

## Communication from Public

**Name:** LA Resident  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 11:43 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Basciano's plan for the unhoused is psychopathic and will lead to even more strife. If you want dead unhoused people, listen to him, but if you want actual solutions for human beings then fight him at every turn.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Johnathon Redd  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 04:30 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Council Members, Please vote in Favor of Council File 20-1376. This motion is vital because it will help Los Angeles maintain a balance between helping the homeless and helping the residents and homeowners keep and maintain a clean and healthy community and while still staying within the parameters of the Boise Idaho decision. I support this motion because it addresses The Americans with Disabilities Act, which has been dismissed for too long by the city of Los Angeles. The disabled and wheelchair bound are forced onto the streets endangering their lives with cars whizzing by them at 40+ mph because the sidewalks are blocked. The disabled through the ADA are guaranteed equal access to and equal opportunity in public Accommodations. I also support this motion because it addresses the many promises made and promises broken by the city. The people of Venice who live near the bridge shelter on Sunset were promised encampment cleanups and secure zones. Eight months later this shelter is surrounded more than ever with tent encampments, a massive surge in crime, theft, break-ins, assaults, sexual harassment, sexual assaults, car break ins, and the list goes on and on. If the promises are not kept, then no community will want a Bridge Shelter in their neighborhood. And finally, I support this motion because it seeks to amend 41.18, which is vitally important in addressing sleeping on sidewalks at particular locations and hours of the day. Thank you for this reasonable and well thought out motion to help Los Angeles maintain a balance between helping the homeless and helping the residents and homeowners keep and maintain a clean and healthy community. Sincerely,

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/10/2020 08:42 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a longtime resident of Woodland Hills I'm disgusted that our local leaders knowingly allow people to live in these hazardous conditions. Allowing people to camp anywhere will obviously attract more people to these same areas!

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/10/2020 10:15 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The amount of homelessness around Brentwood/the VA is causing significant danger in the neighborhood. My wife and I were chased down San Vicente by 2 homeless men. Something has to be done to provide safe housing in a safe location for the large number of homeless here.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lane McFaddin  
**Date Submitted:** 11/10/2020 10:55 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose in the strongest possible way this cruel and inhumane motion. We are on the precipice of both a surge in Covid cases and winter weather which both pose an immense threat to our unhoused neighbors. The city should be doing everything it can, including seizing hotels and vacant properties to safely house its residents who are out in the streets. Instead, this council is trying to ram through an agenda item that was already met with intense public scrutiny. This motion would do nothing to provide much needed housing and would certainly result in more cruel and unsafe sweeps that spread disease and brutalize and dehumanize the unhoused. This council should reject it in the strongest possible way and the Councilmembers who brought it forward should be ashamed of themselves, namely Bob Blumenfield who instead of working on finding housing was strong arming his Neighborhood Council to rubberstamp this motion. Shame on Bob Blumenfield and shame on this council if it passes this horrendous motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gina Viola

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 10:58 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am so tired of this council trying to put band aids on gaping wounds. There are 100K vacant hotel/motel rooms and many of those for sale. There are 98K vacant units of housing throughout Los Angeles - in fact, the hill I live on is riddled with empty houses. This is a disgrace that is not being handled at all. For those of you who have been in city government for years, shame on you for watching this grow and being part of the problem. For those of you newer to this position, shame on you as you campaigned to do something about this and have failed to make it any sort of priority. Organizations have been doing YOUR jobs for you for years now. Empower them to do more since it is abundantly clear you will not! LACAN has been holding down skid row for years and knows what are sustainable solutions. KTwon4all members can tell you the name of each and every houseless person living in Korea Town. StreetWatchLA has created communication threads in areas throughout the city to provide direct immediate support to folks experiencing homelessness. These are regular folks not getting paid to do YOUR JOBS. The time has long since past for you to start requesting report backs. If you can push through another criminalization ordinance in a matter of weeks, you can push through some housing. Why are you so resistant to this? There can only be one reason - you know what once you house these individuals you will be forced to reduce the budget to the LAPD. You will not be able to have fancy banquet lunches with overpaid consultants to sit around and wonder what are we ever going to do. People are living and dying on the streets WHILE YOU ARE EATING LUNCH during those meetings. Shame on each and every one of you to fast tracking sweeping, ticketing and barrack living at the convention center. SHAME ON YOU ALL!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chris V

