Communication from Public

Name: Marlo Torres
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Council File No: 21-4118-S1
Comments for Public Posting: I am a Council District 13 resident writing to register my strong opposition to the August 18, 2026 decision to rescind the Section 41.18 designated zones in CD13. This issue directly affects my family and our neighborhood. One example is the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Heliotrope Drive, at the corner of our street. Conditions at and around this location have affected how my family uses our neighborhood. My family and I do not feel safe walking around our own neighborhood, particularly in this area. We should not have to avoid nearby sidewalks or change where we walk because we are concerned about our safety or whether the sidewalk will be accessible. This is not a hypothetical policy concern for us; it affects our daily lives and our ability to feel safe in the community where we live. I support providing housing, shelter, mental health care, substance-use treatment, and other services to people experiencing homelessness. However, I do not believe that providing those services and maintaining safe, accessible public spaces are mutually exclusive. Residents should be able to safely use our sidewalks, parks, and other public spaces. This is especially important for children walking to school, seniors, people with disabilities, families, and residents who rely on walking and public transportation. I am concerned that removing these restrictions without a clear and enforceable alternative will allow the conditions that made residents feel unsafe and unable to freely use their neighborhood to return. The City has a responsibility both to help people experiencing homelessness and to maintain safe, sanitary, and accessible public spaces for everyone. Compassion for people experiencing homelessness should not mean that residents are expected to accept conditions that make them afraid to walk in their own neighborhoods. I respectfully ask the City Council and Councilmember Soto-Martínez to reconsider this decision and develop an approach that pairs meaningful housing and services with clear, enforceable standards that keep sidewalks and other public spaces safe and accessible for everyone. Please include my opposition in the public record for Council Files 21-4118-S1 and 21-4118-S14.