

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

M O T I O N

Los Angeles continues to face a deepening homelessness crisis that harms those living on the streets while also diminishing the safety, cleanliness, and accessibility of public spaces for all Angelenos. Sidewalks, parks, libraries, bus stops, playgrounds, and other civic areas are increasingly obstructed by tents and encampments, preventing these spaces from being used for their intended purpose. These impacts fall most heavily on working families, seniors, students, and lower-income residents who rely most on public infrastructure and transit.

At the same time, many unhoused individuals remain in dangerous and unstable conditions without sufficient access to shelter, treatment, or long-term supportive services. The current situation is both a humanitarian crisis and a growing public safety emergency.

Public concern has intensified due to serious incidents occurring near schools, parks, and family-oriented spaces. Across the City, parents and residents continue to report exposure to discarded needles, human waste, drug paraphernalia, used condoms, open drug use, and erratic or dangerous behavior in areas frequented by children.

The health and safety consequences of unmanaged encampments are significant. According to public health data, drug overdose remains a leading cause of death among unhoused individuals in Los Angeles County, with fentanyl implicated in a substantial share of those fatalities. Residents, students, and school communities continue to report exposure to overdose incidents, narcotics activity, and hazardous waste in and around encampments.

Fire risk has also sharply increased. Rubbish fires in Los Angeles have risen dramatically over the last decade, and a substantial portion of Los Angeles Fire Department responses in recent years have involved homelessness-related fires or encampment incidents.

In response to growing concerns, the City restructured enforcement of LAMC Section 41.18 in 2021 into a geographically targeted system that allows designated areas where camping is prohibited. This framework replaced the prior citywide daytime camping prohibition formerly contained in LAMC Section 56.11, which had been suspended during the COVID-19 emergency period. With those emergency declarations now concluded, the City has a responsibility to reassess whether its current enforcement framework adequately protects public safety and preserves access to public spaces.

Children across Los Angeles should not be forced to walk around tents, through active encampments, or past dangerous and unsanitary conditions on their routes to school, parks, libraries, and transit stops. Families should not lose access to parks and sidewalks. Likewise,



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unhoused individuals should not be left in conditions that expose them to violence, overdose, fire, and exploitation.

The continued presence of encampments near schools, parks, libraries, transit stops, and other sensitive public uses constitutes an ongoing threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, particularly children. Immediate, consistent, and lawful enforcement of existing anti-camping laws, together with expansion of protective buffer zones where appropriate, is necessary to restore safe access to public spaces while connecting individuals to shelter and services.

The current 500-foot buffer applicable to schools and childcare facilities under Section 41.18 may be insufficient to protect children along common pedestrian routes to schools, parks, and recreational facilities. Additionally, the United States Supreme Court's 2024 decision in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* reaffirmed the authority of local governments to enforce reasonable anti-camping regulations, providing clearer legal footing for the City to strengthen and consistently apply its public space protections.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present ballot measure language and the necessary ballot resolutions and election ordinance to place a measure on the November 2026 ballot, to amend 41.18 with the following changes:

- Increases the radius of the encampment prohibition zone surrounding schools and daycares from 500 feet to 1,000 feet, consistent with the City's obligation to provide safe passage for children traveling to and from school.
- Develop and implement a Safe School Passages Program that: Identifies and maps the most commonly traveled routes to schools and daycares across all Council Districts, with particular emphasis on schools in lower income communities; Ensures proactive enforcement of Section 41.18 along all such routes within the applicable buffer zone; Coordinates outreach and shelter offers to encampment residents along identified school routes prior to and concurrent with enforcement activities; and establishes a reporting mechanism for parents, students, school staff, and residents to report encampments along school routes and to receive timely City responses.
- Include language that aligns with 56.11 to protect and secure our public spaces during the daytime hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., in particular around schools, parks, and other sensitive uses.
- Amend 41.18(i) definitions to include:
 - “School/Educational Center” shall mean an institution of learning for minors, whether public, private, or charter, which offers in-person instruction in grades K through 12. This definition includes kindergarten, elementary, junior high and senior high schools, any special institution of learning, or other place where children (persons under the age of 18) are regularly present to receive in person instruction in either academic or extracurricular subjects.
 - “Day Care Center” shall mean a child care-infant center, child care center, or


child care center preschool licensed by the State of California Department of Social Services.

- “Encampment” means camping on public property, unless authorized by permit or other applicable law, including but not limited to:
 - (A) Constructing, placing, or maintaining on public property any semi permanent structure, including but not limited to hand-built sheds and structures with metal or other heavy roofing and siding materials, for the purpose of housing or providing cover for one or more persons;
 - (B) Using, placing, or maintaining a tent, sleeping bag, blanket, or other materials for the purpose of sleeping, lying, housing, or providing cover for one or more persons; and
 - (C) Using a vehicle, including but not limited to a car, truck, recreational vehicle, or camper, for the purpose of camping or living on a public right-of way or other public property. Such prohibition shall apply to the fullest extent permitted by, and not in conflict with, any preemptive state or local laws.

PRESENTED BY


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SECONDED BY



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