

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Calvin Howes

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 01:53 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** This measure is deeply concerning to me as a citizen of conscience, as a scientist, as a worker, and as someone who values peaceful demand for change. The 1st Amendment supports the right to peaceful assembly, and LA has a long and proud tradition of protests for justice. This ordinance would effectively ban any formal picket activity of public-sector employees, crushing a fight for equitable labor conditions. I'm also very concerned that enforcement will be doled out by the LASD, which has a well-documented history of deputy gangs and egregious violence against civilians. This rule is based on inaccurate reporting of college campus protests and the recent LA synagogue protest as foundationally violent and problematic, when in reality those protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful; the free license of violent counterprotestors to both attack those standing up for their beliefs (peacefully) AND to set a narrative of protests--particularly pro-Palestinian protests--must not stand. I strongly urge the council to vote this motion down and avoid advancing similar motions in the future. This is a fundamental issue of free speech and I hope that the Council will stand up to defend political advocacy of LA residents.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 05:25 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I vehemently oppose this measure - this criminalization is a blatant and flagrant attempt at undermining the first amendment of the United States. For one's reference, I have included the text of the first Amendment below: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. The creation of "bubble zones" across critical locations serves nothing but to infringe upon the right of the people to peaceably assemble. The text of the bill mentions by prohibiting citizens from approaching citizens with the "purpose of passing a leaflet or handbill, displaying a sign, engaging in protest, education or counseling in the public right-of-way". Are we so scared of education, that we shrink away from the perspectives of others? As an American, I take value in hearing the concerns of my peers. I may not agree with everything I hear, but I undoubtedly respect the right of everyone to speak their mind. Nevertheless, I have witnessed certain types of speech to be more permissible than others (as determined by an unknown criteria), and this bill serves to further punish the "unpermissible" speech. Criminalizing action near places of worship, healthcare, and education only serves to quash Angelinos from speaking their concerns about the crucial issues affecting contemporary society, such as contentions regarding the genocide in Gaza, access to abortion and women's bodily rights, and the defunding of American public education and safety of students in schools. Protests are not meant to be convenient. Thinking through America's rich history of protest - would we have succeeded in separating from the British if we had "protested" in locations and times convenient to the British? Would we be where we are today if we had not thrown tea into the Boston harbor, had the "obstructive" sit-ins of the Civil Rights era not occurred, had students not protest our involvement in the Vietnam War? Had we chosen to protest under the shadow of convenience of those oppressive and unfair to us, we would not be the country we are today. I request you to consider this. I implore the council to vote NO on this measure, lest you be known for your unwavering commitment to suppressing American freedoms vested to us by the Constitution.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jessica Garcia

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 06:29 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is against our first amendment rights to BAN protests. as citizens of the United States and in one of the most "progressive" states, it is unbelievable that this is even an ordinance that is being brought to the public. This is absolutely unthinkable. It is taking our basic rights away.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ron Ewert

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 11:51 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** This proposal is an absurd affront to democracy and our civil liberties. This will effectively criminalize protest and open the door to further erode American rights. It will be opposed and spawn numerous lawsuits draining much needed funds to actually address the root causes of our problems. Again, reactive rushed legislative responses to concerned well meaning citizens exercising their first amendment right will only perpetuate cycles of waste and disillusionment. This is unconstitutional and deeply offensive

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:57 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** As the motion itself states, "Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.19 states that 'No person shall sit or stand on or at the entrance of any house of worship, hall, theater, or other place of public assemblage in any manner so as to obstruct the entrance to that place.'" With this already being part of the Municipal Code, there is no need for a new ordinance adding stricter requirements that could effectively ban citizens' First Amendment right to protest. There is nothing to be gained by adding such a restriction, but there's much to be lost - consider how much of the city is within 100 feet of "religious institutions, healthcare facilities, educational facilities or community/public facilities." This ordinance coming into effect would do little to nothing to help stop anyone who actually has malicious intent (violent actions are already prohibited by other laws), but it would silence those who wish to use their right to protest peacefully.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alexander C Brenner

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:13 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly oppose the proposed measure criminalizing protests within 100 feet of religious institutions, healthcare facilities, schools, and public spaces. This isn't just bad policy—it's a violation of our First Amendment rights. Protesting isn't a privilege; it's a guaranteed right. This measure isn't about safety—it's about control, likely driven by concerns over the upcoming Olympics. But stifling free speech ahead of a global event doesn't protect our city; it diminishes it. LA should be a place where voices are heard, not silenced. And as for schools, particularly college campuses—these have been historic centers of change. From the Civil Rights Movement to anti-war protests, universities have always been where progress begins. Criminalizing protest near these spaces would erase that legacy and chill future movements. Protest is vital, especially in places that symbolize power and influence. Don't turn LA into a city that criminalizes peaceful dissent. Stand with the Constitution and reject this measure.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 07:34 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the motion to instate bubble zones around sensitive sites because of concern over criminalizing protest. The First amendment right to free speech is protected behavior practiced by union workers and members of the public. Criminalizing this behavior necessarily puts community members in harms way and presents new opportunities to have run-ins with the police. Please instead consider a process involving community stakeholders that seeks to address the inaction of LAPD in instances where protesters have been harmed while engaging in protest and civil disobedience. Thank you

