

## Communication from Public

**Name:** A Person, Not a Ghoul

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 12:13 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion to replace Ord. 41.18 is a criminal act, designed to inflict terrible violence on the poorest and most vulnerable residents of our city. The motion is designed to elicit a legal challenge which will cost the city millions of dollars to quixotically defend it in federal court, and likely to result in multiple civil lawsuits by the unhoused residents the city plans to steal belongings from and brutalize with the police for the crime of being poor and on the streets. This motion is offered by the most reactionary and bloodthirsty member of the council, and co-signed by its most spineless and craven members. At a time when the economy is collapsing, the only answer you absolute ghouls seem to have is to inflict brutality on the worst off among us, and hang the threat over the rest of Angelinos that we could be next. This motion way well become law but it should not, it may well be upheld on appeal by some reactionary judge appointed by our criminal president (pick any of the last 3), but it will always be a morally bankrupt, corrupt, and unjust law. Vote against this motion, or be prepared to be voted out of office and out of your mean little political careers forever.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rusteen Honardoost

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 12:21 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Not only is this motion inhumane in the face of a COVID pandemic that has already taken so much from our city and our unhoused neighbors but it's also unconstitutional and sure to result in another massive lawsuit that will blow up in your faces.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Trenton Szewczyk  
**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 12:32 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I fervently OPPOSE the stipulations in this motion making it illegal to sleep/sit/camp in proximity to certain public easements. Such ordinances only serve to criminalize the unhoused and further stigmatizes those in need of essential services. Time and again it has been shown that these policies DO NOT act in the best interests of the unhoused and act against the public. These measures only serve to further legitimize sweeps, which do nothing to address the root cause of this crisis — the lack of affordable housing. These measures only serve to absolve the public of a guilty conscience by putting these individuals “out of sight and out of mind.” The best and only policy that CAN solve this crisis is to get people into publicly funded longterm housing, PERIOD. There is ample evidence that these programs work, as they help to stabilize individuals and afford them the opportunities they need to find real, substantive care to the issues they face, whether those be drug use, mental health, physical health, or lack of opportunity. Furthermore, these policies infringe on these peoples inalienable Human Rights as outlined by the UN (<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>). I find this proposal inhumane and abhorrent, an affront to what it means to live in a civilized society. Shame on all who vote to adopt these measures.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rob

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 12:39 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** In El Pueblo there is one shelter with 40 beds which are currently full with a wait-list. In El Pueblo there are 50+ people on the street and growing (as you may have not noticed by recent unhoused counts). Since there is technically a shelter there (even though there are no open beds), these people living their lives as best they can would be criminalized. Mr. Busicaino tweeted in relation to this motion that this was to help communities that "solved homelessness," thus allowing these communities to punish remaining unhoused people who are on waiting lists or recently unhoused (as you may have noticed with several of the illegal evictions that have happened). Maybe instead of legislating based on hypothetical beds for the Unhoused, we look at the actually vacant hotels and apartments, maybe the one Garcetti has and refused to allow for project Room Key. Perhaps some of that LAPD funding can go towards actual public housing instead of more rubber bullets to terrorize peaceful protesters. If the LA City Council in Eager Partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department decides to continue it's War on the Unhoused, I hope you all are prepared to live with the consequences of your heartless decesion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** GRYPT

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 01:00 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The motion to make it illegal to sit, sleep, or lie down in public space is a terrible idea, a violation of human rights, and will lead to further hardship for the most vulnerable of Los Angeles. Do better.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Colin  
**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 01:04 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly oppose this despicable motion. If effective services were in place, this motion wouldn't be needed in the first place. The only reason unhoused people are on the streets is because we are failing them. The city's "services" for unhoused people are abysmal and ineffective. This motion targets critically underserved Angelenos and would undoubtedly lead to even more negative community interactions with law enforcement. Instead of criminalizing their very existence, the Council should make a genuine effort to provide effective services to the unhoused people they are failing. Unhoused people have every right to occupy public space as the rest of society. They have nowhere else to go.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michael Connor  
**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 01:17 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** City Council members: Please vote yes on the Blumenfield/Rodriguez/Buscaino/Krekorian motion requesting the City Attorney draft amendments to LAMC 41.18 and 56.11. I am a senior Angeleno who takes daily walks for exercise. As I walk, I constantly see people camped in unsafe locations. Freeway underpasses are a particular concern of mine. Homeless folk are living in squalid conditions as it is but living in underpasses ensures they are also exposed to toxic diesel/gasoline fumes 24-7 and are at increased risk of being hit by moving vehicles. But camping in underpasses also impacts those of us who use city sidewalks to walk on or cycle on. The only way to maintain social distancing is to walk out into the roadway. While I try to ensure that I walk into oncoming traffic, busy streets like Parthenia and Tampa can be a nightmare. I can't imagine what it must be like for pedestrians with small children. The public should not to have to risk life and limb every time they use an underpass. It is time for the Council to put public safety first. Please vote yes.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alyssa Boyle

