

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 08/22/2026 02:10 PM

Council File No: 21-4118-S14

Comments for Public Posting: C.F. 21-4118-S14 and the August 18, 2026 action rescinding 12 LAMC 41.18(c) designations in Council District 13 Jason Richmond 226 North Gower Street Los Angeles, CA 90004 I am a resident of Council District 13. I oppose the August 18, 2026 City Council action (10-3) rescinding twelve LAMC 41.18(c) zones in CD-13 designated under this file. That action did not repeal LAMC 41.18. Subsections (a), (b), (e), and (f) remain in force citywide. The vote removed only twelve discretionary posted (c) designations in this district. The motion was introduced on August 11, 2026, calendared on August 14, and adopted on August 18. That schedule left little practical time for residents of CD-13 to learn of the proposal, understand what would replace the twelve (c) designations, or submit informed comment before the vote. I am not aware of meaningful district-wide notice or a public process that invited opposition or alternative approaches. Since the vote, I have not spoken with a single fellow constituent who had prior knowledge of the motion or the pending action. Conducting a consequential district-wide policy change in mid-to-late August, when many residents are traveling or focused on other matters, further limited practical notice. Removing enforcement tools without a published follow-up plan for sanitation, outreach capacity, and right-of-way management is a process failure as well as a policy choice. The repealed sites are freeway overpasses and underpasses on the 101 and 2 corridors in Hollywood, Silver Lake, Echo Park, and Glassell Park. From 226 N Gower Street and Larchmont, approximate road distances to the repealed sites: Bronson/101 2.0-2.3 mi; Sunset/101 (Hollywood) 2.2-2.5 mi; Myra/Sunset 3.0-3.5 mi; Silver Lake Blvd at Sunset and at 101 4.0-4.5 mi; Vendome/101, Glendale/Sunset, and Alvarado/101 4.5-5.5 mi; Verdugo/2 6.5-8.0 mi. These locations sit on routes that connect the northern and eastern portions of CD-13 to the central and western portions of the district. Removing the posted (c) designations eliminates a specific enforcement tool at those nodes while the remainder of 41.18 continues to apply elsewhere. The result is uneven application of the same ordinance within a single council district. Unmanaged encampments at freeway nodes are associated with open drug use, discarded waste, and sidewalk obstruction. Sidewalk blockage can impede ADA passage under existing law. Flea-borne (murine)

typhus, transmitted by rat fleas, reached a record 220 cases in Los Angeles County in 2025. Nearly 9 in 10 people identified with flea-borne typhus in Los Angeles County in 2025 required hospitalization (LA County Department of Public Health). Typhus is a disease that historically thrived before modern sewer systems, waste management, and antibiotics; its reappearance is a marker of failed sanitation conditions. Sidewalk obstruction at these nodes can impede passage under LAMC 41.18(a)(1) and the ADA standards that provision incorporates. Removing posted 41.18(c) designations at the twelve CD-13 sites reduces one enforcement tool at locations that already present sanitation and public-right-of-way challenges. No published follow-up plan for sanitation capacity, outreach, or right-of-way management accompanied the rescission. Finally, a comprehensive approach to right-of-way management must account for the welfare of animals in these unmanaged environments. Encampments near major freeway nodes expose animals to hazardous waste, trauma, and the same rodent and flea conditions linked to murine typhus, which reached a record 220 cases in Los Angeles County in 2025. Humane governance requires active sanitation, structured outreach, and clear infrastructure, not the withdrawal of enforcement tools that leave both people and animals in deteriorating conditions. I request that the record reflect opposition to the rescission of these twelve (c) designations and that remaining enforceable provisions of 41.18 continue to be applied consistently in CD-13. I intend, myself, and encourage others in the community, to document conditions at the affected locations with dated photographs and video and to submit that material to this file and to relevant City departments as evidence of ongoing public-health, sanitation, and public-right-of-way impacts.

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For Immediate Release:

April 02, 2026

Public Health Reports All Time High of Flea-Borne Typhus Cases - People Urged to Take Precautions Now to Protect Themselves and Their Pets

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is reporting a record number of flea-borne typhus cases in Los Angeles County, with 220 cases identified in 2025, the highest-ever recorded. Alarming, nearly 9 out of 10 people identified as infected with typhus required hospitalization, underscoring the seriousness of the disease and the urgent need for awareness and prevention. The good news is that flea-borne typhus is treatable with antibiotics, especially when diagnosed early.

People are often exposed in and around their homes, when infected fleas are carried indoors on pets or other animals. Fleas that spread typhus are commonly found on stray animals, rodents, and other wildlife such as opossums.

Public Health urges people to take these key steps now:

- Protect your pets: Use flea control year-round
- Avoid stray animals: Don't feed or handle them
- Keep wildlife out: Secure trash and block entry and hiding points

Cases have been reported across the County, including three localized outbreaks [investigated](#) in 2025 in Central Los Angeles City, the City of Santa Monica and the unincorporated neighborhood of Willowbrook in South LA County. This marks a continued rise from 187 cases in 2024 and reflects a sustained upward trend in recent years.

"Flea-borne typhus can cause serious illness, but it is preventable with simple steps," said Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Health Officer. "With cases at an all-time high and most requiring hospitalization, it's critical that people take simple steps now, such as routinely using flea control on their pets, avoiding contact with stray animals, and preventing wildlife from living in or around their homes."

Symptoms typically appear within 1–2 weeks after becoming infected and may include fever, headache, rash, and body aches. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek medical care promptly, especially if they may have been exposed to fleas or animals.

In 2025, cases ranged in age from 1 to 85 years, highlighting that people of all age groups are at risk.

About Flea-Borne Typhus (Typhus)

Typhus is an acute febrile bacterial infection caused by *Rickettsia Typhi* bacteria, which is spread by infected fleas.

Because animals carrying infected fleas often appear healthy, people may not realize they are at risk.

In Los Angeles County, infected fleas are commonly found on rats, free-roaming cats, and opossums. Pets that spend time outdoors can carry fleas into homes and expose household members. People can also become infected when flea dirt (poop) enters the body through cuts or scrapes in the skin or if rubbed into the eyes. Infected animals typically do not show signs of illness, and flea-borne typhus is not spread from person to person.

Signs and symptoms of flea-borne typhus can include fever, headache, body aches and muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and rash. Flea-borne typhus is treatable with antibiotics, and early diagnosis helps prevent severe illness and hospitalization.

Additional Steps to Prevent Flea Exposure

The best way to prevent illness is to reduce exposure to fleas and avoid contact with animals that may carry them. People can still be exposed without direct contact, as infected fleas can be brought into the home on pets or other animals.

- **Protect yourself and your pets:**

- o Routinely use flea control products on your pets.
- o Keep pets indoors as much as possible.
- o When outside, use EPA-registered insect repellent labeled for protection against fleas.

- **Avoid attracting wild or stray animals:**

- o Don't leave pet food outdoors.
- o Don't feed or touch free-roaming animals.

- **Maintain your property:**

- o Keep your yard free of debris and trim overgrown plants and bushes.
- o Keep trash in containers with tightly fitting lids.
- o Close off crawl spaces and seal openings where animals can enter, hide, or find food.

- **Report concerns:**

- o Contact your local animal control if you observe any stray dogs, injured or sick dogs, cats, rodents, or opossums near your property.

- **Know the symptoms:**

- o Flea-borne typhus can cause fever, chills, headache, and rash. Seek medical care promptly if symptoms develop.

To learn more about flea-borne typhus and prevention visit: ph.lacounty.gov/Typhus

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