

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Wang

Date Submitted: 04/10/2023 10:38 PM

Council File No: 21-0329-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Council President Krekorian and Members of the Council, My name is Wendy Wang and I work for Sycamores, a non-profit organization that provides vital social services to residents of the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles. Our' offices in the City of Los Angeles are located in Council District 7 (Rodriguez), Council District 10 (Hutt), and Council District 14 (de Leon). Furthermore, Sycamores is the lead community-based organization for the Youth Coordinated Entry System (YCES) for LA County Service Planning Area 3 (San Gabriel Valley). We join others in calling for a review of the LAMC 41.18 ordinance and whether it has effectively addressed homelessness in the City of Los Angles. Criminalization of homelessness does not solve the underlying systemic challenges and factors contributing to homelessness. Secondly, criminalization is not a cost-efficient model. Criminalization of homelessness can lead to debilitating fines that have long lasting effects on unhoused individuals as they look for affordable housing, employment or try to access education. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness stated that criminalization policies like LAMC 41.18 "can lead to lost belongings and identification which can set people back in their pathway to housing; breakdowns in connection with outreach teams, health care facilities, and housing providers; increased interactions with the criminal justice system; and significant traumatization — all of which can set people back in their pathway to housing and disrupt the work of ending homelessness." I support a transparent analysis of the City's roll out of LAMC 41.18 that provides clarity about the scale of the enforcement and the effectiveness of the implementation of the Street Engagement Strategy, including client demographics (i.e. race/ethnicity, gender, age) and housing outcomes, expenditures of city resources on enforcement of this ordinance, and involvement of LAPD resources related to LAMC 41.18 enforcement during and after encampment closures. I urge the council to support this motion. Thank you for your consideration.