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 01:21 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a resident of Encino. I agree with the proposed draft amendments to LAMC 41.18 and 56.11. I do, however, want to express my concern that forcing people out from underneath freeways will most likely cause them to move into our parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and along our river. That's where a lot of them were living before the sweeps earlier this year. They started coming back recently and we've experienced countless devastating fires in the Sepulveda Basin since, for example. Currently, there are also people living in the culverts and underpasses that are connected to the LA River. A man recently set up a camp on the river floor itself, underneath the Corbin Ave. bridge. The Basin, our parks, and the LA River need to be expressly added to the amendment for the health and safety of everyone. As a member of both the LA River Walker and Watchers and the Encino Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee, I know firsthand the uphill battle to try to relocate people who do not want to accept services or shelter. The shelter resistant transients we all see languishing in public have serious addiction and/or mental problems and will not make changes unless and until they finally run out of options. As incomprehensible and sad as it is, there is no reason for them to go to a rehab or a hospital when they can just move to another spot and continue their activities unabated. This is where laws can be instrumental -- by helping people who cannot or will not help themselves. What we've done up until now has been an abysmal failure and all of us are worse for it. Until there are actual consequences for breaking our laws, nothing will change and our city will continue to deteriorate.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sam A

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 01:49 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear council members, Thank you for considering a motion to prohibit encampments around city shelters and Bridge Home facilities. As a Venice resident living near our Bridge Home facility, we have firsthand experience that allowing encampments to surround ABH Venice is threatening the safety of both housed and unhoused residents AND dooming the facility and its guests to failure. Please help us help you. Thanks Sam A Venice resident

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ro

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 01:59 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion criminalizes homelessness. The councilmembers who put this motion forward should be ashamed of what they're saying through this motion & how they thought it was appropriate to put time and energy into push this motion forward. The speed at which this motion was drafted, publicized, and put forth for debate is how fast and hard these councilmembers should've worked to protect our unhoused neighbors. They instead could have worked to actually help their districts by addressing the root cause of homelessness and offer solutions that are actually useful such as: renter protections, wage increases, community services, and affordable housing. This motion should not have even been allowed to be considered, let alone be passed.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alejandro Hernandez-Fumero  
**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 02:25 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I absolutely OPPOSE this and find it dehumanizing.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ryan Tuong An Koyanagi

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 03:15 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion is completely unconscionable. Expanding attempts to criminalize homelessness actively frustrates attempts to help get people into housing and only further harms and stigmatizes the most marginalized among us. Additionally, the wording of this motion very clearly aims to place the blame for vehicular manslaughter on an unhoused population forced into a precarious living situation, rather than laying the responsibility on the one operating a two-ton vehicle "at high speeds while distracted". I am extremely disappointed in each and every councilmember that presented and seconded this motion, though not at all surprised by the continued callousness shown by this council.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Erin Ashby

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 03:48 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I find this motion abhorrent. This is using a loophole to further criminalize homelessness which only harms the homeless, forcing them to keep moving when shelter is lacking until they have nowhere else to move and simply drop dead and get out of the way of the housed. "Out of sight, out of mind" has never worked for homelessness but L.A. keeps pushing different forms of it. During a pandemic and an economic collapse, this is especially disgusting. The city council should be ashamed of themselves.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Aaron A.

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 06:03 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** If you want to make criminalize homelessness, you should re-draft this to prosecute the heads of city departments who fail to put the homeless in housing that was supposed to be built with measure HHH funds. Where have those 1.2 BILLION dollars gone? To the real estate developers that fund the campaigns of our city officials?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ryan Hitchcock  
**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 11:35 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** An absolutely terrible and reactionary motion that serves to essentially criminalize homelessness. Bad enough under regular circumstances, absolutely unconscionable during a pandemic, with an eviction crisis looming on the horizon. Closing your eyes and just wishing for homelessness to disappear would be more productive than this.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lucky Darling

**Date Submitted:** 10/24/2020 11:47 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Man seriously what the fuck is wrong with you guys even considering this, are you just not getting enough lawsuits about harassing the unhoused of LA? Does former cop Joe Busciano just want to give his buddies more to do as the rest of the city suffers? Did you guys just not get the message that no one wants more cops after 6 straight months of protests? Fuck you guys for even considering this cruel, unnecessary law.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Helen Fallon

