

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andrew Gerngross  
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**Council File No:** 21-0329-S5

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a resident of the Lost Canals neighborhood in Venice. Our neighborhood is frequently visited by individuals who sleep in the alleys behind our home, overnight in their vehicles in front of our homes, and on occasion on the sidewalks connecting our homes. Scavenging of trash cans left out 24/7 is a daily occurrence. It is not unusual to see an individual, caked in their own filth, walking in front of our homes, screaming at what I can only assume are voices in their head. In aggregate, the incidents leave us feeling besieged and helpless. Attempts to contact the police non-emergency line have proven utterly futile. I have waited over an hour only to be summarily disconnected for my effort. 3-1-1 requests are sometimes filled but rarely in a timely fashion. No one in the neighborhood can directly contact the CARE or CIRCLE teams. In the absence of timely and effective alternatives and in the interest of protecting our neighborhood from blight and for the health and safety of all, I and several of my neighbors have taken it upon ourselves to clean up food, human feces and plastic trash in our alleys and in front of our homes. On several occasions, we have engaged directly with unhoused individuals living in front of our homes, sleeping in our alleys and decompensating loudly on our street. Policies prioritizing areas just outside of ours would only worsen our situation, ushering the unhoused into deprioritized areas like ours. It is true that the police have a complex and vexing problem to solve. But the proposed policy would only further burden residents like us. We are not cops. We are not sanitation officers. We are ordinary people who want the bare minimum of order so we can quietly enjoy living in our homes. Any policy that prioritizes one area over another is doomed to failure. The motion only changes where enforcement officers will play whack-a-mole with the problems caused by the unhoused and concentrates the problems in areas like ours, to be handled by citizens like us. I urge this council to say no to this motion. Further, I urge this council to find the political, fiscal and moral courage to overcome lassitude, hopelessness, frustration, and fear of political reprisal and to expend every effort to build the housing and emergency shelters that the unhoused so clearly need. The housing problem in L.A. for the most vulnerable has long been an emergency and requires heroic risk-taking to solve. I urge this council to take those risks.