

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/19/2020

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 11/19/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1376

Agenda Date: 11/19/2020

Item Number: 3

Summary: Support to amend 41.18. It would be favorable to amend 41.18, this would allow residents and businesses to have a sense of safety again. In addition, this would also enable those that need help to have access to the resources in the long term. Per the supplemental information that has been provided, the proposal and encouragement to amend 41.18 would be based on facts in relation to science, safety, and the current law. Amending 41.18 would not deter other resources to be provided for those that require assistance.

**To Homelessness and Poverty Committee To City Council - scheduled for 11/24/20**

**10/26/2020 Document(s) submitted by City Attorney, as follows:**

**City Attorney report R20-0306, dated October 26, 2020, and draft Ordinance relative to amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to specify the particular times and locations where it shall be unlawful for a person to sit, lie, or sleep on public property; and to note the suspension of two Section subdivisions, pending the outcome of litigation.**

**LA Alliance v City and County of Los Angeles / Martin v City of Boise / Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment**

**Council File Number: [20-1376](#)**

**<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-1376>**

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## Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

*Certified May 27, 2003*

*P.O. Box 635 • Tujunga, CA 91043-0635 • 818-951-7411 • Website: stnc.org*

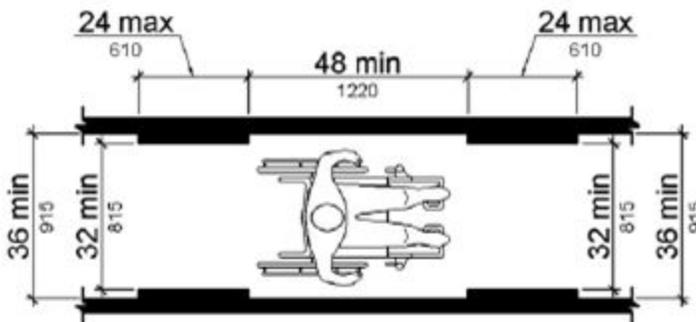
**NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

**CIS 20-1376 - attachment**

Impact of Passage of Amendment 41.18

### 1) Passage Way for Americans with Disabilities

Limiting where people can reside would enable a pathway for those that are disabled. It is imperative that individuals using a wheelchair have an accessible pathway. Per the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, “An accessible path of travel may consist of walks and sidewalks, curb ramps and other interior or exterior pedestrian ramps; clear floor paths through lobbies, corridors, rooms, and other improved areas; parking access aisles; elevators and lifts; or a combination of these elements.”



**Figure 1.1** Walking surfaces should provide clearance for those that are disabled. The below image was referenced from the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design as issued by the U.S. Department of Justice.



**Figure 1.2** A growing number of encampments obstructing a public walkway in the Sunland-Tujunga area.

## **2) Fire Hazards**

Restricting those that reside in public areas will prevent brush fires. In numerous instances, when one or more persons congregate in public places, a makeshift kitchen will be created or alternative sources for heat will be used. The intention is completely valid; however, this poses a danger to community members and firefighters specifically. One example includes the 2019 Hansen Dam Fire where a homeless campfire sparked a blaze.

## **3) Debris and Waste**

The debris and waste due to not restricting where people reside have caused an influx of 311 requests and city resources. As illustrated in the below photos, the amount of trash and debris has made many residents reluctant to visit local restaurants and businesses.



**Figure 3.1** Items abandoned at Sunland Park from people residing at the park, which required city workers to clean up.



**Figure 3.2** Items and person(s) occupying the metro bus stop and bench, which may create hesitation for residents from utilizing public transportation.

#### **4) Correlation between Congregation of Homeless and Drug Use**

In the Sunland-Tujunga area, there have been instances where residents have witnessed drug use. Not everyone who resides in public areas abuse alcohol or drugs. However, there is a correlation between the two. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, approximately 38% of homeless are dependent on alcohol with 26% abusing other drugs. Unfortunately, this is the case for many people that camp outside people's homes and other public areas in the CD7 area. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Some drugs mimic neurotransmitters. Heroin and prescription opioids, for example, chemically resemble the brain's natural opioids (endorphin and enkephalin) sufficiently to engage and stimulate their specialized receptors." In short, neurotransmitters are chemicals made by the nerve cell to enable the transmission of messages in one's brain, which indicates that people on certain substances may have their judgement impaired. Amending ordinance 41.18 would improve the safety of residents including children and senior citizens. More emphasis and funding should be placed on treatment programs versus enabling people to reside in public areas which may place the vulnerable in high-risk circumstances.

#### **5) Environmental Impact of Freeways**

The amendment would require individuals to be 500 feet apart from freeways. Being in close proximity to freeways is not only unhealthy but creates long term health problems. According to Keck Medicine of USC, "[H]igh levels of air pollution near freeways can cause high blood pressure and gestational diabetes in pregnant women. It could also lead to more cognitive problems in their babies. In teens, another USC study showed pollution particles can affect still-developing brains and increase delinquent behavior. In adults, another USC study found that preventable heart disease deaths are a direct result of living near a major road. Living near air pollution can lead to more cardiovascular disease, including heart attacks and stroke, and premature death as a result." Individuals may reside in the freeway areas for various reasons; however, this is at the detriment of their own health.

#### **6) Urgency to Find a Solution**

a. Providing shelter space at a faster pace – Amending 41.18 would put pressure on all districts within the City of Los Angeles to build and provide low-income housing, transitional housing, and permanent housing to those that need it. The amendment would also provide a means for the City of Los Angeles to work in conjunction with LAHSA to find other resources for the underlying issues.

b. Economical impact for businesses – Due to Covid 19, businesses are experiencing financial hardship more now than ever. Due to people feeling their safety is compromised, they may not frequent certain businesses. Business owners are wanting change where they desire a clean environment for their customers to visit.



**Figure 6.1** Multiple encampments and debris in front of businesses in Sunland-Tujunga.



**Figure 6.2** Encampments in front of a central shopping center.