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 01:31 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm a Woodland Hills resident, I live here, my family lives here and I care about our community. Our community has deteriorated due to the homeless situation. The homeless brought in crime, drugs, prostitution. Children cannot go outside to play because of homeless people, many of whom are mentally ill and many are violent and dangerous. Women, my wife, cannot walk outside or ride bikes because of the real danger of being raped and killed by homeless men with urges. Would you let your wife or your daughter walk through a homeless encampment that is blocking the street? While they do drugs in broad daylight and some get very violent. On top of that the homeless create unsanitary human conditions, diseases are coming back worse than covid. How is that dignity? This is turning our neighborhood into one giant skid row. They come here from all over the country, and set up camp, how is that fair to us the residents here? We are all trying to build a community where it's a safe place to raise a family, and we are falling short right now on that basic promise to families by allowing these encampments to take over the streets.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alexandra Peck  
**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 04:54 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to oppose the ordinance that would "ban sitting, sleeping, or lying" within 10 feet of driveways and 500 feet of any overpass/ underpass, any freeway ramp, any freeway tunnel, any pedestrian subway, any supportive services site opened in the last three years (including Bridge Housing and safe parking sites). This ordinance will NOT "reduce the temptation of any shelter resident to fall back into life on the street, and may help encourage neighborhoods to more readily accept desperately needed homeless housing and services in their communities." This mindset perpetuates the myth that our unhoused neighbors do not want assistance and prefer life on the streets. There are many reasons why someone living on the street may not feel comfortable immediately accepting an offer of shelter. For instance, the offered shelter could require them to dispose of their belongings or separate themselves from their family or support animals. This ordinance criminalizes and displaces people for not immediately accepting the help offered and I fully condemn any motion that criminalizes homelessness! It fails to acknowledge the difficult and patient work required to build trust with some of our unhoused neighbors who are understandably reluctant to accept help from a city that has historically mistreated them. This trust is critical in making some unhoused residents feel safe moving to a shelter, hotel room, or supportive housing site. Bridge housing shelters and safe parking have helped a number of our unhoused neighbors over the past two years. However, these temporary, hold-over fixes do not accommodate the majority of those experiencing homelessness. There are simply not enough beds to shelter the vast majority of unhoused residents. It is unjust to criminalize the members of the unhoused community that were not lucky enough to land a spot at one of these sites, or were not prepared when given their one opportunity to completely change their way of life. In my experience volunteering with the SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition, I have witnessed first hand how difficult it is to get into one of these facilities, which is why I fully object to the resumption of sweeps around the SECZs this past summer. This ordinance puts the cart before the horse: forcing folks theoretically into housing that simply does not exist. With unemployment in the city at record highs and a projected wave of evictions coming in the near future, this motion could not

come at a worse time. The proposed ordinance will only make it harder for those experiencing homelessness now and in the future, rather than addressing the underlying causations of homelessness: out of control rents, stagnant wages, and a dire lack of physical or mental health resources. It is a bandaid that will not fix anything, and will in fact make the situation worse! Punishing those for living by the only means they have available does not make homelessness go away—it makes us complicit in the systemic racism and violence that has already caused so much suffering. We need housing, services, and compassion—not expanded criminalization.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 04:57 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amendmending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. Councilmember Blumenfield has gone so far as well as writing "community impact statements" for neighborhood councils to try to bolster his case, essentially subverting the purpose and intent of such a statement in a transparently corrupt fashion. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carey Bennett

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 04:57 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** As an LA resident in CD4 I want to express my strong opposition to the enforcement of Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Our houseless neighbors need services, not sweeps. These codes are an inhumane attempt to hastily sweep homelessness away instead of providing real services. How about pouring money into Permanent Supportive Housing instead of pouring money into policing that criminalizes people experiencing homelessness?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Diana Chang

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 05:05 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing to urge you to oppose the new ordinance that would allow strict enforcement of Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Do not ban sitting, sleeping, and lying. Do not criminalize unhoused people if they refuse shelter by a city employee. Do not criminalize homelessness - it only perpetuates the problem.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Pat Saperstein

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 05:08 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I do not endorse this motion to criminalize homelessness. There are not enough shelter beds to accommodate the numbers of unhoused people in Los Angeles and this is not the way to address the issue. As a lifetime resident of Los Angeles, I strongly oppose the motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nanette Svolos  
**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 05:39 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I support Blumenfields motion to modify ordinance 41.18 and restrict where homeless can camp

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 05:41 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Listening to last month's call regarding this motion, I still cannot fathom the degree to which this is an absolutely catastrophic way to "address" the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles. First, these people are human beings and should be treated with respect, rather than being spoken about as though they are inconveniences that should be "dealt with" so that the housed people in this city don't have to look at, or be reminded of, or inconvenienced by them. Second, the proposed motion would arguably make the problem WORSE in the sense that it would drive the unhoused further into neighborhoods to seek shelter. If a homeless shelter is at capacity, what are these people supposed to do? Take all their belongings and search for shelter that somehow isn't near freeway overpasses or shelters? This is a NIMBY motion that treats unhoused people as though they are animals that need to be rounded up. This motion provides ZERO new housing sources or actual solutions for the homeless population. How is this productive? How does this make a LICK of sense? I am deeply against this motion and find it shameful that it was introduced and is even being considered. Please consider diverting funds away from bloated entities like the LAPD and towards services for our most vulnerable Angelenos--housing is A HUMAN RIGHT. We are all Angelenos, and we need to support each other--let's please try not to forget that in the most dire of times.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Debra R. Shaver  
**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 05:48 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Action needs to be taken now against the out of control transient situation which is a danger to the health and welfare of the rest of us

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Staci  
**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 06:13 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please consider what is happening to our neighborhood! I have been here 56 years and am raising my teens here. I never in a million years would have thought it would be so scary or unsafe, unsanitary and filled with needles, addicts, trash, thieves, and a bodily waste, vomiting and poop. Tarzana and Woodland hills are no longer safe. I personally pay a huge amount of house taxes and they just went up 800.00! I am a law abiding citizen as are my family members, including my elderly mother. I am afraid to get gas, I'm afraid to go to the market, I'm afraid my kids are going to hit unintentionally one of these addicted or mentally ill people. The street people are not safe and neither are we. They are being enabled by everyone! They get their drugs delivered, they steal everything and it's not the way a properly functioning city should be. They must get proper services! Mandatory drug court! Something to hold them accountable and give them hope! Our city is disgusting right now. They're also going to make a huge mess wherever you put them if they're not monitored by police and social workers! Do something!!!!!! We're not able to co-exist with a segment of the population that literally doesn't give a shit! Stop enabling!!!!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jane Riegler

