

Communication from Public

Name: Tommy Newman

Date Submitted: 01/12/2022 03:22 PM

Council File No: 21-4118-S21

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, I write to request your support for a temporary moratorium on all LAMC 41.18 enforcement while the City of Los Angeles, and in particular its homeless services providers and unhoused residents, reels from the devastating and highly contagious effects of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. This surge has resulted in new coronavirus cases on a scale unseen since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to LA County DPH, as of today there are over 200 homeless service settings experiencing active outbreaks and under quarantine – which is double the amount since Jan 1. Last week, there were a reported 918 new cases of COVID-19 amongst people experiencing homelessness - the highest single week of the entire pandemic. As part of the Street Engagement Strategy, outreach workers and LAHSA staff have worked hard to offer shelter and other resources to individuals in these locations. However, recent surge has resulted in staff shortages across service providers, which hinders the ability of outreach workers and case managers to provide support for people experiencing homelessness. In March 2020, City Council took swift and critical action to allow people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to shelter in place, and increased hygiene stations in encampments to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Similar urgent public health actions are necessary now to protect people living outside and inside congregate shelters - all of whom are particularly vulnerable to the life-threatening impacts of this deadly virus. We ask that during this critical time and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Council continue resolutions related to LAMC 41.18 designated locations for 60 days, temporarily pause all 41.18 enforcement of designated areas for a period of 60 days and request report backs from LAHSA in partnership with LA County DHS and DPH on updates on the surge and progress on mitigating the spread of COVID-19 amongst people experiencing homelessness. This request is not about going backwards – this is about pausing where the city is right now with regards to 41.18 in the interest of public health and protecting the lives of people experiencing homeless, homeless service setting staffers, and the general public. Thank you for your leadership and support in this urgent matter. Sincerely, Tommy Newman
Vice President, Engagement & Activation United Way of Greater

Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Vicky Arenas - The People Concern

Date Submitted: 01/12/2022 09:57 AM

Council File No: 21-4118-S21

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of The People Concern, one of LA's largest housing and social services agencies with multidisciplinary outreach teams across the County, we urge this Council to pass a temporary moratorium on all LAMC 41.18 enforcement. Across the County, we have witnessed a steep rise in COVID-19 cases among people experiencing homelessness. The current surge and highly contagious Omicron variant is severely impacting service providers and unhoused residents. Due to exposure and positive cases, overall capacity across the sector is significantly reduced. For these reasons, we are requesting a temporary moratorium on all 41.18 enforcement until the end of this current surge. Implementing the moratorium will prevent the additional spread of COVID-19 among our unhoused neighbors, reducing the potential for severe illness and death and decreasing the strain on congregate shelters and service providers. Thank you for your leadership on this urgent matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Va Lecia Adams Kellum, PhD

Date Submitted: 01/12/2022 10:13 AM

Council File No: 21-4118-S21

Comments for Public Posting: I am Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, writing on behalf of St. Joseph Center to urge you to pass a temporary moratorium on all 41.18 enforcement. Almost two years ago, when the pandemic was first taking hold in Los Angeles, the City Council took critical steps to protect public health, including allowing people experiencing homelessness to shelter in place. It is imperative that you treat the current Omicron-fueled surge with similar urgency. Our unsheltered neighbors have vaccination rates that are lower than the overall population and they are much more likely to have underlying health conditions. This makes them particularly vulnerable to the Omicron variant. We are seeing this play out in the numbers — last week we had 918 newly reported cases of COVID amongst people experiencing homelessness and we currently have 196 homeless service settings and shelters with active COVID outbreaks. These startling figures make clear that this is the wrong time to send people to congregate shelters, which is where they are most likely to be directed as a result of any enforcement actions. Continued implementation of 41.18 during this current Omicron surge will endanger the lives of people who are already at risk and already marginalized. I urge you to implement a temporary moratorium on all 41.18 enforcement until this threat is significantly reduced.

Communication from Public

Name: Lydia Kurtz

Date Submitted: 01/12/2022 09:27 AM

Council File No: 21-4118-S21

Comments for Public Posting: Stop pushing for the removal of innocent civilians who, largely due to your Council's negligence, do not have safe housing. With COVID already reaching horrific exponential growth, it is even more completely irresponsible as public officials to forcibly remove people whose well-being is quite literally within your control. Step up to your job title and provide more housing, care, and COVID services for your civilians that are suffering at your own hands.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 01/12/2022 08:58 AM

Council File No: 21-4118-S21

Comments for Public Posting: We are hitting record COVID case counts in LA County and passing this resolution and enforcing 41.18 zones will lead to even more spread of the virus. The alternatives for people living in these areas is indoor, congregate shelters, the perfect place for the COVID virus to breed and infect. Demonstrate that you are the leaders of the city by prioritizing people and health over saving face and politics.

Communication from Public

Name: Carene Mekertichyan
Date Submitted: 01/12/2022 09:02 AM
Council File No: 21-4118-S21
Comments for Public Posting: 41.18 criminalizes our unhoused community rather than provide for their basic needs. Continuing the roll out of this horrible motion during a surge of the most transmissible COVID variant Omicron is what is truly criminal. Stop the continued displacement of our community members in the midst of this crisis. Stop the displacement and gentrification period.