

Communication from Public

Name: kennedy Diaz

Date Submitted: 11/23/2020 07:27 PM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: This action is not in the best interest of the people living in LA. it is wrong to criminalize homelessness. A more effective policy would be one that addresses systemic barriers for our u housed neighbors to get secure housing. This policy is punitive not restorative. We the people of LA demand compassionate solution oriented treatment of those who have fallen victim to one (or many) of the systemic issues that caused them to be u housed in the first place. IE mental health support, lack of education, health resources, job opportunities, clean water, drug treatment etc.

Communication from Public

Name: Raymond Rios

Date Submitted: 11/24/2020 10:43 AM

Council File No: 20-1376

Comments for Public Posting: I'd like to speak on agenda item 24 please and public comment please Good morning, my name is Raymond Rios. I'm a 61 year resident from Boyle Heights and the past 21 in Hillside Village El Sereno. Let me preface this by saying that I am not trying to criminalize homelessness but just like everyone here, trying to look at solutions. We've been in the community business for many, many years in an effort to make our communities safer, stronger, and to improve the quality of life for all residents. Over this time, we've seen the many challenges of gang warfare, drug addiction, police/community relations, and have attempted to work on improving them by joining park advisory boards, becoming strong advocates for funding for positive infrastructure improvements, and working with our local LAPD in creating Neighborhood Watch programs, all in an effort to make our communities safe and livable. This Homelessness crisis is now our newest challenge compounded by this terrible Covid-19 Pandemic. I believe that there have to be some guidelines or rules in place, because honestly, there doesn't seem to be any rules on how to address these unsheltered individuals or encampments. Our communities are currently shouldering the heaviness of this issue as our parks and streets provide the basic amenities of water and restrooms for these individuals. And yet, it seems like our concerns are never considered. Many of these unsheltered individuals are suffering from severe mental issues and drug addiction. Many of these encampments have evolved into areas where illegal activities come into view by residents. Our communities are the ones suffering along side of them. Residents are afraid to walk in their own community parks because so and so is having a bad day where his schizophrenia is flaring up. All is going to hinge on what services, housing, resources can be offered, and are available. You can't ask anyone to move if there's nowhere to move to. I truly believe that we should be looking at safe rehabilitation centers as intermediate means of housing and addressing the needs of our fellow unsheltered human beings but their need to be reasonable and orderly laws in place too. So in closing, I ask this City Council to please remember and consider our communities when making decisions on how to work with this homeless crisis. Community resident lives matter too! Thank you, Raymond Rios