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 12:11 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** My husband and I have lived in Venice for over 45 years. This ordinance is long overdue. In Venice, PATH and SPY feel that their obligation to be good neighbors to the surrounding residential neighborhood stops at the Bridge Housing fence. We are spending millions of taxpayer dollars on the homeless with very little to show for it. The ever growing Homeless Encampments in Venice, largely made up of newly arrived, out of state transients, are generating mounds of trash including human waste on our streets. In Venice, much of this filth eventually ends up on our beaches and in the ocean. The homeless service providers receiving our tax dollars are unable to effectively address the addiction and mental health issues that many transients exhibit because they insist that permanent housing must come first. You cannot house these transients without ensuring that they are treated for addiction first and are expected to remain sober and that the mentally ill are treated by medical professionals and in a medically supervised setting. The current approach is unsustainable financially and has proven to be a failure. Opponents of this ordinance will argue that this will criminalize homeless. This is utter nonsense! Many encampments already are home to criminals who are running Bike chop shops and selling illegal drugs. As encampments have grown in Venice, our community has seen a very significant increase in crime including assaults and burglaries. Residential neighborhoods in Venice adjacent to encampments are being terrorized by those living on our streets. What were once safe neighborhoods where families could raise children have become blighted, unsafe areas where neighbors are afraid to walk at night, and worry that their homes and cars will be broken in to. We here in Venice all have neighbors who have had been victimized. The streets surrounding the Bridge Housing located at Sunset and Pacific are filthy and trash filled. Tents and their occupants block sidewalks, resulting in pedestrians including the elderly, disabled and parents pushing strollers and with children being forced to walk in the street to get by. Even when there is a three foot access on the sidewalk, the filth alone, because of the cities failure to regularly clean and disinfect, forces pedestrians to move out in to the street in order to avoid tracking this nastiness into our homes, stores, restaurants, cars. In a democracy each person has a share in running the state.

One way is to hold other people to democratically created norms and practices by creating social sanctions. Our so-called "unhoused neighbors" should not be exempted from this expectation because doing so only promotes more incivility. Please vote to support this ordinance.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Abbot Kinney Blvd Resident

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 12:29 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am opposed to this ordinance because it is not strong enough. Nothing assures the community that the City will do what they promised the community to obtain support from the residents for the Venice ABH project (of which I was a supporter.) The City promised the community that it would provide security to protect the neighborhood. They did not. They promised they would keep the streets clean around ABH. They did not. They promised they would house hundreds of homeless. They did not. The ABH is a 'boarding house' not a transitioning agent for the betterment of the homeless or for the betterment of the community. No improvement can be discerned because there is this ABH in Venice. The City should think of this project for what it actually is: A Total Failure. Do not expect much, if any, support for another ABH project in Venice. The City cannot be trusted to do what it says it will do.....fool me once....

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 12:43 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Criminalizing homelessness because you can't get it together and offer shelters or other modes of housing is a ridiculously cruel choice, particularly as we are in the midst of a pandemic. You are choosing to increase enforcement on homeless citizens, who should not be expected to be able to differentiate between areas within 500 feet of a shelter or other area offering supportive services. The city's own restaurant outdoor dining plans during this pandemic are as likely to restrict ADA accessible passage as homeless housing, and yet you are going to choose to enforce one with this draconian law and allow the other to stand. Please, divert money and effort toward putting homeless people in housing - it is the option most proven to work to reduce homelessness, and unlike this measure, it isn't a stopgap that allows you to ignore your failures in this area.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Eva Greene

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 05:16 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 decision. 1. The Americans with Disabilities Act, has been for too long dismissed by the city of Los Angeles in favor of the encampments on sidewalks. This is a terrible discriminatory practice the city has allowed for far too long against the disabled by disallowing sidewalk access due to tents and encampments blocking entire sidewalks and not allowing for the 3' sidewalk clearance. They are forcing the disabled and wheelchair bound onto the streets endangering their lives with cars whizzing by them at 40+ mph. The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public in cities, states, and throughout the entire country. The purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. There must be a three-foot (3') clearance of all sidewalks in the city of Los Angeles to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The disabled through the ADA are guaranteed equal access to and equal opportunity in public Accommodations. On August 18, 2020, the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) voted almost unanimously (one abstention) for a 3' clearance of all sidewalks to comply with the ADA (Full motion attached). VNC Motion: 12B - Therefore, be it resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the City Attorney, the Police Department and the Dept. of Sanitation to begin immediate enforcement of ADA civil rights laws to protect the rights of the disabled who number over a million people in the city and county, requiring that all tent encampments and other items blocking passage for the disabled, and wheelchair bound, be moved back to ensure a minimum three foot clearance as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act for

