

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2022 07:33 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** STRONGLY OPPOSE his ordinance that would criminalize repairing and selling bikes on public property. Bike repair is NOT a crime and will be used to target unhoused people who repair bikes for to survive. Many unhoused Angelenos rely on bike repair to make a living. Criminalizing their livelihood will make it even harder for them to exit homelessness. Many unhoused people rely on bikes as a means of transportation and to bypass public transportation systems that are punitive to those who can't afford it. There are already laws in place to allow for disability access to make the sidewalks passable. Making this illegal is based solely on their housing status and is discrimination. Bikes are a primary mode of transportation for many unhoused people. Repairing a flat tire or adjusting your gears would be deemed criminal for Unhoused people. When a city fails to create affordable housing for decades, you cannot discriminate to block the few business choices available to those living on the street. Our laws force unhoused people to stay near their belongings and this is one of the few business endeavors that can be done from a sidewalk. As we see use of force by LAPD against Unhoused people increase, we need to limit this contact. This demands much more contact and increases the likelihood for racial profiling allowing for a pretense to stop people for being near bikes in a public place.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nikolai Eiteneer  
**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2022 07:35 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose - and encourage City Council to vote against - this ordinance which would criminalize the storage of bicycles and bike repair on public property. Bike repair is not a crime, and many of our unhoused neighbors use their bicycles to get around the city as well as collect a meager living by helping out with bicycle repairs & service for others. It is already illegal to block the public right of way or impede disability access by storing property. It is also illegal to steal bikes. Criminalizing the repair and storage of bicycles will only serve to increase LAPD interactions with the unhoused members of our community, perpetuating cycles of harm against our majority POC unhoused population, rather than spending those same City resources to invest in affordable housing as well as permanent housing solutions for our neighbors. There is an action happening outside, on the steps of City Hall, as you consider this motion, and I encourage the members of City Council to step outside and see and talk to the community they would be choosing to subject to increased police scrutiny while further criminalizing the act of being poor in the second largest city in America. Once again, I am strongly opposed to this new ordinance which would ban the repair and storage of bicycles on public property, and urge city council to reject it outright.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kath Rogers

**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2022 09:17 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** This proposed ordinance amending LAMC 56.15.3 to ban various activities involving bike parts on public property is a step in the wrong direction for the City, and it raises serious legal concerns. First, this ordinance will reinforce police bias against bicycle riders of color. Last year's LA investigation found that police target bike riders of color at vastly disproportionate rates (seven in ten stops of bicyclists by sheriff deputies involve Latino cyclists), and cyclists in lower-income communities of color are stopped and searched far more often than riders in more resourced and whiter areas. Further, police use these stops as a pretext to search riders, despite having no reason to suspect any criminal conduct. Like so many blunt law enforcement tools, these stops and searches are wholly ineffective at stopping crime (less than .5% of sheriff searches of cyclists find any contraband). Second, this ordinance will have a harmful effect on LA's unhoused residents. Many unhoused individuals rely on biking as a primary mode of transportation around the City. These residents already experience a disproportionate number of LAPD contacts. Approximately one in three times an LAPD officer uses force, it is against an unhoused person. This law will give police yet another tool to target vulnerable community members. Third, this ordinance is broadly worded and bans otherwise innocent activities unrelated to bike theft. The vague scope, and undefined terms, leave ambiguity about which conduct is criminal and which is not. For example, the ordinance bans storage of bike parts in public and there is no definition of "store." Any ambiguities in the law will be left to the judgment of officers on the beat -- which will no doubt result in biased and arbitrary enforcement. Finally and importantly, this ordinance likely conflicts with the state's law decriminalizing street vending: SB 946. That law recognizes that "[s]idewalk vending provides important entrepreneurship and economic development opportunities to low-income and immigrant communities," and it disallows the use of criminal penalties for vendors who sell merchandise on public property. This ordinance runs counter to state law because it makes it a crime to "sell" or "offer to sell" bicycle parts on public property in the City -- including street vendors who happen to sell bikes. Even though section (c)(1) excludes permitted vendors from enforcement, SB 946 precludes criminal penalties even for street

vendors who are required to be permitted by local ordinance and are not. There are already laws on the books that outlaw bike theft, and this ordinance will just give police another tool to target low-income Angelenos of color. It also presents serious civil rights concerns and directly conflicts with the state's street vendor decriminalization law. Please vote NO on this harmful ordinance.

--Kath Rogers Staff Attorney, ACLU of Southern California

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michelle King

**Date Submitted:** 06/21/2022 09:30 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1115

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose this ordinance that would criminalize repairing and selling bikes on public property. This is a ludicrous waste of our city's time and resources. Bike repair is NOT a crime and will be used to target unhoused folks who repair bikes to survive. Criminalizing their livelihood will make it even harder for them to exit homelessness. Many unhoused folks rely on bikes as a means of transportation and to bypass public transportation systems that are punitive to those who can't afford it. There are already laws in place to allow for disability access to make the sidewalks passable. Making this illegal is based solely on their housing status and is discrimination. When a city fails to create affordable housing for decades, you cannot discriminate to block the few business choices available to those living on the street. Our laws force unhoused folks to stay near their belongings and this is one of the few business endeavors that can be done from a sidewalk. As we see use of force by LAPD against unhoused folks increase, we need to limit this contact. This demands much more contact and increases the likelihood for racial profiling allowing for a pretense to stop folks for being near bikes in a public place. Stop criminalizing poverty. Stop wasting our city resources on criminalizing our neighbors. Oppose this ordinance.?