

Communication from Public

Name: Sean Gregory

Date Submitted: 03/07/2024 03:23 PM

Council File No: 21-0329-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Halt the sweeps against the houseless. Put an immediate end to 41.18. It is a failed policy that contributes zero solutions to the houseless crisis. It is past time to dismantle 41.18 and transfer all funds to permanent supportive housing.

Communication from Public

Name: Venice Justice Committee
Date Submitted: 03/07/2024 07:54 PM
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Comments for Public Posting: please post the attached document

The Venice Justice Committee is a collective of local Human Rights organizers and activists living or working in LACity Council District 11.

Since elected, Councilmember Traci Park has been a vocal proponent of criminalization as a tool for "addressing" the housing crisis in Council District 11 and beyond. She has created new 41.18 exclusion zones in our district, championing policing as an intervention, when we've all known that LAMC 41.18 and other enforcement exacerbates homelessness.

LAHSA's November 2023 report confirms this direct quote from LACounty Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, Chair of the LAHSA Commission: "**The data is clear: 41.18 is a failed policy that has only made our homelessness crisis worse,**" noting that "encampment clearings can disrupt [a person's] service pathway." The report further says that unhoused residents "may move away from the location and providers may lose contact after clients are displaced. [and that] Clients may also become distrustful of providers and refuse services after being forced to move from their current location."

However we don't need the LAHSA report to confirm what talking with our unhoused neighbors already tells us. Venice Justice Committee is one of over 30 organizations to sign on to endorse LA CAN's report <https://cangress.org/publications/> as it shows a first hand account of what enforcement leads to.

While one might expect a politician to see the evidence of what criminalization does and dial it back, we've seen Councilmember Park not only ramped up 41.18 enforcement, but applied the 41.18 model of exclusion zones across Council District 11 for people living in RVs.

If Traci Park really wanted to solve homelessness she would focus on real solutions, like different forms of low-income public housing, such as the Venice Dell housing project she has intentionally stalled. She would not spend huge amounts of funds on sweeps and criminalization, which has been proven over and over to be a losing strategy.

We call on Councilmember Park and all councilmembers to acknowledge 41.18 as a failure, and to change course.

Venice Justice Committee

