my neighborhood to be beautiful and safe for everyone. Emphasis on the everyone! Bold, italicize, underline... everyone. I realize how wrong I was not to extend this hope/wish for our homeless residents too. Instead of placing orders on 311 like before, I started getting more involved to understand the problem and i know that amending municipale codes 41.18 and 56.11 is not the answer. Criminalizing homelessness is not a solution that addresses the issue and only achieves penalizing people who are already struggling. A lot of them don't have anywhere else to go and amending the municipales codes are simply going to push the issue on to someone else. Let us find a way to address the issue at the root instead of trying to punish our most vulnerable and disenfranchised neighbors because that is what will make our neighborhood beautiful.

Communication from Public

Name: Tom Ceraulo

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:51 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I'd like to voice my strong opposition to the motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. It is, quite frankly, appalling. This motion provides no new housing resources, services for those experiencing homelessness, or solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. A "progressive city" should not be criminalizing homelessness. No city should.

Communication from Public

Name: Maggie Kimball
Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:51 AM
Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: No to 41.18 It is disgusting that during a pandemic and when possible evictions will continue to grow in our LA community that you will all go further into criminalizing poverty instead of caring for your citizens. The timing is also foul - you think in the chaos of the national and local election cycles, you can sneak this in for your development donors and corporations you are beholden to. What ever story you council members are telling yourselves to make you still feel like you are a good person and actually helping your constituents, just know that it is a lie. Cause how ever much in denial you are, you are not only not helping - but you are actively hurting those you were beholden to protect. Work with health department officials to meet residents needs without threatening displacement. Use our tax dollars to help facilitate a healthy community by advocting for those who need our help whether with housing, rehabilitation, or mental help - not a quick fix of tearing down and trashing un housed citizens' few belongings that will only continue the issues for all in the future because you are all too LAZY and GREEDY to get your minds together and DO YOUR JOBS!!!! YOU ARE FAILING AT YOUR JOBS!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Rachel Sanoff

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:51 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Rachel Sanoff and I am commenting on Agenda Item 42. I was born in Los Angeles and have lived in this city for my entire life, and for decades I have watched the homelessness crisis grow more deadly for Angelenos due to the complete inaction of this council. You have always prioritized developers and real estate money over residents of your districts who need assistance — a pandemic couldn't even open your minds to the public health crisis that existed in this city long before COVID-19. Your latest move to thoroughly criminalize homelessness is inhumane and unforgivable, and must be stopped immediately. Councilmember Blumenfield admitted to the LA Times that this motion is meant to "create visible progress" rather than fundamental, transformative progress such as services and housing resources. Stop being lazy and do your actual job of serving people — ALL PEOPLE — in your districts. By criminalizing these acts — sitting, sleeping or lying down within 500 feet of freeways, ramps, and tunnels, sitting, sleeping or lying down within 500 feet of any facility opened after January 2018 that provides housing, shelter, services, safe parking, or storage to unhoused people, storing property in the areas listed above, and banning sitting, sleeping, or lying down in ANY PUBLIC SPACE IN THE CITY if an offer of shelter is provided before enforcement occurs — you are not only being cruel and ineffective, you are threatening to expose thousands of people to COVID in our horrific jail facilities. You are going to kill more people than your policies already do. Currently, at least three unhoused people a day die in this city — but you already know that and just don't care. Shameful and unforgivable. You have failed at protecting unhoused Angelenos. You have failed at protecting your district residents. That means your entire approach as council members needs to change, or homelessness will never improve in this city. I echo the demands of Services Not Sweeps. This is our only way forward: I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer. I demand that the city take the

following actions immediately: Focus efforts on providing hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently Respect CDC guidelines and work with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement Halt all CARE+ “comprehensive cleanup” operations Remove law enforcement from outreach Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents.

Communication from Public

Name: Frankie

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:52 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Please vote yes! We need to clean up this disgusting city.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:54 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: We need to clean up the streets and sidewalks. It's not only hurting our tourism, it's unsanitary and unsafe for kids, elderly and disabled citizens to move around. CLEAN UP THIS FILTHY CITY!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Alexander Gracie

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:54 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to demand the city council reject the heinous criminalization of poverty known as 4118. Several of my unhoused neighbors cling to the underpasses as their only protection from the elements. These underpasses provide shade, and a roof. While they may not have walls or privacy, these are homes for our struggling neighbors. Criminalizing poverty is more expensive than eradicating it! This is a war on the poor, funded through city budget. We need UBI, not handcuffs for struggling citizens.

