

Communication from Public

Name: Debbie Kirchen
Date Submitted: 07/27/2021 11:16 AM
Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I have lived in Los Angeles for all but 5 of my 55 years. I was born and raised here, and grew up riding my bike on the Wilshire corridor, and using the beaches and parks, and attending public schools. As an adult I have lived all over the city, and have watched the heart breaking deterioration of landmarks and historically relevant buildings in favor of what appears to be a singular mindset of exponentially expanding expensive housing. The resulting and unsustainable traffic jamming, the reduction in open spaces, and most importantly the ridiculous cost of housing has only served to further stretch the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" of Los Angeles. As a city, Los Angeles needs to consider ALL of its residents, not just those who can pay the high rents. I'm quite certain I voted for a \$1.2 billion measure in 2016 that was to result in massive relief to the homelessness crisis. Where is the housing for people who fall below the poverty line? That number is easily close to half of L.A's residents. That taxpayer money could have been used to create a city-based HUD-like unit that provides rental assistance. It could have been used to restore city- and county-owned houses that are abandoned and in disrepair, and could have revitalized neighborhoods. In these past five years, an entire housing system for underemployed or impoverished residents that could benefit the city as much as the people who were housed could have been created! Vacant, city-owned lots could have been transformed into tiny-living communities. The innovation is there, and could have easily been implemented by now. A LOT of suffering has been sustained, not just by the homeless, but by those of use who must witness such atrocities being tolerated by a body of local government that has the power to make changes and fix this problem. You have done nothing. There is no excuse for the AWFUL treatment of unhoused people. Instead of treating these neighbors as criminals, there should be a publicly funded, safe and accessible space for anyone to go to, when we are down on our luck, or need help. The wealth in this city could easily provide such a service. It would be a win-win for all facets. It would provide jobs, it would improve public safety, it would instill humanity into the souls of our public servants. I'm so tired of hearing about budget constraints, and legal restrictions. These are manufactured excuses from a body that has the power to legislate for the people. Enough.

Communication from Public

Name: Jeremy Bowditch

Date Submitted: 07/27/2021 11:53 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to inform you that as a member of your constituency, I expect you to vote no on the 41.18 Ordinance. This law urgently focuses on displacement while Los Angeles still doesn't have enough shelter, housing, or services. The lack of appropriate housing is one of the major threats to our public safety that we currently face. This ordinance will permit the city and especially the City Council to give up on the hard work of housing people. I do not want you or any of the rest of the council to give up on that task. As a community, it is our responsibility to make sure we all have access to basic resources. We should not be banishing people from any space, especially when we have not provided them with anywhere else to go. If this ordinance passes, the use of public space will be restricted based on whose voice is loudest and most powerful. That is not the kind of community I want to live in and I will fight to make sure it does not become that. Please know that as a voter and Echo Park Neighborhood Council board member, I will be taking note of your vote on this issue. Please adhere to the will of the least powerful and most vulnerable in our community and vote no. Please find attached a CIS passed by EPNC earlier this year in response to this shortsighted and terrible ordinance.

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Echo Park Neighborhood Council

Name: Mo Najand

Phone Number:

Email: mo.najand.epnc@gmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(20) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/24/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 02/06/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1376

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Echo Park Neighborhood Council vehemently opposes this CF. Brought forward in the name public safety and accessibility, this motion introduced in late October seeks to greatly expand the city's ability to criminalize homelessness itself through mass displacement, incarceration, and violence—facilitated by sweeps and policing.

Echo Park Neighborhood Council
Community Impact Statement
Council File #20-1376
Stance: Opposed

Brought forward in the name public safety and accessibility, this motion introduced in late October seeks to greatly expand the city's ability to criminalize homelessness itself through mass displacement, incarceration, and violence—facilitated by sweeps and policing.

The motion seeks to create a false sense of progress by simply pushing the unhoused out of our neighborhoods and city—the city for whom a majority of those targeted have called home for over 5 years—instead of actually addressing the underlying issues that cause homelessness in the first place: out of control rents, stagnant wages, and a dire lack of physical or mental health resources. This motion also comes during a time when unemployment in the city is at record heights, and studies project a massive wave of evictions in the near future.