walkability and wheelchair use, and that if the clearance cannot be met and is not possible, that those tent encampments be removed immediately or relocated where the City deems appropriate. 2. The second vital thing addressed in this motion is the 'A Bridge Home Shelters'. There have been too many promises made and promises broken for the people of Venice who live near the bridge shelter on Sunset. Venice was promised encampment cleanups and secure zones surrounding the shelter. Those promises made were promises broken, and the residents eight months later are surrounded more than ever with more 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. From late February when the Bridge Shelter Venice opened to August, there were 144 police calls. The residents living around bridge shelter are suffering without the police protections they were promised. Promises made, promises broken. To rebuild the faith of supporting Bridge Shelters anywhere else in the city, the Police, Mayor, Councilman for CD11 must keep the promises made to Venice residents surrounding the bridge shelter. If not, then no community should have faith that their bridge shelter will be managed and maintained professionally and with no tent encampments in their surrounding area. 3. Amending 41.18 is the third and vitally important aspect of this motion. February 18, 2020 our own Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) voted to adopt amendments to 41.18 on. This motion was brought forth by a People's Petition Motion to amend 41.18. (Full VNC Motion and CIS attached.) 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, Eva Greene Venice Resident /Stakeholder

ADA COMPLIANCE MOTION APPROVED BY THE VNC 8/18/20:

On August 18, 2020, the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) voted almost unanimously (one abstention) for a 3' clearance of all sidewalks for ADA Compliance.

VNC MOTION: 12B

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the City Attorney, the Police Department and the Dept. of Sanitation to begin immediate enforcement of ADA civil rights laws to protect the rights of the disabled who number over a million people in the city and county, requiring that all tent encampments and other items blocking passage for the disabled, and wheelchair bound, be moved back to ensure a minimum three foot clearance as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act for walkability and wheelchair use, and that if the clearance cannot be met and is not possible, that those tent encampments be removed immediately or relocated where the City deems appropriate.

Upon passage, this Resolution shall be forwarded to City Attorney Mike N. Feuer, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilman Mike Bonin, President of the Board of Public Works Kevin James, Police Chief Michel R. Moore, and Department of Sanitation General Manager Enrique C. Zaldivar,

APPROVED BY THE VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL: (12B) MR, VH(17, 0, 1)

FAVOR: Ira Koslow, Hugh Harrison, Melissa Diner, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, John Reed, Jaime Paige , Alex Neiman, CJ Cole , Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Alix Gucovsky, Bruno Hernandez, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Urusa, Mark Ryavec, Christian Wrede,

OPPOSED:

ABSTAIN: George Francisco

**12B FULL MOTION:**

**Sidewalks To Be Cleared if Found to be in Violation of Americans With Disabilities Act** (recommended by Homeless Committee)

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990, and

Whereas the ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public in cities, states, and throughout the entire country, and Whereas the purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else, and

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion, and

Whereas there must be a the three-foot (3') clearance of all sidewalks in the city of Los Angeles to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and

Whereas the ADA guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications, and

Whereas there may be disabled individuals living in tents in the encampments, and by the encampments not allowing a 3' clearance of sidewalks, they too are being prohibited from equal access to the sidewalks and are also being discriminated upon, by the city allowing discriminatory practices against the disabled who through the ADA are guaranteed equal access to and equal opportunity in public Accommodations,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the City Attorney, the Police Department and the Dept. of Sanitation to begin immediate enforcement of ADA civil rights laws to protect the rights of the disabled who number over a million people in the city and county, requiring that all tent encampments and other items blocking passage for the disabled, and wheelchair bound, be moved back to ensure a minimum three foot clearance as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act for walkability and wheelchair use, and that if the clearance cannot be met and is not possible, that those tent encampments be removed immediately or relocated where the City deems appropriate.