Communication from Public

Name: Amelia Swedeen
Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:56 AM
Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers, I am writing to wholeheartedly oppose the City Attorney's proposed ordinance amending Section 41.18 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code that would harshly criminalize sleeping, sitting, or lying in public areas. It is not a sign of a civilized, compassionate, or advanced society for us to penalize our fellow citizens for being poor, when it is our city's failure to ensure access to affordable housing, curb luxury development, and provide protections against evictions during a pandemic. Criminalization makes stable housing much harder to access. This proposal is a cruel non-solution that will result in more despair, more poverty, and more people cycling through our streets. It is particularly egregious to prominently invoke the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to justify this proposal. In 2020 in the city of Los Angeles, 16.8% of our homeless population has a physical disability, 9.8% has a developmental disability, and 22.1% has a serious mental illness. In the 2015 LA County Health Survey, the percentage of adults with a disability experiencing housing instability was 9.3%, while adults without a disability experiencing housing instability was 3.5%. The either/or framework of this proposal pits disability against unhoused, which is misleading and disingenuous of anyone who truly cares about disability advocacy and protection. The legal group Disability Rights California advocates for safe and accessible housing. Personally speaking, I have never seen a disability advocate prioritize the ADA's protections of public right-of-way through the lens of viewing unhoused people as an obstruction to be removed. Rather, this is a population we need to serve, which has significant intersections with disability. Outside of pedestrian right-of-way, this proposal would criminalize sitting, sleeping, or lying in any public space for "any person who has been offered shelter." Not only would such an offering be difficult to prove, this is also a bad faith attempt to indicate reasonable compromise. Reasons that people do not access shelter beds include vermin infestations, cutoff times to line up conflicting with work/doctor/parole appointments, early wake-up times, not accepting pets, not accepting personal possessions, available shelter locations being too far from jobs/services/communities, splitting up families, and lack of privacy. Extremely close proximity of beds is especially unmanageable for abuse and trauma survivors, and 28.1% of our 2020 unhoused population has experienced domestic violence. We cannot offer sub-standard housing conditions that deny personal autonomy and dehumanize individuals' needs and experiences, and then claim unreasonable refusal. This proposed ordinance ignores root causes of the problem we are trying to solve. It ignores data, expert opinion, and the value of human dignity. Its passage would be a stain on the Los Angeles City Council. You are a team of intelligent, resourceful, and well-connected individuals. You have the capacity to think deeply and devise true solutions for our housing crisis. Please do better than this, because I know you are capable. Thank you for your time. References: <http://www.laalmanac.com/social/so14.php>
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/docs/2015LACHS/LA_Health_Briefs_2019/LA_HEALTH_DISABILITY_FINAL_PRINTED_19.pdf
<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/priorities/housing>

Communication from Public

Name: Kristofer Rehl

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:57 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: City Council must repeal every law criminalizing homelessness in our city, including 41.18. Every Angeleno, including our unhoused neighbors, deserves to be treated with humanity. What the council is proposing with 41.18 is just a cruel and intolerant as many of the Trump administration's most heinous policies. Los Angeles is in the midst of a respiratory pandemic, the air quality is hazardous thanks to local fires, and we've experienced record heat this summer. City Council should be do everything in their power to provide housing for their unhoused constituents, starting with getting them into hotel room, and quickly finding them permanent housing because housing is a human right. City Council has failed Los Angeles. The homelessness crisis has spiraled out of control, and sweeps are very clearly not the answer. Use that money to coordinate with the health department and provide meaningful outreach to unhoused Angelenos, find out their needs, address them -- and stop displacing them.

Communication from Public

Name: Alyson Yee

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 09:58 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: The city can not criminalize poverty with 41.18, especially right now in a time where COVID is still affecting our families, neighbors, and economy. To criminalize poverty is to say you do not care about the angelenos you claim to protect and serve. I demand that you end "Care+" Sweeps because it threatens lives and destroys the homes of the houseless and instead focus effort on providing hotel rooms, and permanent housing FREE of condition to all the unhoused people of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Elise Swanson

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:03 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: The San Pedro Chamber of Commerce is in strong support of Item 42 on the agenda today to amend 56.11 and align it with Section 41.18. The Chamber has been deeply involved in crafting solutions for our unhoused neighbors in San Pedro. We have supported two downtown shelters – one county and one city, and Project Key in one of our downtown hotels. We have raised funds and collected donations to support the shelters and residents in distress during the pandemic. Now we ask for the Council's help and that you pass this item 43 today. While we have robust shelter programs and outreach to the homeless population, we are still seeing encampments in close proximity to one of our shelters. This encampment is detrimental to the shelter programs in place – it has become a public health and safety issue. This amendment will provide additional tools and relief to the businesses and residents that have supported three shelter options in San Pedro and are still dealing with the impacts of an encampment in very close proximity to businesses and residents.

Communication from Public

Name: Dana Goldberg

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:06 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Sherman Oaks, member of the Temple Beth Hillel Task Force on Homelessness, and a member of the North Hollywood Home Alliance Advocacy Table. I am keenly aware of the problems caused by encampments under freeway overpasses and in local parks. However, criminalizing this behavior DOES NOT solve the problem and is a step backwards. It has the potential to force the unhoused to move closer to residential areas, farther away from access to services, and into more densely populated camps. Sweeps to cleanup these areas are expensive and the money can be better spent on solution oriented solutions and services. I urge the city council not to approve this ordinance.

