

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/10/2024 06:16 PM

Council File No: 21-0329-S5

Comments for Public Posting: I support the enforcement of 41.18 as a pedestrian in Los Angeles and oppose Katy Yaroslovsky's motion to undermine its effectiveness. City funding has been lavished on bike safety and accessibility citywide. 41.18 makes walking on sidewalks safer for pedestrian residents and visitors to neighborhoods alike. It is the only tool available to deter encampments that block safe passage and accessibility to public resources. 41.18 encourages access to free programs and community gatherings for families and seniors who would otherwise be isolated in a "car culture" city. In Venice, where I live, children and elderly used to use the library and community center alongside me without intimidation. I have watched their participation in local events and activities drop off as aggressive and unstable unhoused individuals (see: LAPD report records) started camping nearby. As a woman, I eventually stopped attending these community events as well, having been followed and aggressed by encamped individuals. Where camping with no oversight is entrenched, pedestrians are often unable to avoid close contact with erratic individuals, open drug use, aggressive dogs, human waste, open fires, and hazards for tripping and impediment to disabled access. We should not have to justify the supervision of shelter areas by highlighting the encampments' toll on the fragile elderly, impressionable children, mobility-challenged individuals, and vulnerable women (amongst many others across all local demographics). The City should not force ANY individual to choose walking in the street, adjacent to traffic, for lack of oversight of public use areas that are dangerous or intimidating. Supporting 41.18, in its current iteration, demonstrates the Council's due diligence in protecting community members who have repeatedly alerted City agencies to the dangers of encampments to pedestrian safety. I have lived in our community for twenty years and until recently was able to walk to community functions, even at night, but now stay home if I don't have an escort. 41.18 will (help to) promote safety for women (and all others indicated here) on a scale far greater than the Safe Streets bicycle program which does not favor the elderly, mobility-challenged, or anyone who cannot ride a bicycle or will not due to the heightened danger over walking. City resources should go toward application of 41.18 to protect citizens on sidewalks versus favoring the small cross-section of Angelenos

who bike for pleasure and the even more minuscule percentage who need bicycles to commute. Please support 41.18 without any amendment and deny this motion. Thank you.