Upon passage, this Resolution shall be forwarded to City Attorney Mike N. Feuer, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilman Mike Bonin, President of the Board of Public Works Kevin James, Police Chief Michel R. Moore, and Department of Sanitation General Manager Enrique C. Zaldivar,

*Recommended by Homeless Committee (4,2,0) 8/7/2020*

FULL AGENDA MINUTES - LINK:

<https://www.venicenc.org/docs/34484786-8975.pdf>

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dr. Craig Enders

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 08:13 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council Members, My comment is both as a psychologist and as a resident living across the street from ABH in Venice. In principle, ABH should serve an important purpose for our community and deliver vital services to the unhoused. As someone who supported this solution in the planning stages, I never could have imagined the current situation as a possible outcome - the reality is quite literally unimaginable. On a daily and nightly basis, members of our community must contend with assaults, fires, rampant and open hard drug use, discarded needles and drug paraphernalia, five gallon buckets filled with human waste, theft and violent crime, harassment, among other things. To be clear, these conditions are inflicted on both housed and unhoused residents alike. In a setting where our public health experts point to the outdoors as a low-risk environment, we can no longer enjoy the simple act of taking a walk around the block, as it is far too dangerous. Frankly, the situation is something I would expect to see in a Trump campaign ad, as the area surrounding the Venice ABH facility is a caricature of his trope about Democratically-run cities. We are better than this. The cruelty inflicted upon both the neighbors of the facility and the unhoused is simply unacceptable. The current situation is simply untenable for all involved, as it is serving no one while failing everyone. Relocating encampments to safe places with the services people need to rebuild their lives is the right thing to do for all unhoused individuals. To conclude otherwise ignores objective data and embraces the irrational position that continuing the status quo will produce a different, better outcome. Respectfully, Dr. Craig Enders

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Julia

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 08:30 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council Members, I would like to voice my strongest possible support for this motion. I am both a resident living within 500 feet of the Venice ABH and a human with great compassion and empathy for our unhoused neighbors. I am also a female who, after several incidents of verbal harassment and terrifying encounters with individuals living literally outside my doorstep, fears for her personal safety every time I step outside to walk my dogs. As taxpayers, we deserve better. As human beings, the unhoused deserve better. The area around the Venice ABH must be addressed, as the third-world conditions and crime that we all must endure on a daily basis is simply not viable going forward. COVID is not an excuse for inaction. I implore you to help. Best regards, Julia

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sergio Moreno

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 08:49 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Honorable Councilmembers, I urge you to support the resolution to resume the comprehensive sidewalk encampment cleanups and banning the storage of bulky items on the sidewalks. The current conditions pose a public health crisis for our unsheltered population. The conditions are inhumane and our fellow Angelenos deserve better. Thank you for your consideration and leadership!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Katherine Tattersfield

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 09:02 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion is cruel & a huge waste of public funds. It also violates CDC guidelines for people experiencing homelessness in the pandemic. Instead of wasting money on enforcing this, the City should focus on housing as well as services to help people transition from the streets. The measure will not survive legal challenges either, so it's a complete waste of time. Every Councilmember involved should be ashamed of themselves.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hampton Drive resident

**Date Submitted:** 10/25/2020 10:41 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I have lived on Hampton Dr in Venice since 2013, but have recently returned with my family after a few years out of town. I am completely shocked and appalled by the spread of homelessness (with all that entails) in the area since the opening of the Bridge Home across the street. Among other incidents, I now hear people scream profanities at the top of their lungs every morning, I have witnessed many violent altercations on my street, a sharp increase in burglaries in our building, and I notice drug dealing (and sometimes even consumption!) on a daily basis. Needless to say, I don't feel safe walking around the neighborhood with my toddler and wife anymore - let alone that we can no longer use many parts of the sidewalk as it is permanently appropriated by homeless individuals, their tents and sometimes even their businesses eg a bike shop. Like many homeowners in the area, I was hopeful the bridge home would help people less fortunate find more stable footing in life with proper and safe housing, instead of living on the street. I realize some have been less privileged than others in life, and support the city's efforts to address this inequality issue. However, it is clearly not working as it is; in fact it seems to be getting worse. It is time to do something to change this terrible trajectory, therefore I strongly support this motion as a good step in the right direction. I realize there is a pandemic ongoing, we have to be careful and I believe it's reasonable to expect an adjustment period. But by now, after 8 months into the pandemic and with no end in sight, it's time to re-adjust the strategy in light of what is actually happening. Note that I have noticed in the other comments posted here that many people seem outraged at this motion, claiming it is de-humanizing. Personally I don't understand how one can argue that enabling homeless encampments would be humanizing? It seems to me that a homeless encampment should be an absolute last and temporary resort, and is in itself de-humanizing. I am not suggesting we send homeless people to jail either (as implied in the term "criminalizing"), but to support them living off the streets. I am all for helping homeless individuals with the support they need to live a fulfilling and productive life, including appropriate physical and mental health, housing and other basic needs, etc without threatening the peace and safety of the other housed residents. The goal should be for these existing bridge

homes to be seen as positive additions in the community, which would allow more of them to be opened and truly help the homeless population in LA. But first, this requires an agreed set of transparent rules followed by all and this motion banning encampments in the vicinity of bridge homes (as I understand was the initial condition upon bridge home construction) is an excellent first step.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tony Brown

