

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Venice Family Clinic

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 11:53 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello Venice Family Clinic is a low income/homeless health clinic that serves 45,000 individuals on a yearly basis on the west side of Los Angeles County. As a clinic that provides services to individuals experiencing homelessness we have seen the harm that motions like this one by Buscaino can do to some of the city's most underserved populations. We strongly oppose this motion. Thank you For your time.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shannon Murray

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 12:39 PM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** The recommendation in this motion is perpetuating systemic racism. The criminalization of homelessness is ineffective, traumatic and very expensive. Shuffling people from one place to another DOES not work. We have been here before. 4118D is a racist, classist, and overall, useless way to address homelessness. Permanent housing works--it is THE most healthy, therapeutic and economic thing you can do for a person. WE NEED MORE. Rather than wasting money on expensive enforcement, we must invest our dollars in effective solutions to truly provide a home to those who are houseless.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Avish Sotonzadeh

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 09:34 PM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** These raidings and destruction of homeless encampments are shameful. They're worse than useless. You take everything from them and STILL give nothing in return. How is this even helpful to people complaining about the blight? The blight is just moving around based on who you're raiding today. It does nothing but perpetuate homelessness and perpetuate complaints. Recently one encampment was wiped in order to "make the walkway ADA compliant," which was immediately thrown out in order to just fence off a public space. City officials went to the trouble of using the disabled as an excuse to be inhumane to the homeless population and then just sold the disabled community out too. It's PATHETIC. How bad does this have to continue getting before you all try a different idea?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Howard Rubinroit

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 10:06 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** The homelessness crisis is a tragedy for the homeless and housed alike, a stigma and stain tainting the entire fabric of this City, and an appalling result of decades of failures of leadership and resolve by the officials and policy makers of this City. It not only sacrifices the lives and health (both physical and mental) of the unsheltered, but threatens to undo the success of DTLA's renaissance. Passage of this measure is an imperative, but only a start. Any councilperson who fails to support it makes a mockery of the very concept of this week's Thanksgiving holiday.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jessica Rogers

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 10:10 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Pacific Palisades Residents Association fully supports the motion for the Safer and Cleaner LA Ballot Measure because that is what Angelenos need and want. The people of LA want shelter beds, treatment and services, and safe streets. This motion gives every Angeleno the opportunity to decide what needs to be done to address this crisis that has harmed individuals, businesses and communities. We support the creation of this ballot measure that gives every Angeleno the voice they so desperately seek to have with our City government. Offering emergency or permanent housing, prohibiting encampments in public spaces, and giving the incoming and future Mayors emergency powers to break through bureaucratic barriers is what needs to happen to properly tackle our humanitarian crisis and restore safety on our streets. Pacific Palisades Residents Association urges all Councilmembers to support the motion. Thank you for your tireless efforts to address the biggest humanitarian crisis of our time. Jessica Rogers, President of the Pacific Palisades Residents Association

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jordy Coutin

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 10:17 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Councilmembers: My name is Jordy Coutin and I'm a PhD student at USC studying homelessness outreach, affordable housing, and encampment sweeps in LA. I'm also a volunteer with Water Drop LA which is a mutual aid organization that provides water and other necessities to water-scarce areas of Southern California. I am writing with regard to item 22 (21-1300-S1) on the agenda for 11/23/21 and any future items that further criminalize homelessness. Making homelessness illegal in LA and ramping up homelessness encampment sweeps, move-along orders, and other criminalization measures would be incredibly harmful to unsheltered folks, both physically, mentally, and emotionally. It would also be detrimental to the work that we and other orgs do. When folks are shuffled around we don't know where they are anymore to provide water and other necessities. This is particularly harmful when most individuals we encounter get water exclusively from us or other orgs like us. There is also a seriously flawed theory of change in this motion. The reason so many experience homelessness in LA has nothing to do with the fact that homelessness hasn't been made outright illegal. In fact, criminalization and illegality actually furthers homelessness. Sweeps destroy documents, destroy connections with outreach workers, mutual aid organizations, friends and families. They also destroy trust in city services. You can build all the housing in the world but if you destroy the trust even further by prosecuting humans for being without basic necessities then no one will trust the housing. That's what made the Barendo encampment outreach so successful at housing folks, the trust that SELAH had, not the threat of punishment. - Jordy Coutin