To create the appearance of progress, this motion seeks to enable the criminalization of homelessness within 1000 ft. wide zones centered around any of the following:

- Any Overpass
- Any Underpass
- Any Freeway ramp
- Any Freeway tunnel
- Any Pedestrian subway
- Any supportive housing site
- Any supportive services
- Any safe parking sites
- Any unhoused storage facility

The language brought forward by the City Attorney also seeks to criminalize homelessness in any public space so long as “shelter” is “offered” though it does not elaborate on this extremely vague terminology.

The effects of this motion, combined with already existing enforcement zones and criminalization, will be devastating. This greatly expanded criminalization is also sure to fall heavily on black and brown communities, which already suffer from disproportionately high homelessness and police violence—the results of our city's long history of segregation and racism.

Because the terms of this motion are so vague, EPNC is greatly concerned about the potential for “weaponizing” services. Because this motion seeks to create a 1000 ft wide enforcement zone around services, storage facilities, and safe parking sites, it opens up the ability for the city to simply create minimal services in areas with high concentrations of people experiencing homelessness just to facilitate the displacement of those residents.

Criminalizing our way out of homelessness does not work. As a city, we must take responsibility for this crisis—for allowing rents to greatly outpace incomes, for prioritizing large luxury development over the preservation and creation of affordable housing, and for allowing evictions and displacement to ravage our communities and force tens of thousands out of their homes and onto the streets. These are the root causes that have created this unprecedented crisis, and it is only by addressing these underlying issues that we will have any chance to make progress in the right direction.

Closing our eyes doesn't make homelessness go away—it makes us complicit in the systemic racism and violence that has already caused so much suffering. We need housing, services, and compassion—not expanded criminalization.

Finding appropriate housing solutions for the people sleeping on our sidewalks and in our public spaces is rightly a priority, but serious changes to the current proposal are necessary. Offered housing should be local, long-term, and flexible to specific individual and family situations.

Additionally, we greatly support the alternative motion provided by Councilmember Bonin which seeks to investigate the path necessary for commandeering hotels and motels to serve as housing for people experiencing homelessness. With several thousand hotel and motel rooms sitting vacant—many in properties that have received generous public subsidies—this proposal is of the utmost importance and should be passed instead of the current damaging and dangerous motion in front of council.

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Morrison

Date Submitted: 07/27/2021 12:48 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: The measure will increase the use of police to address homelessness, despite the inclusion of a commitment to two weeks notification before removal of people and property and purporting to support trauma-informed principles with the use of trained outreach staff. Still, the measure amounts to a list of restrictions, includes no positive affirmation of a person's rights, no effort to educate the people who will be affected by the restrictions, and no guarantee persons removed will be offered a safe and suitable alternate sleeping location. Many of these restrictions may seem to make sense within the traditional view of public safety – such as restrictions on proximity to driveways and fire hydrants. The ordinance also includes a mechanism for council to designate other public areas as no sleeping or loitering zones. As I add up restriction after restriction, the fewer places I can imagine where people without safe, stable housing may be permitted to sleep without being harassed, ticketed, or arrested for the crime of simply attending to their basic human needs. Ultimately, we will not solve homelessness by creating a list of rules for people experiencing it. Simultaneously, those of us who staff the public systems working to address homelessness are organizing to deploy seven thousand emergency housing vouchers provided by the American Recovery Plan. These vouchers will substantially address what we see across the communities of Los Angeles and move the enormous backlog of people who want and work toward permanent housing within our interim housing system. In turn, this will allow a significant number of people currently seeking shelter to move off the streets. Moving on the use of police powers to address an issue of poverty is a distraction bordering on abuse of the public trust. For the ten years I have worked to help people without safe and stable housing, I have witnessed City Council's failure to create a system substantially addressing their needs. Instead, Council has prioritized responding to those groups of people who become the 'biggest problem.' Council has used outreach teams and sanitation services to clean up messes instead of providing the resources and services to engage and support people in need and, in so doing, address the root issues. I strongly urge the Council to use this vote as an opportunity to seek accountability for their former failures, especially as the drivers of homelessness are strongly intertwined

with past and current discriminatory policies in our housing, education, employment, medical, and justice systems. I urge Council focus on supporting and rapidly expanding access to safe, suitable housing while designing services enhancing safety for all Angelenos utilizing our streets and sidewalks to meet their basic needs. We must recognize acting out of fear and anger will bring only more fear and anger. Until each of us has fair and equal access to air, water, food, and shelter, we will be left with a choice to either separate ourselves from one another, or to come together as human beings to build a better future.