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:58 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** To the City Council, I am the operations director for Marvimon Productions and work at 600-616 E. 4th St, 607 E 4th st, 800 E 4th place as well as rent a studio space at 620 E4th St. Having a hold on cleanup of our streets and giving total freedom to the people who have the least ability to take care of themselves has led to an incredible uptick in trash, sprawling tents blocking the entirety of sidewalks, an exploding rat problem, vandalism, people shooting up on the sidewalks and leaving their needles everywhere. This has obvious health implications that are intensified due to Covid 19. We've had our security, landscapers, maintenance and myself threatened and even attacked. Just Saturday 10/25 one of our landscapers had to go to urgent care after pricking his finger on a heroine needle thrown into the bushes that had just been cleaned out. My other fellow employees are in danger when they enter or leave our buildings. It is difficult to even bring clients into our buildings without them interfacing with the above issues. There are plenty of homeless individuals that are just trying to get back into society but there are many others who are ready to take advantage of a state of lawlessness. Allowing people to have mountains of trash, sprawling tents that never move is an advertisement to them that they can do whatever they want and the police or anyone else can't do anything about it. Things are only going to get worse if this isn't addressed quickly. Are we waiting for more tents? More fires set by addicts fighting over territory? More rats and disease? More strain on businesses and workers?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** R. Terada  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 12:41 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Even speaking this motion's possibility is an ethical scandal that merits recall petitions for those councilmembers supporting it.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gigi Droesch

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 12:43 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. The text of the motion instructs the city attorney to draft amendments to 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. It's written as if City Council actually wants people to die. That can't be the case, can it? We need actual solutions instead of further criminalizing vulnerable populations. 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. I am urging Los Angeles's elected officials to act with compassion and human decency.

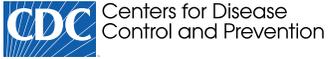
## Communication from Public

**Name:** Spike Friedman  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 12:44 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Criminalizing the unhoused is not an effective strategy to combat homelessness. It is expensive, counterproductive, and at best skirts the line of constitutionality. At its worst this strategy has also placed this Council's work in violation of the country's founding document over and over again. Also, it's needlessly cruel! Stop doing this! Invest in proven solutions!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Harrison Hopkins  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 12:45 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This unconscionable motion serves no purpose other than to further criminalize homelessness in LA under the premise of LA having provided so much support already that neighborhoods deserve to "their public spaces returned to them", in the words of Councilmember Busciano. Those communities still have their public spaces – and those public spaces are being rightfully occupied by community members with no where else to go. The fact that the text cites LA's Project Homekey participation as justification and evidence of their hard work to address the issue is laughable considering LA's failure to deliver on the promises of Roomkey which came before: with a homeless population of 48,000, LA graciously promised 15,000 beds and went on to barely deliver 4,000. This is no success at all, and even with the few shelters that some neighborhoods have allowed within their hallowed borders, there is not one single area in this city that would come close to the bed surplus and services tendered to remotely justify a law like this. You cannot offer 100 beds and use that to justify relocation of 1,000 individuals. You cannot punish people for your inability to provide them the help they need. And that's without getting into the sheer cruelty of this motion. As LA enters its cold and rainy season, the City Council wants to push encampments out of one of the few places in LA where they can stay dry. This is not help – this is cruel and unusual punishment simply for being homeless. I am truly disgusted that there are seven members of our council who think that this is an acceptable path to take. Finally, the pandemic element. The CDC has stated that you should not relocate people currently unless you are providing housing in order to help control the spread of Coronavirus. LA is already struggling to control the spread of the disease due to an early re-opening and lackluster enforcement, and now the City of LA wants to add to that by dispersing encampments even more across LA. Directly pulled from the CDC's website at the time of this writing (2020-10-26, 12:20PM PDT, <https://web.archive.org/web/20201023212209/https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html#facility-encampments>). • If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are. • Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread. • Encourage those staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual. • If an encampment is not able to provide sufficient space for each person, allow people to remain where they are but help decompress the encampment by linking those at increased risk for severe illness to individual rooms or safe shelter. • Work together with community coalition members to improve sanitation in encampments. • Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day. • If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, assist with providing access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people. These facilities should be equipped with hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol). Based on these guidelines, this motion to amend 41.18 should be dead on arrival as it is guaranteed to further fan the flames of an ongoing public health crisis. But it should have never reached this point in the first place as its basis and recommendations within are based solely in cruelty towards our homeless neighbors. I urge that all members of the City Council outright reject this motion. 41.18 must be repealed, not replaced. We need services, not sweeps.



