

Communication from Public

Name: LA Street Care & Mutual Aid

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To Los Angeles City Council:

The 41.18 report proves what we have known since its implementation: the ordinance is cruel, destructive, a drain on resources, and ineffective by every measure. The year-long delay of the report's release and the CLA's biased analysis cannot hide what a monumental failure 41.18 has been. Defending this toxic ordinance will have devastating impacts on your political future.

Just two people received housing as a result of outreach related to 41.18. We understand this isn't a housing ordinance. However, LAHSA and its affiliate organizations spent a considerable amount of time and resources engaging 1,856 people at encampments targeted by 41.18 over three years, pulling those overburdened caseworkers away from other clients in need. Then your banishment operations made it nearly impossible for those caseworkers to locate their clients when housing or services did become available. Your constituents wonder why the homelessness crisis worsens each year, and this .1% housing rate—the direct result of your mandate—presents a clear explanation. You are the crisis.

Your ordinance targets people with criminalization for being poor, then fails to provide them with anywhere to go. The report states that 94% of those engaged by caseworkers requested shelter or housing, but just 14% received any shelter. How can you claim the purpose of this ordinance isn't criminalization when it led to ten times more arrests than opportunities for shelter? No wonder 81% of targeted encampments repopulated.

The number of 41.18 arrests more than doubled from 2022 to 2023 with 41.18 infractions increasing 331%. Despite this drastic increase, the CLA disingenuously claims that a 30% decrease in misdemeanors is evidence of a reduction in the severity of 41.18 violations, betraying a shameless bias in this report's analysis. This also fails to recognize how police use 41.18 to stop and harass unhoused people, leading to many arrests that aren't directly attributable to 41.18 in the data that LAPD provided.

75% of arrests occurred in just three divisions: Devonshire, West LA, and Rampart. The areas these divisions cover are home to drastically different unsheltered populations (e.g., Devonshire among the lowest; Rampart among the highest). This proves that enforcement of 41.18 is extremely inconsistent across the city.

Without evidence, the CLA's analysis in the report claims 41.18 is responsible for 2022's 3.9% drop in violent crimes committed against unhoused people. However, this is a significantly smaller decrease than 2022's city-wide 12% drop in violent crime reported by the LAPD in 2022. This double-digit discrepancy compared to larger trends suggests 41.18 was actually ineffective in ensuring the safety of encampment residents compared to the general population in 2022.

As you know, the LAPD targets unhoused people with violence at much higher rates. This rise in arrests also disproportionately targets Black people because 41.18 is a racist, anti-Black ordinance. According to [data](#) from the Controller's website, 22% of 41.18 arrests have targeted Black people in 2024 even though just 8.7% of LA's total population is Black.

The CLA who compiled the report presents the cost of 41.18 as \$3 million with a note that this figure "represents a minimum estimate because multiple departments, including LAPD, were unable to disaggregate their labor costs associated with 41.18-specific expenditures from their departmental expenditures." We know the CLA deliberately hid costs specific to LAPD overtime associated with 41.18 because the CLA's knowledge of this information is [public record](#). The public record request, which the CLA is CCed on, revealed the LAPD [took \\$17 million from the A Bridge Home fund](#)—and to be clear, that means they took money from a shelter program—to pay for LAPD overtime for 41.18 enforcement during 2022 and 2023.

We know that this \$20 million is just the tip of the spear because the LAPD, LASAN, and other departments did not itemize costs related to 41.18. That \$20 million alone could have paid for a year's rent on more than a thousand **market-rate** studio apartments in the City of Los Angeles.

City Council and the LAPD like to pretend that increasing criminalization is meant to increase ADA accessibility. If this city cared about disabled people, they would focus on our miles of unnavigable sidewalks, crosswalks, many traffic hazards, and the 36% of people experiencing "chronic homelessness" who are disabled. We can guarantee that every sweep that you've scheduled targeting an encampment with a disabled person living there fails to meet the requirements of the ADA.

We demand the release of all department reports that informed the 41.18 report. We demand that Council President Krekorian schedule an independent City Council hearing with each department reporting on its findings and that invites community groups to present their independent findings. Criminalizing people for being poor is disgraceful, a waste of money, and only worsens the humanitarian crisis that LA City Council has perpetuated. City Council must repeal 41.18, put a moratorium on evictions, establish a living wage, and invest in real services/community-led housing solutions.

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