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elle Pirmoradi

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 10:26 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I absolutely support Buscaino's motion and street camping needs to stop. It's not helping the homeless and we see how encampments have devastated our public spaces. I was under the impression the mayor was going to India, not turning LA into indian slums. This crisis is overwhelming the city and county, get FEMA in, get people of the street and keep working on affordable housing. Many of them need services, not an apartment. Housings first is a failed policy, time to fix it!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anastasia Lankford

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 09:06 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** The “Safer & Cleaner” Los Angeles Ballot is a code for enforcement, racism, and gentrification. This measure is NOT going to be an end to the housing crisis. Displacement of poor folks with trauma/ mental illness is only retraumatizing a community further, and will end up killing the people who outreach programs service in the area. Housing is a human right! “We need support for permanent supportive housing with ACTUAL trauma informed care & mental health support! We need support in mental health, medical, and case work street teams! We do not need: police, restrictive undignified shelter systems and policy that forces people into programs that people cycle through.”

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Robert Ghotanian

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 11:45 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I believe the city needs to have a more strict agenda in solving homelessness, especially in Downtown Los Angeles. Without intervention, the homeless issue will hinder the revitalization of Downtown and weaken our economy.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nico

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 11:06 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Tried to call in, but was booted by the system when called on to speak. Hi my name is Nico, I am a member of the Venice Neighborhood Council but speaking here as a private citizen. I am calling in support of item #22. We have a humanitarian, drug, and mental health crisis going on in Los Angeles that needs to be addressed, and right now it is not. This crisis is affecting our unhoused neighbors who are dying every day on the street and being taken advantage of by drug dealers, pimps, and other criminals. This forces the city to provide shelter and services. While all homeless people are not dangerous, there has been an explosive growth of crime in areas surrounding encampments. Unfortunately a lot of schools, playgrounds, and family neighborhoods are being affected. Please vote yes. This gives voters who may have been abandoned by their Councilmember, such as in my district, a voice back on what happens. All this does is create a ballot measure to give voters a choice. Voting no would be a vote to take away a choice for voters. Thank you

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Brennan Lindner

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 10:55 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please pass this motion. The City, it's agencies (including LAHSA and LAPD), need tools to effectively encourage individuals to go to shelter. Leaving these individuals on the street to die (now 8 a day) is unconscionable. Stop playing political games and get into action to LEAD this city and its people. Take care of the unhoused (whether by housing, treatment or jail) AND the tax paying residents.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Natasha Vanderhoof AKA Soma

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 11:00 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Natasha Vanderhoof AKA Soma Director of The Sidewalk Project a national non profit that functions throughout Greater Los Angeles. I oppose the measure. I work directly with PEH to navigate harm reduction and housing and I am present at sweeps. At the recent sweep on 6th and Los Angeles I had to help EMS cut an old man out of a tent and get him medical attention before the bulldozer came through. I also witness daily that not only is the shelter system not desirable to my clients, it doesn't work. The restrictive environment and the lack of actual support around things like getting the needed documents, as well as the fact that LA does not have enough permanent supportive housing to link people to after interim housing, leaves people in limbo and churns people through programs and back onto the street. If the new proposal is passed this is a recipe for enforcement leading to jail. That's not to mention the outbreaks of covid that have happened in the shelters. I have had to double mask and test multiple times a week as I have gone in some locations and some locations I have not been allowed entry during covid. That's not to mention the confiscation of harm reduction supplies that has led to deaths. Enforcement of no camping statutes is laughable when programs can not even retain or keep people safe that we work so hard to get in their doors. We need permanent supportive housing with access to mobile syringe exchange programs, full case management and mental health support. We need safe consumption sites & medical treatment to help with highly complex medical issues and longterm programs that offer deep social recovery. There are wonderful programs and complex systems of care that already exist and need to be funded properly to build capacity. We should not be waiting 13 hours for an ambulance or begging for supplies for community based organizations that have worked through the pandemic saving lives. Build permanent housing. You see data. I see first hand how permanent housing has saved the lives of some of my clients who are actually living in some of the new spaces and now are starting to recover from trauma and have new lives, while our people in shelters end up back on the street.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mike Bash