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# Coronavirus Disease

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# Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials

## Interim Guidance on People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

### Interim Guidance

Updated Aug. 6, 2020

This interim guidance is based on what is currently known [about coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will update this interim guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available.

[Printer friendly version](#) 

### Summary of Recent Changes

A revision was made on 5/10/2020 to reflect the following:

- Revisions to document organization for clarity
- Description of “whole community” approach
- Clarification of outreach staff guidance
- Clarification of encampment guidance

People experiencing unsheltered homelessness (those sleeping outside or in places not meant for human habitation) may be at risk for infection when there is community spread of COVID-19. This interim guidance is intended to support response to COVID-19 by local and state health departments, homelessness service systems, housing authorities, emergency planners, healthcare facilities, and homeless outreach services. Homeless shelters and other facilities should also refer to the [Interim Guidance for Homeless Shelters](#). Community and faith-based organizations can refer to the [Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith](#) for other information related to their staff and organizations.

COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus. We are learning about [how it spreads, how severe it is, and other features of the disease](#).

Lack of housing contributes to poor physical and [mental](#) health outcomes, and linkages to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness should continue to be a priority. In the context of COVID-19 spread and transmission, the risks associated with sleeping outdoors or in an encampment setting are different than from staying indoors in a congregate setting such as an emergency shelter or other congregate living facility. Outdoor settings may allow people to increase physical distance between themselves and others. However, sleeping outdoors often does not provide protection from the environment, adequate access to hygiene and sanitation facilities, or connection to services and healthcare. The balance of risks should be considered for each individual experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

# Community coalition-based COVID-19 prevention and response

Planning and response to COVID-19 transmission among people experiencing homelessness requires a [“whole community”](#) approach, which means involving partners in the response plan development, with clearly outlined roles and responsibilities. Table 1 outlines some of the activities and key partners to consider for a whole-community approach.

Table 1: Using a community-wide approach to prepare for COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness

<p>Connect to community-wide planning</p>
<p>Connect with key partners to make sure that you can all easily communicate with each other while preparing for and responding to cases. A community coalition focused on COVID-19 planning and response should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local and state health departments</li> <li>• Outreach teams and street medicine providers</li> <li>• Homeless service providers and Continuum of Care leadership</li> <li>• Emergency management</li> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Healthcare providers</li> <li>• Housing authorities</li> <li>• Local government leadership</li> <li>• Other support services like case management, emergency food programs, syringe service programs, and behavioral health support</li> <li>• People with lived experiences of homelessness</li> </ul> <p>People with lived experiences of homelessness can help with planning and response. These individuals can serve as peer navigators to strengthen outreach and engagement efforts. Develop an advisory board with representation from people with current or former experiences of homelessness to ensure community plans are effective.</p>
<p>Identify additional sites and resources</p>
<p>Continuing homeless services during community spread of COVID-19 is critical. Make plans to maintain services for all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Furthermore, clients who are positive for COVID-19 need to have access to services and a safe place to stay, separated from others who are not infected. To facilitate the continuation of services, community coalitions should identify resources to support people sleeping outside as well as additional temporary housing, including sites with individual rooms that are able to provide appropriate services, supplies, and staffing. These sites should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overflow sites to accommodate shelter decompression and higher shelter demands</li> <li>• Isolation sites for people who are confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 by laboratory testing</li> <li>• Quarantine sites for people who are awaiting testing, awaiting test results, or who were exposed to COVID-19</li> <li>• Protective housing for people <a href="#">who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19</a></li> </ul> <p>Depending on resources and staff availability, housing options that have individual rooms (such as hotels/motels) and separate bathrooms should be considered for the overflow, quarantine, and protective housing sites. In addition, plan for how to connect clients to housing opportunities after they have completed their stay in these temporary sites.</p>

# Communication

Outreach workers and other community partners, such as emergency food provision programs or law enforcement, can help ensure people sleeping outside have access to updated information about COVID-19 and access to services.

- Stay updated on the local level of transmission of COVID-19 through your [local](#) and [state](#) health departments.
- Build on existing partnerships with peer navigators who can help communicate with others.
- Maintain up-to-date contact information and areas frequented for each person.
- Communicate clearly with people sleeping outside.
  - Use [health messages and materials developed](#) by credible public health sources, such as your local and state public health departments or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
  - Post signs in strategic places (e.g. near handwashing facilities) providing instruction on [hand washing](#) and [cough etiquette](#).
  - Provide educational materials about COVID-19 for [non-English speakers](#), those with low literacy or intellectual disabilities, and people who are hearing or vision impaired.
  - Ensure communication with clients about changes in homeless services policies and/or changes in physical location of services such as food, water, hygiene facilities, regular healthcare, and behavioral health resources.
- Identify and address potential language, cultural, and disability barriers associated with communicating COVID-19 information to workers, volunteers, and those you serve. Learn more about [reaching people of diverse languages and cultures](#).