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 06:35 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Jane and I'm a Sherman Oaks resident. I am baffled why these amendments to Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11 are being proposed, with no alternative resources for homeless people ESPECIALLY during a pandemic and ESPECIALLY during a pandemic in the winter! This is inhumane, treats homeless people like they are an eyesore, instead of a very obvious indication of our city's failure to provide affordable housing. This is a horrid proposition that is inhumane and cruel, when these individuals without housing are important and valuable members of our community, who's voice and autonomy matters. I demand City Council propose actual solutions like rent control and expanding unhoused resources instead of amending these codes.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 06:40 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is backwards. You have to provide the housing and the services for unhoused folks that are virtually nonexistent due to how full shelters are or stretched thin case workers are. No more criminal action. We need house keys not handcuffs. Services not sweeps.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dori Cohen

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 06:51 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion does not provide any solutions - safe housing - for our unhoused neighbors. It transparently does nothing but criminalizes homelessness. This is not a time for cruelty; it is a time for compassion. Under freeways is often the only place in the city to be protected from weather; right now the weather in question has been dropping to freezing temperatures and in the summer it is lethally hot temperatures. Please decline this motion, this is an attempt to treat only a symptom of a systemic syndrome that is causing our unhoused neighbors to suffer.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Abbey Springer

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 07:25 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on these actual, proven solutions, City Council members are attempting to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. In his statement to LA Times regarding this motion, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield revealed the true motivation behind it: to “create visible progress” for some housed constituents by forcibly displacing encampments from one location to another, and establish ‘enforcement zones’ to prevent unhoused Angelenos from returning to these locations. It is especially cruel to present this motion during an ongoing pandemic, when mass evictions are expected as the Winter season approaches. Where will people shelter from the rain when there aren’t enough housing resources available and the city bans people from resting beneath underpasses? With the death toll for unhoused Angelenos already over 1,000 in 2020, this motion would contribute to another record increase in deaths and an increase in harmful police encounters with the unhoused community. In both cases, unhoused Black Angelenos are disproportionately impacted. The Services Not Sweeps coalition rejects this motion and demands that all processes involved in propelling this motion forward be halted immediately, as this motion poses a direct threat to the health and safety of our unhoused neighbors and their surrounding communities. We demand that City Council and the Mayor’s office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer. We demand that the city take the following actions immediately: Focus efforts on providing hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently Respect CDC guidelines and work with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs

are met without the threat of displacement Halt all CARE+  
“comprehensive cleanup” operations Remove law enforcement  
from outreach Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all  
ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bianca V

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 08:22 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion is inhumane. Please come up with solutions that do not resort to criminalization of unhoused people.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 08:34 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a woman with a young daughter, I am fearful of walking down main sidewalks and shopping centers. Having witnessed hundreds of mentally unstable homeless individuals loitering in public spaces including at least one who was dead, it's incredibly distressing to be raising kids in these times. Additionally, the amount of trash and debris surrounding encampments is contributing the pollution of our environment and local waterways affecting our wildlife as well as public safety. If those who wont accept the help being offered to them, the city and residents should not then be responsible for the care and well being of transients. Please move forward with this measure for the sake of residents whom have become fearful of our own neighborhoods.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** CD3 Resident

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 09:25 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please support Councilman Blumenfield's motion to enforce the 500 ft clearance around underpasses and shelters. Advocates spew accusations of "criminalizing homelessness." Bob's 500 ft motion does nothing of the sort. It merely ensures cleared public walkways and areas where chronic homeless were offered housing. In fact, it's mindboggling that these advocates fight for the mentally ill and addicts' "right" to shoot up unmasked in the freezing cold dangerous fume filled underpasses as opposed to being placed in shelters. No one has an inherent right to live anywhere he/she pleases. I may dream of living in Oprah's Montecito Estates neighborhood. But that does not give me the right to pitch a tent in the midst of her neighborhood nor would her councilman provide me a room, apartment, or other shelter in the middle of her neighborhood. I cannot afford Oprah's neighborhood and thus, do not live there. As a longtime resident of Woodland Hills, I've witnessed a dramatic decline in our neighborhood safety and cleanliness. Before the Winnetka underpass clearance, it was common to witness the unhoused shooting-up, smoking hardcore drugs, amassing great piles of hazardous waste, stealing bikes, violating the ADA minutes after enforcement scooted them back 3 feet, sprawling onto residential streets, exposing themselves to the public (including to Taft minors waiting to pick up their textbooks), act aggressively towards each other as well as the public, gather unmasked in large numbers in violation of COVID safety, have open fires, etc. In May, I forbade my daughter from jogging on her own after a prison tattooed unhoused man aggressively charged at my car (with me in it) on my residential street. It's clear to any longtime resident that the vast majority of these CHRONIC unhoused persons (most of whom were not here 1.5 years ago) are not new economic COVID casualties but rather LONG TERM addicts and mentally ill persons. Their exponential growth in our midst can only be explained by their redirection to our area (from other cities and states and likely some must be from among California's INSANE releases of dangerous criminals). Even before this pandemic hit, the Winnetka underpass inhabitants made it impossible for passersbys to use the public walkway. Many community members resorted to walking in the street. Tragically, underprivileged Taft students who relied on public transportation