Communication from Public

Name: Chelsea

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:07 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents! We demand that the city take the following actions immediately: -Focus efforts on providing hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) -End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently -Respect CDC guidelines and work with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement -Halt all CARE+ “comprehensive cleanup” operations -Remove law enforcement from outreach -Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents.

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew Cohen

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:07 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: It is an absolute disgrace that the city is spending valuable resources during a deadly pandemic to criminalize the unhoused. Like so many things, the police are NOT EQUIPPED, mentally and physically, to handle this. Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents. Focus on providing permanent housing for those currently experiencing homelessness. I urge you to be empathetic and imagine yourself, your family, your children in this situation without a roof over your head, and ask yourself how you would want your city to respond. I guarantee not a single one of you would want the police to brutalize you, making it harder for you to just survive.

Communication from Public

Name: Annelisa Stephan

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:08 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I appose the motion (Council File 20-1376) to further criminalize unhoused Angelenos. Compassion and care should guide our efforts, and granting greater power to the police state is worrying.

Communication from Public

Name: Scott Davis

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:12 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I live in Ktown, and am a member of City Council District 10. I am writing to urge the city council not to adopt ITEM NO. 20-1376, which criminalizes homelessness and which fails to protect and help the most vulnerable in our city. Please oppose this horrific proposal. Instead of harming those who need help, please provide more human, empathetic, and forward-thinking solutions. Best, Scott Davis

Communication from Public

Name: JorDan Boeskin
Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:14 AM
Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: This is an absolutely heinous time to criminalizing our unhoused population. I want to see the council directing their efforts towards providing relief to a city that has been devastated by this pandemic and will soon be in much worse shape as we fall further off this financial cliff. A 'yes' vote on 41.18 would be an absolute indictment of our city's priority and only make this growing crisis of homelessness worse in our city much much worse. As a resident of LA and i am demanding that you invest your time elsewhere. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Fanning

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:15 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am very concerned because there has been a minivan with people camping in it at the end of my street for at least four months. Now this past week, a large RV has started camping on our street. There is a lot of furniture and debris on the sidewalk near them. I have young kids who ride their bikes, and I am worried that it might be dangerous. Please provide services for the homeless people and don't allow them to camp on our streets! The tent city on Huntington in El Sereno is a disgrace.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:15 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I'm writing to oppose support for expansion and enforcement of 41.18 (d). This is incredibly inhumane, and every council member supporting this action should be be ashamed of themselves.

Communication from Public

Name: Selina Fillinger

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:15 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am horrified by this motion that criminalizes sleeping near underpasses, freeways, these meager spaces that have for so long been the only place to rest for unhoused Angelenos. Shelters are not always hospitable, safe, available, or meet an individual's needs, and we can't tell people to improve their situation while criminalizing and destroying their means to do so. Nobody functions well without food or rest, nobody can think long term when they are afraid of being arrested and constantly disturbed. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:16 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.

Communication from Public

Name: Lilith Walther

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:16 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am giving a public comment against this because what is being done here is unacceptable. We need to help our homeless neighbors in a time of record unemployment, not further criminalize them! It is horrific that you would even criminalize poverty like this. What you are doing is disgusting. This is not the way to solve the poverty crisis. We need public programs, public health, and more public services. Perhaps giving everyone \$1,200 dollars once several months ago wasn't the best idea. And it is not surprising that our homeless neighbors are having a lot of difficulty getting their stimulus check. Criminalization of poverty is objectively cruel, and you all should be ashamed of yourselves.

Communication from Public

Name: Linda Lucks

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:16 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Criminalizing homelessness i the midst of a pandemic is immoral, unjust, ineffective and very expensive. Please use your votes to approve more shelters, low income housing, all thoe other ways to actually solve problems instead of pandering to those who dont want to see homeless people, but dont want to help them either. VOTE NO on 20-1376 or shame on you.

Communication from Public

Name: Rachel Kent

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:18 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: The amendments to municipal codes 41.18 and 56.11 are cruel and do nothing but further criminalize people who experience homelessness. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual solutions, City Council members are attempting to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. Why put effort into these empty, uninformed "solutions" to the homeless crisis and not focus efforts on expanding temporary and permanent housing? Folks stay in front of shelters and housing because those locations are at capacity. These amendments do not solve any problems! Focus on providing supportive services rather than criminalize and harass unhoused folks.

