

Communication from Public

Name: claire finnk

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Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in strong opposition to Motion 21-0350 for the safety and protection of our parks and beaches. I agree that homelessness in Los Angeles is a huge problem that must be addressed. I have sympathy and compassion for the unhoused community in our city and believe that we must provide a safety net for the most vulnerable among us. However, this proposal is not the answer. CD-11 parks and beaches are for the safe enjoyment of everyone. Families from anywhere in the city and neighboring counties as well as tourists from around the world can enjoy a beautiful day at the beach or the park for just the \$12 cost of parking. Under no circumstances should our parks and beaches be used for anything but recreation. Spreading the unhoused across beaches and parks does not address any of the issues of homelessness. The unhoused need services not just a roof. We need a supportive housing campus with wrap-around services to house the homeless. The idea of repurposing the 500 acres of city owned land near LAX was posed at the May 14th City Council Meeting. This is a feasible idea. Using the parks and beaches is not feasible and should never be considered! Allowing unsupportive housing along our beaches will completely destroy our coastline and the enjoyment of thousands of Angelinos. Drug abuse and mental illness are big causes of homelessness and allowing the unhoused to take residence on our beaches is dangerous. A couple months ago, an unhoused man accosted my husband and children. This same individual ended up stabbing a man with his toddler a half hour later. We have almost stepped on drug needles while walking on the beach. It is already a problem. Your proposal will make it much worse. We need to address the larger issues of homelessness such as drug addiction, job training, and mental illness. Services and housing should be allowed in underutilized City owned properties NOT parks and beaches. Our parks and beaches need to remain safe and available for everyone. Our children should be able to play without tripping over drug needles and human feces. Families should be able to gather on our beautiful coastline without fearing danger. We can help our unhoused population without destroying our community for the thousands of people who enjoy it. Sincerely, Claire Finnk