

Communication from Public

Name: Reclaiming Our Homes

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Council File No: 21-0329-S5

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter opposing 41.18 for council file.



Dear Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers,

The Los Angeles City Council's report on LAMC 41.18 reveals what Reclaimers and supporters of the Reclaiming Our Homes movement have been saying all along—criminalizing poor and homeless people does nothing but make things worse.

We now know, despite attempts by pro-criminalization politicians to hide and delay the report, that although thousands of people targeted by 41.18 requested shelter over three years, only *two of them* received housing. Meanwhile, the city of Los Angeles spent millions of dollars to harass and arrest poor Angelenos, and in the end nearly every homeless encampment that was targeted by the law and swept eventually returned. Why? Because we are telling the truth when we say that we have nowhere else to go.

It's completely unsurprising that criminalizing and sweeping people away only made things worse. But now we have years of data and hard numbers that we hope will convince others of the truth. This isn't just the "right" thing to do. The City Council's report proves that the only solution to the crisis of homelessness is permanent, supportive housing for everyone.

Reclaiming Our Homes has known this from the beginning, and that's why we continue to defend our Reclaimers and their families. There are more vacant properties in Los Angeles than there are people experiencing homelessness. Instead of spending millions on enforcing criminalization laws that don't work, the city of Los Angeles can use that money to build real public housing and use vacant properties to house homeless people. The city can partner with renters and look to pre-existing work with Community Land Trusts to help keep people housed.

We call on City Council President Paul Krekorian to schedule an independent hearing on this report that requires each city department to report on their findings, and invites community groups to present their own findings on 41.18. Community groups, and the real people facing the crisis of homelessness, are leading this fight—and are the only ones coming up with real solutions. The city's own reporting proves that it's time for them to finally listen to us.

Reclaiming Our Homes