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 07:49 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the motion to instate bubble zones around sensitive sites because of concern over criminalizing protest. The First amendment right to free speech is protected behavior practiced by union workers and members of the public. Criminalizing this behavior necessarily puts community members in harms way and presents new opportunities to have run-ins with the police. Please instead consider a process involving community stakeholders that seeks to address the inaction of LAPD in instances where protesters have been harmed while engaging in protest and civil disobedience. Thank you.



## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:29 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** Criminalizing protest in this manner is a flagrant violation of our First Amendment rights, and will have reverberating effects on the robust labor unions of Los Angeles and all of our citizen's rights to safely express themselves. This policy will not protect any group or individual from harm, but rather, allow for the harming of hundreds of thousands of American citizens in Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Delania Grijalva

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:35 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the motion to instate bubble zones around sensitive sites because of my concern over criminalizing protest. The First Amendment right to free speech is protected behavior practiced by union workers and members of the public, who will protest in front of stores and other public areas. Criminalizing these protests puts community members in harms way and presents new opportunities to have unnecessary interactions with the police. Please instead consider a process involving community stakeholders that seeks to address the inaction of LAPD in instances where protestors have been harmed while engaging in protest and civil disobedience. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2024 09:41 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** This policy seeks to effectively criminalize peaceful protest, clearly infringing upon LA residents' right to free speech and peaceful demonstration. Advocates for this policy deploy blatantly false narratives which mischaracterize peaceful protestors who are merely doing their part to make their perspectives heard in (what is supposed to be) a democracy. This policy will have severe consequences for our democratic process, and be especially detrimental for union workers who will lose what is often their most effective means of bargaining with their corporate employers. To support this policy and criminalize peaceful demonstration is to spit in the face of the proud decades-long history of labor organizing in Los Angeles, which has undeniably protected the rights of workers for generations. I, a Los Angeles resident, do not support this explicitly un-American and unconstitutional move to silence workers and the Angelenos who make up the vast majority of your voter base. I am appalled by the violent ignorance which drives this policy, and voice my opposition to it as strongly as I am able.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nicolas Diaz

**Date Submitted:** 09/09/2024 10:01 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion infringes on our constitutional right to assembly. As a Jewish constituent whom this motion is supposedly meant to protect, I am opposed to this and encourage you to vote no

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 12:03 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I am writing to express concern about the ordinance that will make protesting a misdemeanor crime if it is 100ft from certain buildings. This is against our right to protest and speak our minds about issues the public are concerned about. It is concerning to hear this is being talked about especially because of the uptick in protests against the genocide in Gaza - why is it now that the city wants to make this a crime? We all know why there are many protesting and it is injustice to try to scare people to stop doing so by potentially making this a crime. Think about what kind of message this sends out. We care about communities all around the world and are trying to get people to listen. The protests are peaceful and it is typically counter-protesters that bring violence. Please re-think this ordinance and why it is harmful.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Briyahn T

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 09:34 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** Stop funding this genocide and stop criminalizing outward opposition to it. The right to protest is fundamental to the democracy you say you're trying to save. Let's also stop pretending it isn't a genocide. America is a bully in the world's schoolroom, throwing explosive 2000-pound spitballs and then hiding our hands behind our back, pretending they are tied and feigning innocence. We can see you, so atop pretending! Cowardice is not a flattering accessory yet it seems to be in every politician's wardrobe! Try leaving the house without it. How insulting to follow the onslaught of torture and killing with a dog and pony show of humanitarian relief (which we make nearly impossible to retrieve). What is the purpose of bombing innocent civilians? American tradition? It's high time to break tradition. The people of Los Angeles are trying to stand up for what is right. Our leaders need to find a spine and keep it so they can also stand up for what is right. Why are we bombing and wiping out civilians who were surviving displacement in tents we forced them into with our weapons of mass destruction? Stop funding Israel's brutal colonial genocide on Palestine. Your job is to listen to the people, and we the people are telling you—we have absolutely had enough.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anne Marie Drolet

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 12:53 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose this motion. The parameters are so strict as to function as a complete suppression of political dissent. This is an easy way to prevent freedom of assembly, which is one of our fundamental rights in this country. We have a right to protest, and the excuse that it will 'prevent access' is flimsy and in bad faith.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 01:07 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is an affront to our first amendment and will set the city of LA decades behind on any civil rights work.



## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 01:39 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** What precedent is being set here? Is it your job to protect the citizens of this community, or the businesses? And yes, businesses include religious grounds. If those institutions have private entry then by all means, charge folks who TRESPASS. However, if a public business is being protested, it is THEIR responsibility to take care of that- not the government's. This council has no right to infringe on the rights of those community members participating in protest- the government should not create burdensome bureaucratic obstacles designed to frustrate the exercise of our first amendment rights. We are truly going backwards in time and becoming overly-sensitive people if the core tenants of this country, namely protests, are being attacked and regulated due to propaganda or fear from the privileged- if more of our neighbors paid attention, they would be outraged, but you're lucky and take advantage of the fact that they don't- for now. Please stop making decisions that we will then need to waste time and money spending years to undo. We are wasting our time policing our own citizens instead of actually addressing issues that millions have been voicing- how about you address the companies who are buying all of our housing and driving up the rent? How about you address the lack of public transportation and more importantly, the disastrous accessibility of our communities, where folks in wheelchairs are stuck traveling down the street with cars going 60mph? Pollution, water scarcity, environmental protection, corruption in our public institutions, I mean anything else! If you are unsure of what to do about protests that get out of control, keep it simple, or stay out of it. This is an extremely concerning omen of where Los Angeles is heading as we value businesses above all else, and unfortunately, it is not surprising at all. These patterns are out of control, and the dam will somehow break once it gets to be too much. To anyone seeing, reading, or listening to this: please get involved at the local level and stay involved. Hold these folks accountable for their decisions and talk to your neighbors. We are not powerless, and we are also responsible for these actions in time, and how they will affect generations to come. I remember going to my first protest for teachers, in middle school. It was an empowering, connecting experience- not a harmful or violent one, and I watched my elders have meaningful conversations with counter-protestors, too. If

you change the rules to make protestors inherently criminal by showing up, you are stifling the voice of multiple generations. Do not do that!!!! Shame on all of you if this passes.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Adam Kendall Woods

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 06:46 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the motion to in-state bubble zones around sensitive sites because of concern over criminalizing protest. The first amendment right to free speech is protected behavior practiced by union workers and members of the public. Criminalizing this behavior necessarily puts community members in harms way and presents new opportunities to have run-ins with the police please instead consider a process involving community state growers at seeks to address an action of LAPD and instances work protesters having harmed all engaging in protest and civil obedience. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hassan Abdul-Wahid

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 07:01 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is a horrible idea and absolutely illegal. No good comes from criminalizing free speech and protest especially when the desire to do so is being funded by supporters of a genocidal apartheid state.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 09:49 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the motion to instate bubble zones around sensitive sites because of concern over criminalizing protest and in violation of the first amendment. The first amendment right to free speech is protected behavior practiced by union workers and members of the public. Criminalizing this behavior puts community members in harms way and presents unnecessary new opportunities to have encounters with the police. Furthermore, misusing/overusing the police and harming the city's budget. Please instead consider involving community stakeholders that seeks to address the disproportionate inaction of the LAPD in instances where protestors have been harmed while engaging in the protected behavior of protest.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Casey Scott

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 09:52 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a member of CD-14 and of SEIU 721, I am urging council member Kevin de León to not support the protest bill being proposed right now. It would be a massive detriment to Labor's ability to picket and make their voices heard for better treatment. Thank You.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Graham Kurtz

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 04:07 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** Any attempt to curtail our right to public demonstration is overreaching and dangerous to every American. Our right to protest must be maintained and upheld.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 10:21 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** This ordinance once again tries to rob people of their First Amendment rights by making it impossible for them to appear in protest in front of any public building. Let's call it what it actually is: an attempt to quell dissent with false claims of antisemitism for those that have an active interest in not perpetuating a genocide. As the basis of this ordinance was the protest outside Adas Torah synagogue, it should be made clear once again that protestors were doing so against the illegal sale of land in the Gaza Strip which was being auctioned off at the Synagogue. There was no religious function or sacred rites occurring: it was the ghoulish divying up of spoils for those that had ransacked the land of an apartheid state in crisis. Any claims of antisemitic character are thus false and perpetuated for the sake of stoking tensions. The Los Angeles City Council makes itself complicit by siding with bad faith Zionist instigators that would seek to restrict all democratic freedoms for the people of Los Angeles. This policy is fascist in character and the Council reveals its corruption in supporting it.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amanda Donahue

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 11:09 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0910

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the motion to instate bubble zones around sensitive sites because of concern over criminalizing protest. The First amendment right to free speech is protected behavior practiced by union workers and members of the public. Criminalizing this behavior necessarily puts community members in harms way and presents new opportunities to have run-ins with the police. Please instead consider a process involving community stakeholders that seeks to address the inaction of LAPD in instances where protesters have been harmed while engaging in protest and civil disobedience.