(pre-pandemic) had to brave standing alongside the narrow stretch between the row of tents and the bus which they had to board. One unhoused inhabitant used a stick to keep the kids away from "HIS" space. Our neighborhood is no longer as safe as it used to be. As a result, when our business lease was up, we relocated to a neighboring SAFER city that cares about its taxpayers (residential and business). If this council refuses to adopt Bob's motion, and the chronic homeless are permitted to return to the Winnetka underpass, we will consider moving our residence as well. Neighbors and relatives already moved because of CD3's decline. This council cannot expect to ignore the safety and wellbeing of its taxpaying public and expect them not to flee. I would move before CD3 turned into Bonin's NIGHTMARE THIRD WORLD DISASTROUS Venice (which our family will never again choose for an outing). De Blasio did this to Manhattan (where even sex offenders were sheltered), Gascon helped achieve this in San Francisco (and to some extent in LA with Prop 47), and this must end before LA loses its revenue sources (tourism, taxpaying residents and businesses, etc.) and even more of America's chronic homeless flock to the City of Angels. In addition to all of the above, California should adopt laws like Florida's Marchman and Baker Acts to help deal with these self-harming chronic transients that are dangers to themselves and our communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jeff

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 09:43 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is entirely foolish—not to mention a waste of time and taxpayer money—to criminalize homelessness. Shame on you all who would support this, and further damage those less fortunate than us, rather than give them the opportunity and resources to lift these people up. Shame on you for not putting better measures and practices in place. We are the richest country in the world—Los Angeles can and WILL do better. You should be a part of us finding solutions (housing, utilizing empty hotels during a pandemic, etc) rather than standing in the way (and, ultimately, quickly removed from your elected positions of power at the next possible opportunity)

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andrea Young  
**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 10:44 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am supporting the motion that restricts encampments on public thoroughways near freeways. It is an extremely hazardous area for any person to spend long hours and even dwelling in such areas. The brake dust alone is full of carcinogens that are highly toxic when inhaled. The permission of unhoused to reside on sidewalks is only furthering the added stress that will lead to negative health consequences. No one should be sleeping on a sidewalk when there are shelters and other more safe accommodations available. Please consider this motion an act of mercy for those who state they have no other place to reside.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bill

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 10:52 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** If there is adequate housing then the law should be enforced to keep people off the streets for their safety and for the community's safety. Just because someone wants to do something doesn't mean they have a right to do it. The community has been subjected to ongoing health and safety issues from a long list of drug addled people who like to live on the street so they can party as they want. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 10:52 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge all City Councilmembers to oppose the motion to expand the criminalization of homelessness in LA. Criminalization and sweeps of homeless encampments do not solve the issue of homelessness, they just push unhoused people out of their current area and make it even more difficult for them to get back into stable housing. Displacement, a loss of property including important documents, added criminal records, and increased likelihood of encounters with law enforcement all endanger unhoused people and make a potential transition back into housing harder. Unhoused people are constituents too. They are suffering, particularly in the recent cold and wet weather and amid the pandemic. What they need is compassionate care and services to help them get back onto their feet and transitional shelter and affordable housing for them to move into. We have not had any large addition of available shelter beds or housing in LA recently. To displace unhoused people when they have no viable and reasonable accommodations to move into is wrong and dangerous.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Natasha Schlaffer  
**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 10:59 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** On October 21, 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. As a resident of Los Angeles, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this motion. The motion fails to provide any concrete solutions or resources to address the root causes of homelessness and instead directs city funds toward deplorable criminalization policies that exacerbate homelessness and prioritize property over people. 58,936 unhoused people live in Los Angeles County. Are unhoused citizens not your constituents too? Are you not sworn to serve them (along with the thousands of people like me who oppose this motion)? The criminalization of homelessness is aimed at the visual ramifications of homelessness, not the root causes. Not only does Council File 20-1376 fail to address the underlying causes, but it further undermines the challenges of homelessness. There is a clear moral issue with punishing someone for carrying out life-sustaining activities in public when there are no alternatives. People who are already suffering are being punished further for suffering. Criminalization measures like this one punish homelessness and activities necessary to survive on the street; they are counterproductive to ending homelessness. Associated fines and criminal records provide greater barriers for many to becoming re-housed. The US Interagency Council on Homelessness has strongly advised local governments not to enact laws criminalizing homelessness because they create additional barriers for homeless people, fail to increase access to services, and undermine the impact of service providers. These criminalization measures also VIOLATE unhoused people's CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: -4th Amendment protection from unreasonable search and seizure – Law enforcement being allowed to destroy a homeless person's belongings. -8th Amendment protection from cruel and unusual punishment – Imposing criminal penalties for engaging in necessary life-sustaining activities -14th Amendment protecting citizenship, due process, and equal protection – Vague statutes which do not give a person notice of prohibited conduct and encourage arbitrary enforcement. I DEMAND that City Council and the

Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.  
Signed, Natasha Schlaffer Concerned Northridge Resident

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elijah

**Date Submitted:** 11/11/2020 11:21 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly oppose this motion. The motion fails to provide any concrete solutions or resources to address the root causes of homelessness and instead directs city funds toward deplorable criminalization policies that exacerbate homelessness and prioritize property over people. 58,936 unhoused people live in Los Angeles County. Are the significant number of unhoused citizens living here not your constituents too? The civil rights of unhoused individuals do not cease to exist simply because they are unhoused. This is a terrible idea, an immoral idea, and it frankly disappoints me that I have to explain to you why this is wrong. Please have some basic compassion for your fellow human beings and continue to allow people to exist in public spaces without being criminalized. Again, I really shouldn't be having to ask you to do that, and I really shouldn't be having to write a comment here, and I really shouldn't have to explain to you that you should have compassion for your fellow humans, especially those humans who are already suffering. Apparently, however, I do have to do that. Please don't criminalize the homeless yet further.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michelle Vazquez