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 03:24 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Imagine that you were homeless. Youve tried to find a better job, a better housing situation, a better way to move forward but because of cruel Councilmembers you can't find anywhere to sleep, have to constantly be on alert for rogue cops that beat you and trash your stuff. Now imagine you have a child or a dog. How ridiculously hard is life day to day? Imagine you have mental health issues. Imagine you have a disability. Would you want people youve never met making your life harder and more miserable? This bill is irresponsible and cruel. Use the money and resources needed for this bill to help create permanent housing and health services so we can HELP people. Not hurt them.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Martina Dilillo  
**Date Submitted:** 11/22/2021 09:24 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** To District 11 city council members, My husband and I strongly support Councilman Joe Buscaino's ballot measure for a law prohibiting encampments. We would like to return our beaches and parks back to clean and beautiful environment for all to enjoy, not for encampments. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Denny Schneider

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 07:49 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** FAVOR It's time for some structure in the city! Homeless is cruel to those in crisis as well as to the general population. This measure is a start toward holding people accountable while at the same time providing needed aid to those that are in need and homeless. Currently the establishment of encampments creates a new, localized society which favors the strong while failing to protect the weak. This must change and this proposal gives impetus to required change that will not happen in this city without special emphasis. Nothing happens quickly in this city and when it finally does there's no going back. Evaluation of what works and what doesn't is rare indeed. Programs gain a life of their own and virtually never sunset. I blame reluctance to enact change because everything is so difficult to start in the first place. Under this proposal red tape is removed to facilitate action.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carter Hewgley  
**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:19 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I write in opposition to Item #22. As the Director of Homeless Initiatives at the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, I can assure you that people experiencing a housing crisis do not need a deeper and wider criminalization of their existence. They need more safe places to be, not ordinances that pretend to help them with the illusion of adequate shelter and housing options that simply don't exist at scale. This motion is political. It is designed to drive out votes among housed residents that wish the city would be "tough on homelessness" at the expense of the unhoused. It subjects the rights and agency of a minority population to the will of the majority, which is discriminatory. It is ablest in its assumption that people simply lack the motivation to move into shelter or housing when they have serious disabilities, barriers, and trauma that require us to provide options that meet their needs - not force arbitrary deadlines and inadequate options onto people surviving a crisis. This Council should focus on implementing its own Street Engagement Strategy, incentivizing the production and maintenance of affordable housing, approving Emergency Housing Voucher applications at HACLA, increasing shelter and housing options through Project Homekey acquisitions, expanding universal basic income for low-income Angelenos, and opening daytime service centers in every neighborhood across the city. Vote "no" on item #22.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nicholas Previsich

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:31 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Re item 22, motion to place a ballot initiative on the Jun 2022 ballot by CM Buscaino: My wife and I STRONGLY support this motion and this initiative. If implemented this would be by far the most significant and productive action taken to address the homelessness disaster in decades. The current brutal and cynical status quo MUST END, and CM Buscaino's proposed action offers the only path forward for that to happen. As CD14 constituents we urge CM DeLeon to vote in favor of this motion. As Angelenos, we demand that ALL Councilmembers do the same. For thousands of people currently on our streets this offers their only hope for eventual lives of dignity and independence--and absolutely the only hope for our City to survive and thrive over the long term.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** The People Concern - John Maceri, CEO

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:32 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** On behalf of The People Concern, we are writing in strong opposition of item #22. As a service provider working on the frontlines, The People Concern knows that creating barriers through fines and criminal penalties and disconnecting people from the places where there are already receiving services only makes it harder for unhoused people to exit the streets into permanent housing. We will not be able to effectively address the unsheltered homelessness crisis in LA with the failed strategies of criminalization and policies that sweep unhoused people away from one neighborhood and into another. This ballot measure claims that it will "end encampments." Now more than ever we must focus on the people living in those encampments and what it will take to end their homelessness: services and housing. The People Concern operates 18 outreach teams across the County who build trusting relationships with our vulnerable neighbors daily and support them on their path to permanent, safe and stable housing. A fully funded and implemented Street Engagement Strategy will help do this. This ballot measure, however, will only move us farther away from this goal.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karin Olson