Communication from Public

Name: jeffrey Marks

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:19 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: October 28, 2020 The beginning of Anarchy City Council of Los Angeles District 9 I am in favor of cleaning up our streets and disposal of the trash that accumulates from the transients. I am completely empathetic to those that are not as fortunate as others. I want to see that homeless people be given opportunities to seek help and be given assistance if they want it. Some people clearly don't want it. I am a compassionate person that cares about people and their rights. Unfortunately, when you drive-by during the day you only see one aspect of what goes on in our community. At night time it is a completely different story where theft , vandalism, stolen electricity , stolen water, destruction of other people's property, violence, Drug dealing ,prostitution stolen bicycles and other stolen items are dealt with every night. You just don't see this during the day. The Gangs are even charging rent to these transients. I am not making this up. Our community deals with this daily and nightly. Our businesses and property are being broken into every single day and night. In a 10 block area, a building is broken into almost 2 times a night. Inventory has been stolen, computers stolen, damage to the property, buildings set on fire. We have them on video and its coming from the people living in the tent or motorhome outside or around the block. Imagine that you leave your property and know that you have a strong chance of being broken into and your building set on fire. We deal with this daily, every night , weekends, holidays.... The items that are accumulated by the transients is a form of hoarding which is also a disease. Hoarding is fine if it's on your own property, your own house or your own apartment. But when hoarding intrudes on the public and violate others space that is not OK and I don't believe it is or should be under any interpretation. A handicapped person can't walk because the sidewalks are blocked and kids can't ride their bicycles. Lets be honest here, business owners and building owners have worked their lives to feed their family, pay for school and college and live a life and THEY create jobs. When a transient blocks a doorway so you can't go to your own building or customers are afraid to go into a business because of the transient yelling and screaming, then that individual is violating others rights. There needs to be boundaries. It doesn't stop here. Soon, grocery stores will be blocked, hospitals will be blocked,

fire stations blocked. This needs to be stopped immediately. Other Advocates think that NOTHING should be done. Don't just advocate, help them not by yelling at the city for keeping the streets clean, help them by bathing them, giving them food and clothing and housing. We have police rules that all citizens should follow, otherwise we have anarchy. We are afraid to walk down the streets and in many cases we can't walk down the streets as they are blocked by trash. Yesterday, the city had a clean up. The fire hydrants were tampered with, the street lighting was damaged, side walks were blocked, cockroaches, rats were present along with sewage. The sidewalks were blocked by the transients with garbage. Our rules should apply to everyone. Building and Safety, ADA, health and sanitation, respect of the police and our first responders. There are masses of people that depend on our society. The society voted you into office to maintain and better our community and we are relying on you to do so. Jeff Marks Property and Business owner

October 28, 2020

The beginning of Anarchy

City Council of Los Angeles

District 9

I am in favor of cleaning up our streets and disposal of the trash that accumulates from the transients.

I am completely empathetic to those that are not as fortunate as others.

I want to see that homeless people be given opportunities to seek help and be given assistance if they want it. Some people clearly don't want it.

I am a compassionate person that cares about people and their rights.

Unfortunately, when you drive-by during the day you only see one aspect of what goes on in our community. At night time it is a completely different story where theft, vandalism, stolen electricity, stolen water, destruction of other people's property, violence, Drug dealing, prostitution, stolen bicycles and other stolen items are dealt with every night. You just don't see this during the day. The Gangs are even charging rent to these transients.

I am not making this up. Our community deals with this daily and nightly.

Our businesses and property are being broken into every single day and night. In a 10 block area, a building is broken into almost 2 times a night. Inventory has been stolen, computers stolen, damage to the property, buildings set on fire. We have them on video and it's coming from the people living in the tent or motorhome outside or around the block.

Imagine that you leave your property and know that you have a strong chance of being broken into and your building set on fire. We deal with this daily, every night, weekends, holidays....

The items that are accumulated by the transients is a form of hoarding which is also a disease. Hoarding is fine if it's on your own property, your own house or your own apartment. But when hoarding intrudes on the public and violates others' space that is not OK and I don't believe it is or should be under any interpretation. A handicapped person can't walk because the sidewalks are blocked and kids can't ride their bicycles.

Lets be honest here, business owners and building owners have worked their lives to feed their family, pay for school and college and live a life and THEY create jobs. When a transient blocks a doorway so you can't go to your own building or customers are afraid to go into a business because of the transient yelling and screaming, then that individual is violating others' rights. There needs to be boundaries.

It doesn't stop here. Soon, grocery stores will be blocked, hospitals will be blocked, fire stations blocked. This needs to be stopped immediately.

Other Advocates think that NOTHING should be done. Don't just advocate, help them not by yelling at the city for keeping the streets clean, help them by bathing them, giving them food and clothing and housing. We have police rules that all citizens should follow, otherwise we have anarchy.

We are afraid to walk down the streets and in many cases we can't walk down the streets as they are blocked by trash.

Yesterday, the city had a clean up. The fire hydrants were tampered with, the street lighting was damaged, side walks were blocked, cockroaches, rats were present along with sewage. The sidewalks were blocked by the transients with garbage.