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 01:12 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Do not criminalize unhoused folks. We should be putting our efforts in housing and caring for them, not pushing legislation that further harms them. I call upon my rep Paul Krekorian to ardently oppose this motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Katie Aymar

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 08:00 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is unacceptable that Los Angeles is not providing adequate assistance to the unhoused during an unprecedented global health crisis. This motion does nothing to provide new resources or solutions to actually solve the root problems causing homelessness. It does not prevent evictions or expand services. Instead City Council have decided to waste their time and public resources attempting to criminalize poverty and create the optics of cleaning up for a small minority of constituents. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 08:52 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is a good thing. It's imperative that we give our police tools to take care of people workout homes. It is not kind or caring to enable addiction and mental illness by allowing them to live on the streets

## Communication from Public

**Name:** German Lara

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 09:47 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose council file 20-1376 for it's obvious ethical violations, we oppose this file for it's human rights violations, it caters to a few housed constituents( whom without doubt have probably been coached by their council members and others to support any motion against the unhoused. as opposed to mobilizing all resources to help the growing number of our unhoused community. You rather punish folks for their misfortune. You must be aware that the system we live under churns out citizens and converts them to unhoused, they remain constituents of yours. We must be aware of motions like these and recognize them as evil for its draconian-like tendency. The whole world continues to watch! Do not let the city of Los Angeles become a historical example of Neo- fascist-liberalism. Shame on every city council member who has attempted to push this file. Your jobs are literally on the line here. This would nail the coffin in your re election. If you cannot properly and humanly do your job, we the people will find ample replacements, you will not be missed. Do better. Oppose council file 20-1376! Support #servicesnotsweeps and support social housing moving forward.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Robert Krauss

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 09:48 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on these actual, proven solutions, City Council members are attempting to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. In his statement to LA Times regarding this motion, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield revealed the true motivation behind it: to “create visible progress” for some housed constituents by forcibly displacing encampments from one location to another, and establish ‘enforcement zones’ to prevent unhoused Angelenos from returning to these locations. It is especially cruel to present this motion during an ongoing pandemic, when mass evictions are expected as the Winter season approaches. Where will people shelter from the rain when there aren’t enough housing resources available and the city bans people from resting beneath underpasses? With the death toll for unhoused Angelenos already over 1,000 in 2020, this motion would contribute to another record increase in deaths and an increase in harmful police encounters with the unhoused community. In both cases, unhoused Black Angelenos are disproportionately impacted. The Services Not Sweeps coalition rejects this motion and demands that all processes involved in propelling this motion forward be halted immediately, as this motion poses a direct threat to the health and safety of our unhoused neighbors and their surrounding communities. We demand that City Council and the Mayor’s office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer. We demand that the city take the following actions immediately: Focus efforts on providing hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently Respect CDC guidelines and work with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs

are met without the threat of displacement Halt all CARE+  
“comprehensive cleanup” operations Remove law enforcement  
from outreach Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all  
ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents. It is a travesty  
that as a rich city in a state that has many social support programs  
that we would leave out our unhoused neighbors. It is your duty to  
take care of these citizens too.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dr. Gabrielle Hovendon

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 09:57 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Council, I'm a resident of Echo Park, and I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to Council File 20-1376. This motion does not provide any new housing resources or meaningful wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a growing crisis, you are wasting our city resources trying to expand harmful criminalization policies that have a proven record of failure. It is especially cruel to present this motion during an ongoing pandemic with winter approaching. Where will people stay safe from the virus? Where will people shelter from the rain and cold? Over a thousand unhoused people have already died in LA this year, and this motion will cause more deaths. It would also lead to an increase in harmful police encounters and disproportionately affect our BIPOC community. Why are you pushing for the criminalization of unhoused Angelenos instead of the criminalization of predatory corporate developers? Those developers and the unaffordable rents they bring are the real blight on our neighborhoods. Why are you concerned with the aesthetics of the city's public spaces instead of the wellbeing and health of tens of thousands of our most vulnerable citizen? My Echo Park neighbors and I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office do better. You must invest your efforts into providing meaningful housing initiatives. That includes taking concrete steps to provide both transitional and permanent housing opportunities for all the unhoused people in our city — not just a few hundred at a time. We also demand that you provide hotel and motel rooms in the interim so the cold temperatures and increasing severity of the pandemic do not kill more of our unhoused neighbors this winter. We demand that you remove law enforcement presence from outreach efforts, and we further demand that you work with the CDC and local health department to provide better sanitation services — and not as a cover for sweeps, property destruction, and displacement. Lastly, and most importantly, we must ask that you strongly oppose the motion to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Your constituents reject this shallow, unimaginative, and ethically unacceptable vision for our city, and we insist that you do better.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 10:02 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am making public comment to OPPOSE City Council's homeless criminalization motion (Council File 20-1376). Criminalizing homelessness does not address the homeless crisis. The homeless criminalization motion is despicable. Stop catering to your constituents who don't want to see homeless people. You have just as much of a duty to the unhoused population. The council should not be wasting their effort on a motion that will do so much harm. Focus your attention on material solutions: Focus efforts on providing hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently Respect CDC guidelines and work with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement Halt all CARE+ "comprehensive cleanup" operations Remove law enforcement from outreach Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kyung Min Lee  
**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 10:11 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I am a resident of KTown and a constituent of Herb Wesson. I'm here to submit written public comment OPPOSING City Council's homeless criminalization motion (Council File 20-1376). Amid an unprecedented global pandemic where thousands of families have lost their employment, health insurance and are now facing sweeping county-wide evictions, it is a SHAME that the city council would even conceive of such a motion to criminalize homelessness. These unhoused people are not some abstract, drug-addicted scums of our society. They are your children's teachers who have failed to pay medical bills after losing health insurance, your neighbors who have failed to pay 8 months of rent after losing employment. We need to cancel rent immediately and invest in substance abuse programs, government subsidized public housing, job search programs, and more importantly homeless shelters to lift them out of poverty NOT throw them into private prisons. It is far more profitable and needless to say humane, to invest in their labor than to incarcerate them altogether. WE have a city wide housing crisis. Criminalizing homelessness is NOT the way to address it.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Erik Scilley  
**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 10:11 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am making public comment to OPPOSE City Council's homeless criminalization motion (Council File 20-1376). Criminalizing homelessness does not address the homeless crisis. The homeless criminalization motion is despicable. Stop catering to your constituents who don't want to see homeless people. You have just as much of a duty to the unhoused population. Please consider the hardships of these people. The council should not be wasting their effort on a motion that will do so much harm. Focus your attention on material solutions: Focus efforts on providing hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently Respect CDC guidelines and work with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement Halt all CARE+ "comprehensive cleanup" operations Remove law enforcement from outreach Repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Danielle Kolker  
**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 10:16 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** OPPOSE THIS MOTION. I strongly oppose the motion in this file. Bob Blumenfield's presentation on the motion in the Woodland Hills NC Meeting was laughable, he reminded us that the motion is was literally deemed UNCONSTITUTIONAL and came up with the most absurd set of lies to try and gain support for his unconstitutional cause. We know there is not enough housing even including shelters (which by the way are not housing and are not a solution to the housing crisis- homes and services are the solutions.) It is beyond hypocritical that you consistently try to confuse everyone with numbers about how much housing you want us to think you are providing. No matter what you say there are not enough beds. If you provided adequate solutions to houselessness there wouldn't be a housing crisis. Period. It really speaks wonders about your shelters that some people would rather remain outside during heatwaves and rain than enter the shelters. And I've talked to many of my neighbors who can't even get into shelters so stop lying.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jake Kroeger