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:33 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is imperative that this is passed. By the week the situation becomes worse. When one group is moved from one area, they populate the next. Crime has skyrocketed. Physical attacks the same. This is not the City in which I grew up.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karin Espinosa  
**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:36 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** The must be passed. The crime has become rampant. Officials are doing NOTHING. The police can do nothing because the people above are giving the orders to be hands off. No RV, van, car can be towed if someone is living in it....their trash is protected. DO SOMETHING!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Daniel Espinosa  
**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:38 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** The situation is getting worse and worse.....Bonin is useless. Pass this!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** L. Lopez

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:49 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge the City Council to vote against the Motion as written. Prohibiting homelessness encampments in all public areas will do nothing to move towards a solution for the homelessness crisis this City faces. Criminalizing encampments and subjecting the unhoused to criminal penalties only creates additional barriers to obtaining permanent housing, the effects of which include: debt in the form of fines and penalties; negative credit impacts; and criminal histories that may disqualify the unhoused from housing and employment opportunities. I have worked with the unhoused population and their advocates, criminalization only serves to erect insurmountable barriers to service providers and drain the few resources dedicated to serving the unhoused. Time and again this Council has looked to short-term measures that do NOTHING to effectively move towards humane and sensible solutions to address the shortage of supportive housing, affordable housing stock, and services for Angelenos who are the most at risk of becoming unhoused. There is nothing in this motion that details what services will be created as "diversion programs." As a voting constituent, I do not agree that this is the best way to approach this issue.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, St. Joseph Center

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:54 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, President and CEO of St. Joseph Center. I write today in strong opposition to item #22. Criminalization and sweeps without services are broken policies that do little more than shift unhoused people from one neighborhood to another. This ballot measure proposes that we revisit failed approaches from the past, when what we must do in this moment is implement policies we know will lead to a better future for all. In addition to being the Lead Service Provider for SPA 5, St. Joseph Center works in Communities in South LA, DTLA, and across the City to end homelessness. Our experiences throughout the City and County of LA tell us that punitive steps such as disconnecting people from the places where there are already receiving services and creating barriers through fines and criminal penalties only make it harder for our staff to connect with unhoused people who want to exit the streets into permanent housing. The City does not need new a ballot measure to support our unhoused neighbors and address the challenges of encampments. Rather, this can be achieved by fully funding and implementing the Street Engagement Strategy that this Council already approved more than two months ago. We can also address the public health needs of people living in encampments in tandem with the Street Engagement Strategy by using such public health resources as hygiene stations, porta-potties, storage, and regular and consistent visits by sanitation services. A fully funded and implemented Street Engagement Strategy will allow us to eliminate encampments by helping the people who live there. This ballot measure takes us in the opposite direction; it will do little more than shift and disburse people living on the street without helping anyone make progress toward real solutions. We already have an approach in place that will yield clear and passable sidewalks without displacing and harming our most vulnerable neighbors. It's called the Street Engagement Strategy. The Council has already voted to support it, now all you need to do is provide it with the resources to succeed.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jane Demian

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 08:59 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Councilmember Buscaino's Motion explains that there isn't enough homeless housing, and that Permanent Supportive Housing under Measure HHH is taking WAY too long to build, so it sounds like he supports building more homeless housing....but THEN he launches into a proposal for a ballot measure to prohibit homeless encampments in all public areas if temporary housing is available and offered and cites Martin vs Boise. Offering housing is not that easy when unhoused people actually need substantial services, treatment for mental health and substance use, that in many cases goes untreated in our present mental health system model. If unhoused people are disabled, but their disability is not considered when housing is offered, if they need mental health services but those needs are not treated or even acknowledged when housing is offered, then creating a ballot measure prohibiting camping is only a cynical ploy to clear city streets without actually addressing the root causes of houselessness. Temporary housing is just that...TEMPORARY. What happens when all the temporary shelters are full, and that more individuals contract COVID because they are warehoused in congregate shelters? I don't see anything in the Motion addressing the high cost of housing, to make "affordable" housing actually affordable, or to address the medical and mental health system to provide the treatment and support that individuals need to be able to sustain themselves in this society. This Motion needs to be voted down by the City Council and I hope that Council members understand that you can't just clear the streets and prohibit public camping when all the other social ills remain the same...you have to address the root causes.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** katherine Maynard

