

Communication from Public

Name: Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
Date Submitted: 06/12/2024 04:40 PM
Council File No: 21-0329-S4
Comments for Public Posting: The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), a coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, submits the attached letter reiterating its strong support for LAMC Sec. 41.18. Thank you, Christina Spitz, WRAC Vice-Chair



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

June 5, 2024

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Hon. Paul Krekorian, President, Los Angeles City Council

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President Pro Tempore and President-elect, Los Angeles City Council;
Member, Council Housing & Homelessness Committee (HHC)

Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Assistant President Pro Tempore, Los Angeles City Council and Vice-Chair, HHC

Hon. Nithya Raman, Councilmember, CD 4 and Chair, HHC

Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11

Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman, CD 5

Hon. Heather Hutt, Councilwoman, CD 10

Via email to all addressees and submission to relevant council file

Re: CF # 21-0329-S4; support retention and continued application and enforcement of LAMC Sec. 41.18

Dear Mayor Bass, Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers Harris-Dawson, Blumenfield, Raman, Park, Yaroslavsky and Hutt:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, in Council Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Council Districts 4 and 10. Our Alliance represents over 500,000 housed and unhoused Angelenos.

Since January 2022, WRAC has taken multiple positions in support of the use of Sec. 41.18 (with offers of housing and services) to address encampments which threaten public health and safety in numerous public right of way (PROW) areas in our Westside neighborhoods. Specifically, we support 41.18 designation of PROW areas by our Councilmembers, in coordination with WRAC member councils; 41.18 designation of PROW areas near schools and libraries; and even extension of 41.18 to restrict vehicle dwelling in PROW areas near sensitive uses.¹

As explained in our letter of January 16, 2022 (linked in footnote 1 below):

“What is clear is that patience is running thin among our member Councils and stakeholders. While many of our Councils support proactive and logical solutions that have been long championed, the obvious crisis on our streets points to the need to balance compassion with the basic rule of law that should apply equally to all our stakeholders, housed and unhoused. The motions set forth below, calling for cooperation in designating sites under LAMC sec. 41.81, focusing on keeping areas around our schools clear of encampments, and a third supporting enforcement of ‘chop shops’ are common sense actions that can help keep our neighborhoods clean and safe and will allow neighbors to support more earnestly the long term solutions we all agree are needed.”

WRAC member councils appreciate that 41.18 has now been used effectively in several Westside areas to ease unsafe and unhealthy conditions and to assist our unhoused neighbors.

¹ See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WRAC-Homeless-Motions-Jan-2022.pdf>
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WRAC-letter-re-41.18-libraries.pdf>
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WRAC-Letter-Amend-41.18.pdf>

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June 5, 2024
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
To: Mayor Bass and Councilmembers

While WRAC's member councils have not taken positions specific to the above Council File, based on our past positions in strong support of the use of LAMC Sec. 41.18 (with offers of housing and services), we respectfully urge that the City Council support retention of the ordinance and its continued application and enforcement, in the interest of public health and safety – at least until “long term solutions that we all agree are needed” are successfully implemented.²

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz

Robin Greenberg, Chair, and Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

² WRAC continues to seek constructive dialogue towards achieving lasting solutions to the crisis. At this writing, members of the WRAC Homelessness Committee are scheduled to hold a special meeting on June 10 with key City and County officials (including CWs Park and Yaroslavsky, Deputy Mayor of Homelessness & Community Health Dr. Agonafer, LAHSA CEO Dr. Adams Kellum, and Supervisor Horvath's Sr. Homelessness Deputy) to discuss the state of homelessness in Los Angeles, to obtain information and to support our public officials as they work in good faith to develop a logical, substantive and permanent solution.

Communication from Public

Name: Adam Smith

Date Submitted: 06/12/2024 12:13 PM

Council File No: 21-0329-S4

Comments for Public Posting: RE: 41.18 Reportback and the urgent need for an independent hearing Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers, After months of community pressure, the City finally released its 60-day reportback on the "cost and efficacy" of LA Municipal Code 41.18 Friday, May 31st—351 days past due. At the subsequent Council meeting on Tuesday, June 4th, Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky introduced a motion ostensibly aimed at improving LAMC 41.18. LA Community Action Network (LA CAN), advocating for months for the reportback's release, has also been pushing for an independent public hearing upon its release. This hearing would request the full City Council to hear all department findings that informed the reportback in a public setting. Additionally, all City departments and other entities tasked with informing this report should release and present their findings at this hearing. LA CAN and other community groups and stakeholders should also have the opportunity to present their findings, reflections, and recommendations on LAMC 41.18. The City's reportback demonstrates a lack of commitment to honestly examining 41.18. It appears to have been a means to tee up new "reforms" rather than genuinely assessing the ordinance it's role in making homelessness worse. This long-awaited but hastily prepared reportback is missing crucial information from City departments, including the LAPD. Therefore, it should not serve as a basis for suggesting reforms or updates to this cruel, anti-Black law. LAMC 41.18, officially codified in 1936, stems from state laws like PC 647(e), aiming to criminalize those deemed undesirable by the City. Over the years, amendments to this ordinance expanded the LAPD's power to regulate public space, disproportionately affecting Black people and other communities of color. In 2006, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the City of Los Angeles's enforcement of LAMC 41.18 violated the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Subsequent years saw multiple court rulings against the City, highlighting its violation of unhoused people's constitutional rights. The City responded with strategies prioritizing enforcement over addressing the root causes of homelessness. Any attempt to sanitize or reform the current iteration of 41.18 will be a continuation of this strategy. We

demand that Paul Krekorian urgently schedule an independent hearing on LAMC 41.18 before the entire City Council. This hearing should require all “relevant departments” purported to have informed the Chief Legislative Analyst’s reportback to present their findings. Furthermore, it should invite community members impacted by 41.18, as well as organizations like LA CAN, to present theirs as well.



Los Angeles Community Action Network

June 12, 2024

Council President Paul Krekorian
President pro-Tempore Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Assistant President pro-Tempore Bob
Blumenfield
Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez

Councilmember Nithya Raman
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Councilmember Curren Price, Jr.

Councilmember Heather Hutt
Councilmember Traci Park
Councilmember John Lee
Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez
"Councilmember" Kevin de León

200 N. Main St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: 41.18 Reportback and the urgent need for an independent hearing

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We demand that Paul Krekorian urgently schedule an independent hearing on LAMC 41.18 before the entire City Council. This hearing should require all "relevant departments" purported to have informed the Chief Legislative Analyst's reportback to present their findings. Furthermore, it should invite community members impacted by 41.18, as well as organizations like LA CAN, to present theirs as well.

Sincerely,

Pete White, Executive Director