

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 23-0008-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Subject: Vote NO on Council File 23-0008-S4 Please do not rubber stamp council members' requests to ban RV overnight parking on streets in their districts. In this time of horrendous homelessness, we must make sure that public streets are available to all members of the public. Public safety, not aesthetics, should be the only justification for any restrictions. LAMC 80.69.4, section 2 specifies in excellent detail the dangers that would justify banning oversized vehicles from street parking. These dangers are summed up as "adversely impacting the visibility of oncoming traffic, creating constrictions in the traveled way, or substantially reducing the availability of parking for residents and businesses." The six restricted areas proposed by Councilor Park should be thoroughly evaluated per Section 2, and a report should be produced before any vote is taken. The stakes are too high to do otherwise. As a homeowner in Council District 11, I am aware of the disruption that unhoused residents living in their vehicles can cause to housed residents. However, if vehicles do not in fact block visibility, constrict traffic, or take up a majority of parking spaces, there are other steps that can be taken to soften this disruption. More public bathrooms would help, as would public showers. I, for one, am willing to support such services with increased taxes in order to make my community less cruel to the unfortunate and, in a word, more civilized. It is not civilized to criminalize poverty. It is not civilized to make it hard for our unhoused neighbors to retain their vehicles, which represent both transportation and protection. Since the word "civilized" comes from the Latin words for city and city-dweller, I therefore call upon city council members to live up to their positions: be civilized and vote NO on Council File 23-0008-S4 agendized for the City Council meeting on Friday May 19th. Instead of passing Councilor Park's request on to the full council, give it to LADOT for a detailed evaluation. Please make that evaluation public and take it into careful consideration before you vote on the streets involved. Thank you for your time and attention.