Our rules should apply to everyone. Building and Safety, ADA, health and sanitation, respect of the police and our first responders.

There are masses of people that depend on our society. The society voted you into office to maintain and better our community and we are relying on you to do so.

Jeff Marks
Property and Business owner

Communication from Public

Name: Sean Costello

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:20 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council Members, Please vote in Favor of Council File 20-1376. This motion is vital because it will help Los Angeles maintain a balance between helping the homeless and helping the residents and homeowners keep and maintain a clean and healthy community and while still staying within the parameters of the Boise Idaho decision. This motion addresses the serious Americans with Disabilities Act violations, it addresses the promises made and the promises broken by the city for residents who live near Bridge Housing Shelters, and it addresses LAMC Sec. 41.18. Thank you for this reasonable and well thought out motion to help Los Angeles maintain a balance between helping the homeless and helping the residents and homeowners keep and maintain a clean and healthy community. Sincerely, Sean Costello

Communication from Public

Name: Jacob byrnes

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:21 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Council, I am a resident of North Hills, represented by John Lee. I am writing to demand that Council File 20-1376, amending LAMC 41.18 and 56.11, be struck down immediately. The criminalization of homeless needs to stop now. The violent, extreme, incomprehensive, unempathetic actions of Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee regarding homelessness do not represent my household and make me ashamed to be a constituent of this district. These attempts to displace and arrest people living unhoused do nothing but further traumatize and violate our homeless neighbors, pushing homeless folks further into mental distress, drug use, mistrust of housed neighbors/city representatives, and ever more dangerous places to settle. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. With extreme concern and sadness about my electorate, Jacob Byrnes 8754 Hayvenhurst Ave

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:21 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: This city council continues to disappoint the people they claim to serve. You have acquired no community input regarding any regulations to criminalization unhoused folks. And this is because you would get overwhelming input against any inhumane mistreatment of unhoused constituents are you suppose to represent. To approve 4118 is a disgrace at all and especially during the precarious time during a pandemic. I'm on the ground every week to give resources to unhoused neighbors at MacArthur Park. What they need is shelter, food and water, access to mental health care, access to health care, access to harm reduction, basic social and financial support, any type of social net from the CITY. you have failed these constituents and neglected them even further with the audacity to present and move 4118 forward. The people urge you to vote against 4118. We do not have to pass it.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Lindh

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:21 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am strongly against this proposal and all criminalization of homelessness. This will only perpetuate and further disadvantage the homeless. We must move to give housing options and resources, housing other than temporary jail cells!

Communication from Public

Name: Heidi M Manning

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:24 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: It is my understanding that if the San Fernando Valley can provide shelter beds for the estimated number of unhoused individuals there, ordinances can then be enforced that would prevent living in public places. From what I have heard, enough shelter locations have been identified, and they are either in use or are in the process of preparing them for use. For the safety and health of all (housed & unhoused), we can't continue to have people living in areas where they are - 1) blocking pedestrians from getting by and forcing them to walk in the street, 2) leaving their human waste to spread disease, 3) leaving their food waste to attract rodents, 4) using open flames for cooking and warmth that can (and have) started fires, 5) endangered by injury from vehicle fumes, vehicles hitting them, others attacking them. Other issues include - 1) When the unhoused scatter their trash and belongings in business districts, making paying customers avoid the area 2) When the unhoused scatter their trash and belongings in residential areas, making neighborhoods undesirable, which reduces property values for tax paying homeowners. We are still in the midst of a pandemic where people are easily infected. The less people we have, constantly out in the open, the better. We are still in the midst of wildfire season, where an ember from an outdoor cooking device can easily blow over to a flammable area. I hope it will be decided that prevention of living in public spaces is the best option for everyone.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:25 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am in full support of item 20-01376. We must act now to move these vulnerable people off the street even if it means relocating them out of L.A. Many of these people are not from L.A. The health of our community depends on it. We must act out of compassion for these individuals who cannot fend for themselves due to severe drug abuse or mental health. It is inhumane to allow this tragedy to continue. Do something before it's too late. I have been trying to call as instructed but was unsuccessful.

Communication from Public

Name: Kathryn Yu

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:26 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly disagree with criminalizing homelessness. This revision may preserve an appearance of no homelessness in our city, but this is not the case. The fact is that homelessness is a problem, but it cannot be solved by placing the blame on the poor and disenfranchised. This revision does nothing to address the problem of poverty and homelessness. It will simply displace them and worsen their poverty. People are not objects to be cleaned up: they are living beings who need help. If we want to stop seeing homelessness we must support those who are currently homeless. Putting them in jail solves nothing.