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 09:22 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please STOP all homeless camping on public property; this is unsafe for the community and for the homeless. I also think public property such as parks, beaches, etc, should be for all the community to enjoy. Do not build homeless housing on these spaces. There is very little in terms of parks or beach areas for families, so any homeless housing should be built in areas already used for housing or industry.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Joanne Preece, Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 09:36 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** On behalf of the Community Clinic Association of LA County (CCALAC), we appreciate the opportunity to share with the Council our concerns associated with prohibitions on homeless encampments in all public areas. Many CCALAC member clinics provide street medicine services and serve people experiencing homelessness and those who are housing insecure. We know that creating barriers through fines and criminal penalties, and disconnecting people from the wrap-around supportive services they are receiving from their providers, makes it harder for unhoused people to manage their health and exit the streets into permanent housing. There are steps the City can take now to support people experiencing homelessness, one of which is to fully fund and implement the city's Street Engagement Strategy, which Council approved over 2 months ago. The Street Engagement Strategy will help ensure that any enforcement efforts are preceded by outreach and engagement by trained service providers who can assess people's needs and connect them to appropriate services and housing options. Without a strategy in place, efforts to remove encampments could disconnect people experiencing homelessness from the health care services they are currently receiving and make it difficult to re-engage this population if individuals are relocated without communication among those doing the placement and local service providers. The Street Engagement Strategy will assist in preventing the disruption of the care clinics provide to people experiencing homelessness, especially those who are served through clinics' street medicine programs. We are not effectively addressing the unsheltered homeless crisis in LA today by sweeping unhoused people away from one neighborhood and into another and disconnecting them from care and services. We must focus on the people living in those encampments and what it will take to truly end their homelessness: services and housing. A fully funded and implemented Street Engagement Strategy will help do this. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Downtown Women's Center

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 09:41 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Downtown Women's Center stands in strong opposition to item 22, the proposed ballot measure to bar our 41,000 unhoused neighbors from all public spaces. As a service provider whose work is built around the premise of trauma and resiliency informed care, DWC is adamant that the criminalization of homelessness does nothing to actually break the cycle of homelessness, and it in fact increases retraumatization while pushing personal stability further out of reach. Instead of debating a regressive and legally circumspect ballot measure, the city should instead be funding and implementing the Street Engagement Strategy, which Council approved over 2 months ago. Additionally, the city can and should address the public health needs of people living in encampments with robust public health infrastructure - like hygiene stations, portapotties, storage, and regular and consistent sanitation services. The Downtown Women's Center stands ready to work with Council to champion legislation that expedites housing production for our most vulnerable residents. But that cannot come at the expense of criminalizing the very existence of 41-thousand individuals.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Temi Akinyemi  
**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 09:47 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Council, Please vote in support of Safer and Cleaner LA Ballot Measure motion CF#21-1300-S1. All people in our cities need clear access to walkable sidewalks that are in the public right of way. This is a matter of maintaining a decent quality of life in Los Angeles and preventing the city from degrading into further squalor. Thank you, Temi Akinyemi

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amy Hollingsworth

**Date Submitted:** 11/23/2021 09:54 AM

**Council File No:** 21-1300-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. WE NEED TO END HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AREAS AND RELATED MATTERS. IT IS A DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE AND WE NEED TO HAVE BETTER AND MORE EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO THIS GROWING PROBLEM. OBVIOUSLY YOUR CURRENT POLICY IS NOT WORKING AND IT HAS CREATED A TOXIC ENVIRONMENT ALLOWING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO GROW AND PUT LAW ABIDING CITIZENS AT RISK.