

Communication from Public

Name: Woodland Hills Homeowners Orgzation
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Council File No: 20-1376
Comments for Public Posting: The Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization supports the inclusion of (d) in LAMC 41.18.



“Protecting the Integrity of our Community”



W.H.H.O.

Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization

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November 23, 2020

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**TO:
THE HONORABLE COUNCILMEMBERS OF THE LOS ANGELES CITYCOUNCIL**

Sent Via Email ONLY

RE: Council File: 20-1376: LA Alliance v City and County of Los Angeles / Martin v City of Boise / Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF 41.18(d)

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

The Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization (WHHO), in the interest of its members and our community, supports Motion 20-1376, with the addendum that Subsection 41.18(d), be put back in the motion. If passed without subsection (d), you are effectively transferring the problem from freeway underpasses and specific buffer zones and into business corridors and residential neighborhoods which may satisfy Judge Carter’s edict but creates a worse situation for taxpaying citizens.

WHHO believes the originally written motion was an effective first step in initiating compliance with Judge Carter’s Court Order to “humanely relocate” people experiencing homelessness away from freeways across Los Angeles. We agree wholeheartedly with City Attorney Michael Feuer’s Nov 19 2020 Report # R20-0316, part of it which states:

“The draft ordinance we previously transmitted included a requirement that the City offer shelter before taking any steps toward enforcement of Subsection 41.18(d). We believe that a pre-enforcement offer of appropriate and accessible shelter is consistent with best practices and important to assure compliance with the Ninth Circuit decision in Boise.

We also recommended that protocols around implementation and enforcement be developed prior to enforcement of Subsection 41.18(d). Whether to require such protocols and include that requirement in the ordinance itself are policy decisions for the Council. Should the Council determine to require protocols and include that requirement in the ordinance, the draft ordinance could be amended to add language along the following lines: Before Subsection 41.18(d) is enforceable, the Council shall adopt protocols which establish: (1) parameters for what constitutes appropriate and accessible shelter; and (2) methods of implementing the

ordinance in the field, including ensuring that offers of appropriate and accessible shelter are made prior to enforcement and what enforcement, as a last resort, would entail.

We would not suggest similar protocols for Subsections 41.18(b) and (c). These subsections, especially if amended as discussed below, already contemplate at least two weeks of outreach efforts affording individuals ample opportunity to accept shelter or voluntarily comply by relocating - before enforcement is even allowable.”

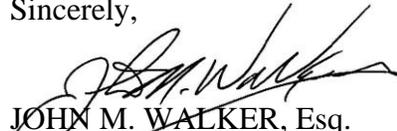
Perfection is the enemy of progress. And while another substitute motion submitted to the City Council seeks such perfection, it is disingenuous as it knowingly delays any potential progress years down the road while Los Angeles falls further into decay and the most vulnerable are left to die waiting for the substitute motion’s actual implementation.

What seems to have been lost in the debate is that without housing options available - nothing in this motion could be enforced. WHHO understands that for any humane relocation to occur, there must be housing to relocate to; including permanent, supportive, bridge, senior, family, LGBTQ, female only and temporary cabin/pallet communities, as a necessary component and must be provided in every LA City community. And isn’t that the goal?

WHHO believes that meaningful, interim steps must be taken immediately to begin addressing the health and safety of all Angelenos, while the City continues its pursuit of housing solutions. Motion 20-1376 is the right first step forward as it strikes a balance between homelessness, disabled people and public safety. It is unsafe and unhealthy for *anyone* to sit, sleep and lie under or near freeways, ramps and tunnels. In Woodland Hills, these freeway passages provide a critical and active public corridor to commerce (such as grocery stores and essential goods), public services and schools. These public paths are now blocked and unsafe for pedestrians.

This motion balances the rights of the homeless with the rights of the general public’s health and safety, and it keeps the promises made to the communities that if you allow a shelter in your area, the city will keep those areas safe and clean. It sends a strong message to all LA City residents that if they want clean streets devoid of encampments, trash, urine, feces, and discarded drug paraphernalia then they must be a proponent for humane and safe housing options. WHHO certainly advocates for the provision of appropriate housing in our community, with the provision that proper transparency at the City level must always occur and that full community input must always be heard and addressed.

Sincerely,



JOHN M. WALKER, Esq.

Present, W.H.H.O.

Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization.

ECC: Each Member of the City Council