Communication from Public

Name: Natalie Warner

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:27 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Hello. This is Natalie Warner with SELAH, addressing Item 42. This cruel motion and draft ordinance are the wrong approach to solving homelessness. All people have an equal right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. Pushing people from one public space to another does not end homelessness. As outreach workers and homeless service providers work tirelessly to move those most vulnerable to COVID-19 into permanent housing, this proposal conflicts with their efforts and depends on the misuse of limited housing and financial resources while jeopardizing the health and safety of those most in need of being inside. The guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades. I urge the council to vote no on this motion and instead focus on increasing access to immediate housing in every neighborhood so that our unhoused neighbors can come safely indoors.

Communication from Public

Name: Noelani del Rosario-Sabet

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:28 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Hello. This is Noelani, addressing Item 42. This cruel motion and draft ordinance are the wrong approach to solving homelessness. All people have an equal right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. Pushing people from one public space to another does not end homelessness. As outreach workers and homeless service providers work tirelessly to move those most vulnerable to COVID-19 into permanent housing, this proposal conflicts with their efforts and depends on the misuse of limited housing and financial resources while jeopardizing the health and safety of those most in need of being inside. The guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades. I urge the council to vote no on this motion and instead focus on increasing access to immediate housing in every neighborhood so that our unhoused neighbors can come safely indoors.

Communication from Public

Name: Alyssa Piperis

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:29 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember, On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Signed, Alyssa Piperis

Communication from Public

Name: Zoe

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:30 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee are fighting to make things significantly worse for the most vulnerable among us. Their proposal solves no problems while creating significant challenges for our unhoused residents. I can't believe the cruelty of this during a moment when the Angelenos agree that we are already over policing residents, the weather is getting colder, and we head into a difficult holiday season and COVID spike. This is a horrible, heartless proposal that must not move forward.

Communication from Public

Name: ryan moore

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:31 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I think 41.18 is a disgusting response to the homelessness crisis in LA. This is a violent reaction and criminalization of houseless folks. It will do nothing to help house and provide safe places for folks to live. It will increase the fear and trauma the houseless population in LA face on a daily basis. A vote for this is a vote against humanity, and anyone who votes for this is poisoning their soul and is turning their back to God. Shame on you if you support this.

Communication from Public

Name: Venice Family Clinic-Karen Lauterbach

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:32 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Founded in 1970, Venice Family Clinic's mission is to provide quality, primary health care to people in need. We provide comprehensive primary health care through a broad range of services, including prenatal care, pediatric care, teen health care, women's health care and adult care, as well as mental health, dental, health education and health insurance enrollment services. Last year we served almost 28,000 individuals, with over 4,500 of them people experiencing homelessness. Therefore, Venice Family Clinic strongly opposes agenda item 42 and believes this motion and subsequent amendments to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) are the wrong approach to solving homelessness in Los Angeles. If approved, the motion would allow an ordinance amending Section 41.18 of the LAMC to specify the particular times and locations where it shall be unlawful for a person to sit, lie, or sleep on public property. Ultimately giving the City of Los Angeles authority to make it illegal for people experiencing homelessness to exist near any shelter or homeless services related property, within 500 feet of freeways, or anywhere in the city if they have been "offered shelter." This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles and constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades. While Section 41.18 focuses on when and where individuals may lodge, Section 56.11 regulates where and how people may store their personal property in public spaces. If agenda item 42 is approved, the draft ordinance would amend LAMC Section 56.11 to align with the new provisions of Section 41.18 by banning the storage of personal property in any area where sitting, lying, and sleeping is banned by Section 41.18. Pushing people from one public space to another does not end homelessness. In fact, it's a completely ineffective approach – data and research clearly state that an enforcement-led approach is not evidence-based. As outreach workers and homeless service providers work tirelessly to move those most vulnerable to COVID-19 into permanent housing, this proposal also conflicts with their efforts and depends on the misuse of limited housing and financial resources while jeopardizing the health and safety of those most in need of being inside. The guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in

place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. All people should have the right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. Therefore, Venice Family Clinic urges the city councilmembers to vote no on this motion and instead focus on increasing access to immediate housing throughout Los Angeles so that our unhoused neighbors can access shelter.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Van Benthuisen

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:39 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Hollywood, I oppose the amendment to 41.18. We want REAL solutions to Homelessness--and arresting homeless people for sleeping on the streets is certainly not the answer. I want to see my tax dollars put to providing housing and services for the homeless.

Communication from Public

Name: Rachel Ruttle

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:39 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Poverty should never be illegal. Fight poverty through Mutual Aid and socialized care. It's more efficient, financially responsible and humane.

Communication from Public

Name: Rose Lenehan

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:39 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose the proposed changes to 41.18. These are profoundly cruel changes that make it much more difficult and dangerous to be unhoused in Los Angeles. Our unhoused neighbors are already subjected to violent sweeps, destruction of their property, and vigilante violence, while the city refuses to provide the most basic services. I strongly urge the City Council to reject this motion to further criminalize unhoused LA residents, and instead to fund additional transitional and permanent housing as well as other basic necessities including access to bathrooms and handwashing stations.