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 10:21 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The continued efforts of this City Council to deal with the unhoused population of Los Angeles are severely misdirected and mishandled, especially considering that the COVID-19 pandemic continues on. There needs to be substantial resources for housing and services for those unhoused folks as quickly as possible and, in that time, not sweeping and dislocating them around the city as if their humanity is to be disregarded. It's clear that if you don't have the sort of services and shelters/housing for them, that you'll be just perpetuating a vicious cycle of displacing them, often causing unnecessary harm and not solving a thing. I highly urge this City Council to look into more alternatives to these current strategies that will actually serve the unhoused, help them transition to a better life with more agency, and actual offer lasting and sustainable solution to LA's homelessness crisis.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melissa Mateo

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 10:30 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmember, On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amendmending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Signed, Melissa Mateo

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nina Mohan  
**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 11:23 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing to strongly oppose any items that criminalize being poor and or unhoused. The only solution to homelessness is permanent public housing and there is plenty of research to support that. Any other measure is a stopgap at best and cruel at worst. And yet, as a CD4 resident, I live on a street where there are 3 luxury condo buildings being built simultaneously that I highly doubt will be used for public housing. At the very least we should be taking over hotels to provide some temporary housing. I want to echo what a previous caller said: jails are not housing. Shelters are not housing. Houses are housing. We want city council members who treat our unhoused population with care and compassion. We want people to give them housekeys, not handcuffs. We want services not sweeps. Defunding the police is the answer, because we can use the bloated budget from the LAPD to fund services. I'm a CD4 resident, David we voted you out because you didn't do enough to help our unhoused neighbors, and I will work so hard to vote the rest of you out unless you stop listening to your NIMBY constituents & developers and start helping the most marginalized of our neighbors. They are your constituents too. Housing is a human right and we'll remember which ones of you fought for beautiful sidewalks instead of human lives.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** kessler

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 11:30 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** You are all vile evil human beings to even CONSIDER criminalizing homelessness. I truly want to know how you sleep at night- *\*even\** in your comfy beds and homes? Have you ever spent 1 day outside feeding or helping your unhoused neighbors? Have you had any conversations with them? Do you know so many of them actually have jobs/lives/families/pets and are trying their absolute best to get off the streets? They are REAL HUMAN BEINGS- not pawns in your game. And did you know that criminalizing homelessness doesn't make homeless people disappear? They'll still exist... just in even WORST conditions than before. What is wrong with you? Why can't you think of ACTUAL solutions? We- the public- literally provide these solutions to you every meeting: there are 1000s of empty motel and hotel rooms all over the city not being used right now (cause you know- it's a global pandemic where people are dying and losing their jobs and getting evicted at a higher rate than ever...) and you're choosing to ignore this? Why are your constituents doing more work than you all are for this homelessness issue? It's PRETTY telling that you all think jail is an appropriate shelter for the 60,000+ homeless people in LA instead of all the vacant rooms you promised to use for Project Roomkey (yeah- remember that? cause we do! why didn't you ever complete this project?) Can ya'll follow through on ANYTHING? To sum it up: I think it's absolutely deplorable that LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee are more concerned with the optics of our city than actually helping our unhoused neighbors. Shame on you Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee. We demand you vote NO on this motion and *\*instead\** actually follow through on Project Roomkey and make an effort to help our unhoused neighbors instead of vilifying them.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bryne