Communication from Public

Name: Rabeya Sen

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:39 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation urges you to oppose the motion (Council File 20-1376) -- introduced on October 21st by Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee -- to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, when Angelenos are finding themselves in increasingly precarious economic conditions and, thus at risk of losing their housing and becoming homeless, this motion is reckless and irresponsible. As for those who are already experiencing being homeless, they need continued care and support, not to be stigmatized and criminalized by a system that should, instead, be helping them. Angelenos need support and care, not punitive measures that put them at further risk. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. The economic fallout from this pandemic, along with the intersection with already existing crises around the lack of affordable housing and the increase in homelessness, are burdens that fall unduly on our most vulnerable communities who also happen to be Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color. This is a matter of equity and of racial justice, and we urge all of you to stand in solidarity with our communities -- indeed, with all Angelenos -- to reject this motion and to, rather, invest in programs and policies that uplift all of us. Therefore, we demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney

to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.
Thank you, Rabeya

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Guzman

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:42 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Hello. This is Ellie Guzman with Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, addressing Item 42. This cruel motion and draft ordinance are the wrong approach to solving homelessness. All people have an equal right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. Pushing people from one public space to another does not end homelessness. As outreach workers and homeless service providers work tirelessly to move those most vulnerable to COVID-19 into permanent housing, this proposal conflicts with their efforts and depends on the misuse of limited housing and financial resources while jeopardizing the health and safety of those most in need of being inside. The guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades. I urge the council to vote no on this motion and instead focus on increasing access to immediate housing in every neighborhood so that our unhoused neighbors can come safely indoors. You should be ashamed that while you live comfortably in your luxury homes, you have the audacity to further criminalize people who are experiencing houselessness. Your lack of action to manage the housing crisis and personal interests in landlords and developers is the problem, not people who find themselves with little to no choices.

Communication from Public

Name: Roz Jones

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:42 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I'm a resident of Los Angeles and a reproductive justice organizer. I'm here to implore you all as council members to reject 41.18. This ordinance is an embarrassment and a catastrophe. It is insulting and laughable that you included a clause about rejecting Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation to the Supreme Court while in the same breath creating fascistic policies that criminalize homelessness. You as city leaders have the money needed to provide housing and services to people that are house less, but you lack the political will and courage to do it. As a resident, I am embarrassed to call you all a leadership body. No matter how much you want to forget it, you work for us. Your constituents decide whether or not you're doing your job well. And right now we feel that you are failing. We have no problem pressing you and harassing you every day for as long as needed until 41.18 is defeated. Do the right thing, find your fucking humanity and reject this measure

Communication from Public

Name: Francisco Espinosa

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:49 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: City Councilmembers: As someone who works with housing and food insecure populations, this motion is as cruel as it is ineffective in addressing the problem of homelessness in our communities. This policy would cost the city much more money in moving people around and only prolong the cycle of homelessness. The destruction and confiscation of property can set back houseless people's cases for months or even years. The money that would be spent on law enforcement, sanitation and incarceration would be much better spent on housing and supportive services that would actually bring people off of the street, rather than shuffling them around and exacerbating problems by further criminalizing poverty. I consider it especially callous to propose such a punitive and unforgiving policy in the middle of a pandemic that has mostly affected Black, Brown and Indigenous people. The rhetoric from certain members of City Council is downright macabre -falling just short of calling for a "final solution" to the problem of homelessness. I feel ashamed to say that these members of City Council represent me. It is time for the people in our communities to reclaim city budget to really address these most pressing issues in a transformative, holistic way. I sincerely hope members of City Council wake up and decide to meet this problem at scale and build historic amounts of affordable and permanent supportive housing. If you don't want to see people on the streets, the answer is pretty simple: HOUSE THEM. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Frances Orr

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:51 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: Item #42 is absolutely unconscionable. Please do not waste yours and the publics time with these items. We all know very well that money needs to go to housing, not criminalizing, the unhoused. How much money will be lost on policing instead of building? We don't care if businesses are inconvenienced. If people are uncomfortable seeing unhoused community members building community in their sight... and our response is to conceal instead of help- then that's a sickness in our governmental operations. Please do not pass this. It is so inappropriate for our time and focus to be here. Item #45 Yay!! I am for this. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:52 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of 90039, I have to say that this council and City Attorney have a heck of a nerve to cite unfettered and accessible public rights of way as an excuse to remove the unhoused from our streets. Their nerve comes from the current condition of our public pedestrian rights of way. Glendale Boulevard from Riverside Drive to Silver Lake Boulevard is an obstacle course of signage and non-ADA width sidewalks. The sidewalk completely disappears on the West side approaching Fletcher Blvd. It is an unwelcoming dangerous miles long passage for anyone with a stroller, walker, cane, or wheelchair. The same is also true for Griffith Park Boulevard between Hyperion and Landa. I once witnessed an elderly woman walking in traffic to avoid the too narrow and often obstructed sidewalk. She walked in the street to avoid tripping. Her journey started at the Friendship Auditorium for her Senior Citizen meeting. This measure is ass-end backwards. Develop a HOUSING FIRST policy. Develop workforce housing with the cooperation of labor unions. Without these in place, this measure will amount to nothing more than a sadistic punishment of those without means and support. Oh and one more thing: Fix land use zoning, hire more planners and take discretionary actions out of the hands of council districts. It is too cute by half that our broken zoning and understaffed Planning Department allows Councilpersons to profit and block necessary housing.

Communication from Public

Name: Tristan Rodman

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:53 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: As a housed Angeleno in Echo Park, it's deeply important to me that the city of Los Angeles treat my unhoused neighbors with dignity and compassion. The amendment up for vote today will bring further criminalization and cruelty to the community. I will not stand for it.

Communication from Public

Name: Nadia Alam

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:53 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: It's just BAFFLING to me that the city is penalizing those that struggle the most (our unhoused neighbors) in the midst of a pandemic because they have NOWHERE else to go. Our unhoused neighbors need affordable housing and adequate resources you refuse to give them this; where else are they supposed to go? These are real human lives. While you sit in your home/office in comfort, they are struggling and don't have anywhere to go, and the service facilities provide necessities for them. When you have nothing, not even a car, transportation is hard, so it makes sense that they would also want to be near services. I urge you to oppose Council File 20-1376. The city is NOT doing enough to support the unhoused population, and Council File 20-1376 would mean that they are being further restricted from supporting themselves.

Communication from Public

Name: Christopher Bowen

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:54 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: To the Members of the Los Angeles City Council: The Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH) is a nonprofit membership association representing affordable housing developers across the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. Our mission is to facilitate the development of affordable homes across Southern California. Our focus is economically disadvantaged individuals and families in most need of affordable housing. This letter is in regard to Item 42 (20-1376) on today's Los Angeles City Council Agenda. We disagree with this approach to solving homelessness, and we feel it punishes the least among us who are already suffering the many harms of not having a safe home. We urge the Council to vote no on this agenda item. The City must build more affordable housing for vulnerable citizens and families, not ban some of the most human acts we do such as "sitting" and "sleeping." This will not fix LA's homelessness problem nor will it make it better. Rather, it will merely push already marginalized people from one public space to another, and it will criminalize tens of thousands of Angelenos who are desperate for rest and shelter from the elements because they do not have a home. This motion even contradicts Departments of Public Health and Health Services guidance that everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. Please vote not on today's agenda Item 42. Thank you for considering SCANPH's input.

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EAH Housing



October 28, 2020

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Item 42 (20-1376) on today's Los Angeles City Council Agenda

To the Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH) is a nonprofit membership association representing affordable housing developers across the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. Our mission is to facilitate the development of affordable homes across Southern California. Our focus is economically disadvantaged individuals and families in most need of affordable housing.

This letter is in regard to Item 42 (20-1376) on today's Los Angeles City Council Agenda.

We disagree with this approach to solving homelessness, and we feel it punishes the least among us who are already suffering the many harms of not having a safe home.

We urge the Council to vote no on this agenda item.

The City must build more affordable housing for vulnerable citizens and families, not ban some of the most human acts we do such as "sitting" and "sleeping." This will not fix LA's homelessness problem nor will it make it better. Rather, it will merely push already marginalized people from one public space to another, and it will criminalize tens of thousands of Angelenos who are desperate for rest and shelter from the elements because they do not have a home.

This motion even contradicts Departments of Public Health and Health Services guidance that everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population.

Please vote not on today's agenda Item 42. Thank you for considering SCANPH's input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francisco Martinez".

Francisco Martinez
Policy Director
Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH)

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:57 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose this motion to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. I have spent years working and volunteering with unhoused communities across California, I've witnessed the cruel and unnecessary sweeps in Eagle Rock and Highland Park, and have heard the stories firsthand of callous mistreatment from police and social services towards our most vulnerable neighbors, who are some of the most resilient and generous people I've ever met. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. -Debbie

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Cerza

Date Submitted: 10/28/2020 10:58 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly urge the council to oppose item #42 which would effectively make homelessness in Los Angeles County illegal. This is a harsh ruling for all our unhoused neighbors who are continually being victimized by covid, rent trouble, and looming evictions. This also disproportionately affects LA's populations of Hispanic, black, mentally ill, or drug-afflicted people, who need our support not our condemnation. We must DECRIMINALIZE POVERTY, and focus efforts on providing permanent housing to all unhoused Angelenos, especially in the face of the upcoming winter and worsening viral pandemic. We must END CARE SWEEPS and instead work with the health department to find safe housing without threatening displacement.