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 12:39 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. This is so incredibly shameful—monstrous behavior from those who have no experience with being unhoused in this city. The health and wellbeing of a society is based on how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. We are not only failing human beings but now Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee want to further torture people? And the city is willing to spend endless amounts of money on lawsuits for these human rights violations but won't even consider the real solutions like cancelling rent, services, mental health and addiction treatment, etc. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environment for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Nearly 1,000 unhoused neighbors of OURS died in Los Angeles in 2020—these people are living amongst 93,000 vacant homes throughout our communities not to mention all the vacant hotel rooms. The city is either failing spectacularly or it is time to admit you only represent yourself and your wealthy friends in your districts and the ones who don't even live here but make money off the suffering of our communities. This is utterly shameful. It is time

to use your imagination to take concrete steps towards repairing our damaged disgusting neoliberal city governance. A better world is possible but we need to start with our local community first. Signed, Bryne

## Communication from Public

**Name:** R A  
**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 02:35 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Vote Yes! This ordinance would only restrict a tiny portion of the city for camping(should be the whole city) and only AFTER the person has been offered free housing paid for by us taxpayers. The reason we have so many “homeless” in LA is because we allow it.  
Vote YES

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 02:40 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a homeowner in the West Valley area, directly across from Bob Blumenfield's proposed Community Cabins. I am appalled by this effort and the lack of awareness in the neighborhood. Thankfully a concerned community member has provided public information regarding this or else we'd be left in the dark. I'd like to know if/when this was officially approved to happen and what we as community members and property owners can do to stop Blumenfield from building these cabins in our neighborhood.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 02:51 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a resident of Los Feliz, and strongly oppose the ordinance amending section 41.18 of the LA Municipal Code as designated in Council File 20-1376. This amendment would make it illegal to sit, lie, sleep, or store property on any street, sidewalk, or street, or within 500 feet of any freeway/ramp/tunnel, or within 500 feet of any supportive services facility built after January 1, 2018. Especially in light of the lack of available supportive housing, this motion is cruel and unjust. I urge the City Council to stop trying to criminalize homelessness and instead, focus on solutions for our unhoused neighbors. Criminalizing homelessness by making it illegal to sleep near supportive services facilities or near any freeway, ramp, or tunnel will cut people off from their communities and access to supportive wraparound services in these facilities. If the amendment is enforced with citations or arrests, it will further drive vulnerable people into poverty and make it even more difficult for people to transition into housing. The pandemic is still raging; there have been several, intense heat waves this year; and fires across the state have made the air quality frequently unhealthy. Unhoused Angelenos are one of the most vulnerable populations in the City to these adverse conditions, and the City Council must focus on providing housing and services, not restricting access to shelter, such as the basic shelter provided by freeway overpasses from the elements. Finally, the amendment would also resume CARE sweeps, which are traumatic for unhoused Angelenos and frequently result in the loss of all personal items and important documents. Certain elements of the CARE/CARE+ deployments should continue, such as LSAN's Livability Services Division Mobile Hygiene program, which provides shower services, handwashing stations, portable toilets and trash receptacles. Thank you for listening.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Abigail Kuhns

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 03:32 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Abby Kuhns and I am a member of CD 11 and a lifelong Los Angeles resident. Both amendments to Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11 are completely ludicrous and criminalize unhoused members of our community. If the city council fails to propose a permanent and SAFE living solution for unhoused people during Covid, how is it ethical that they punish people who are suffering because of our rising rents and weak tenant protections during a dangerous viral outbreak with no known cure? The Council's obsession with penalizing the most vulnerable members of our community is blatantly ridiculous, irrational, and violent. The only constituents these amendments serve are wealthy homeowners who believe that it is offensive that the poor live anywhere near them. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer, and furthermore to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tommy Newman  
**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 04:59 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please find our coalition letter attached. Thank you. Sincerely,  
Tommy Newman, United Way of Greater Los Angeles



November 11, 2020

## **We Need Solutions, Not Criminalization**

### **Broad Coalition Calls for the City of LA to Focus Efforts on Immediate, Affordable, and Appropriate Housing for Every Person, in Every Neighborhood, and NOT Enforcement.**

We, Organizations Across the City of LA Who are Deeply Committed to Ending Homelessness, write to say:

With 73% of our unhoused population on the streets, over 41,000 in the City of LA, no neighborhood has added enough shelter and housing for Angelenos experiencing homelessness. We must focus all of our effort on increasing access to immediate and permanent housing options, instead of criminalizing unhoused Angelenos that have no viable alternative to sleeping on our city's sidewalks. A thorough and deliberate process with service providers, health agencies, and people experiencing homelessness is critical and should be conducted before any policy changes that even consider sweeps of encampments, increases of policing, citations, or other forms of enforcement. We know there is a better way forward, and we are ready to be a partner in developing solutions to our region's homelessness and housing crises.

All people have an equal right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. The best available research shows punitive approaches are expensive, ineffective, and counter-productive. They move people experiencing homelessness around without creating or taking advantage of permanent solutions. Approaches like this are tied to racist systems of oppression that undervalue the civil rights of those experiencing homelessness, who are disproportionately Black and deserve the same access to public services as housed residents. Proposals that seek to move homelessness out of sight, without solving it, erode collective trust and frustrate the effectiveness of those working fervently on complex permanent solutions.

Outreach workers and homeless services providers are currently trying to move thousands of older and very vulnerable people into permanent housing in response to the deadly threat of COVID-19, which continues to spread across LA County. This includes people in Project RoomKey and unsheltered residents living on our streets. We need solutions that are not in conflict with that effort, are not dependent on misusing limited housing and financial resources, and don't jeopardize the health and safety of the people who need more than ever to be inside.

We need solutions and proposals that align with the guidance of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services for everyone to shelter in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. When COVID-19 began spreading through the homeless community, over 50% of infections occurred in congregate shelters where overcrowding and lack of adequate hygiene infrastructure contributed to an unsafe environment for residents and staff. Sheltering in place has prevented wide scale spread of COVID-19 amongst the unsheltered homeless population. As congregate sites continue to work with reduced bed capacity to prevent the spread of COVID-19 inside interim housing, the ability to shelter in place is increasingly critical to the health and safety of unhoused Angelenos. With the coldest and rainiest days approaching - and winter shelters already full because they never closed - it would be especially cruel to make it illegal for someone without a home to follow public health guidance and take shelter from the rain underneath a freeway.

We know that pushing people from one public space to another doesn't make it any more likely that the person will secure permanent housing. We should be fighting poverty, not poor people. We urge the council to focus on increasing access to immediate housing in every neighborhood so that our unhoused neighbors can come safely indoors.

Sincerely,

United Way of Greater Los Angeles	Housing Works	SAJE
A Community of Friends	IDEPSCA	SCANPH
Abundant Housing LA	Imagine LA	SEE
ACLU of Southern California	Inclusive Action for the City	Seeds for Youth Development
ACT LA	Inner City Law Center	SELAH
Bellerose Coaching	Interfaith Solidarity Network	SoCal350
Bend the Arc	John and Marilyn Wells Foundation	SPY
Brilliant Corners	Jovenes	St. Joseph Center
Burbank Tenants' Rights Committee	Justice LA	Stories From the Frontline
California YIMBY	LA Defensa	Students Deserve
Chosen Generation Fellowship Church	LA Family Housing	The Future Left
CLUE	LA Forward	The Good Seed
CSH	LA-Más	The People Concern
Deep Green Housing & Community Development	LACAN	The Whole Child
Dignity & Power Now	Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust	Toberman Neighborhood Center
Downtown Women's Center	Little Tokyo Service Center	TradeShowTemps
Esperanza Community Housing	Maternal and Child Health Access	Union Station Homeless Services
Ground Game LA	National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse	United Parents and Students
Hathaway Sycamores	National Health Foundation	Valley Beth Shalom
Haven Neighborhood Services	NoHo Home Alliance	Venice Community Housing
Heart LA	PATH	West Valley Homes YES
Helping Hands Community Resource Center	Procovery Institute	West Valley People's Alliance
Homeless Health Care LA	Public Counsel	Westside Coalition
HOPICS	Registerhood LA	WORKS
		WP4BL

## Communication from Public

**Name:** alex

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 08:28 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, I am calling on you to rescind 41.18 (d). The proposed amendments are not forward thinking and I am concerned they will make our city's homelessness crisis much worse. In recent years, we have only seen homelessness increasing. While it's hard to see people suffer in my neighborhood, I know the answer is not making it harder for them out there. We know that the solutions are housing and supportive services. Let's focus our efforts there instead of on increasing burdens for people just trying to get by. Thank you. alex carcieri

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Juan C Lopez

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2020 11:49 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support Council Member Blumenfield and CD3 team members like Keith Banks in asking for buffer zones to prohibit camping or storage of belongings within atleast 500 ft from new homeless service centers like Bridge Housing, cabin communities, freeway underpasses, schools, day cares and parks. Most importantly, its not about keeping them from being outside in certain areas, but getting them INTO housing, support systems for legal, medical and/or mental needs. We want to humanely help heal our communities with advancement of security and opportunities for the unhoused. We can't keep moving people along to and endless cycle of of being pushed along the valley communities. This will also encourage other neighborhoods that have been apprehensive to move faster on A Bridge Home projects due to buffers placed on area surrounding the property. We truly need to embrace our neighbors with opportunities. We can attest as the Winnetka Neighborhood Watch for Winnetka Rec Center area, we have had and continue to share in this painful reminder as the underpasses near Winnetka Park and Winnetka Elementary. CD3 and Blumenfield have always answered the call in support for creating innovative ways to keep Winnetka Rec Center as safe as possible. With great coordination with Devonshire PD and their Hope team in our area along with CD3 team, our issues are constant but have created wins. Most of the people in serious need of support have found it, as well as making the rest of the crime element want to go away. When allowed to stack up and pile up the debris they store, lots of stolen crimes like theft from vehicle and property(porch/garage pirates) follow. Its easier to ditch/destroy/sell/trade when the debris keeps most of it out of site. Th Most importantly, our biggest concern before Covid has always been the disease and waste that comes along with the encampments. Therefore already a health hazard in the worst. From used medical needles, broken pipes and unknow narcotics runoff, along with human waste, STD transmission, rape and kidnapping(our neighbor on Oakdale had their 9 year daughter kidnapped from her bedroom by a parolee in 2017 since the laws changed his category to non-violent), and human trafficking. Our other neighbor across the street on Oakdale had a daughter that was a recovering Methamphetamine addict. With the build up of homeless in the alley nearby, accross the street from Winnetka

Elementary, she eventually fell pray to another young man, leaving her husband and then 10 year old daughter behind to live in the alley. All pre Covid. She has since been lost to addiction and is known to be near Canoga and Roscoe. All this to say, the work that Blumenfield has done to progress in helping these people, our own Angelenos get some help and quickly. They need to have an area free of temptation and chaos directly outside their area of recovery. Lets give them a better shot at recovery by keeping the areas in and around them, the areas they place them selves at risk in, along with areas needed to keep our children safe from also. We have to really consider adding schools and parks to this list.