## Considerations for outreach staff

### *Staff training and policies*

- Provide training and educational materials related to COVID-19 for staff.
- Minimize the number of staff members who have face-to-face interactions with clients.
- Develop and use contingency plans for increased absenteeism caused by employee illness or by illness in employees' family members. These plans might include extending hours, cross-training current employees, or hiring temporary employees.
- Assign outreach staff who are at [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#) to duties that do not require them to interact with clients in person.
- Outreach staff should review [stress and coping resources](#) for themselves and their clients during this time.

### *Staff prevention measures*

- Encourage outreach staff to maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) on a regular basis, including before and after each client interaction
- Advise staff to maintain 6 feet of distance while interacting with clients and other staff, where possible.
- Require outreach staff to wear [masks](#) when working in public settings or interacting with clients. They should still maintain a distance of 6 feet from each other and clients, even while wearing masks.
- Advise outreach staff to avoid handling client belongings. If staff are handling client belongings, they should use disposable gloves, if available. Make sure to train any staff using gloves to [ensure proper use](#) and ensure they perform hand hygiene before and after use. If gloves are unavailable, staff should perform [hand hygiene](#) immediately after handling client belongings.
- Outreach staff who are checking [client temperatures](#) should use a system that creates a physical barrier between the

client and the screener as described [here](#).

- Where possible, screeners should remain behind a physical barrier, such as a car window, that can protect the staff member's face from respiratory droplets that may be produced if the client sneezes, coughs, or talks.
- If social distancing or barrier/partition controls cannot be put in place during screening, PPE (i.e., facemask, eye protection [goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face], and a single pair of disposable gloves) can be used when within 6 feet of a client.
- However, given PPE shortages, training requirements, and because PPE alone is less effective than a barrier, try to use a barrier whenever you can.
- For street medicine or other healthcare staff who are providing medical care to clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and close contact (within 6 feet) cannot be avoided, staff should at a minimum, wear eye protection (goggles or face shield), an N95 or higher level respirator (or a facemask if respirators are not available or staff are not fit tested), disposable gown, and disposable gloves. Masks are not PPE and should not be used when a respirator or facemask is indicated. Healthcare providers should follow infection control [guidelines](#).
- Outreach staff who do not interact closely (e.g., within 6 feet) with sick clients and do not clean client environments do not need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Outreach staff should launder work uniforms or clothes after use using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.

#### *Staff process for outreach*

- In the process of conducting outreach, staff should
  - Greet clients from a distance of 6 feet and explain that you are taking additional precautions to protect yourself and the client from COVID-19.
  - If the client is not wearing a mask, provide them with one.
  - Screen clients for symptoms by asking them if they feel as if they have a fever, cough, or other [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#).
  - Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness
    - Older adults and persons with medical comorbidities may have delayed presentation of fever and respiratory symptoms.
    - If medical attention is necessary, use standard outreach protocols to facilitate access to healthcare.
  - Continue conversations and provision of information while maintaining 6 feet of distance.
  - If at any point you do not feel that you are able to protect yourself or your client from the spread of COVID-19, discontinue the interaction and notify your supervisor. Examples include if the client declines to wear a mask or if you are unable to maintain a distance of 6 feet.

## Considerations for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness

#### *Help clients prevent becoming sick with COVID-19*

- Consider the balance of these risks when addressing options for decreasing COVID-19 spread. Those who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness face several risks to their health and safety.
- Continued linkage to homeless services, housing, medical, mental health, syringe services, and substance use treatment, including provision of medication-assisted therapies (e.g., buprenorphine, methadone maintenance, etc.). Use telemedicine, when possible.
- Some people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness may be at [increased risk of severe illness](#) from COVID-19 due to older age or certain underlying medical conditions, such as chronic lung disease or serious heart

conditions.

- Reach out to these clients regularly to ensure they are linked to care as necessary.
- Prioritize providing individual rooms for these clients, where available.
- Recommend that all clients wear [masks](#) any time they are around other people. Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Provide clients with hygiene materials, where available.
- Discourage clients from spending time in crowded places or gathering in large groups, for example at locations where food, water, or hygiene supplies are being distributed.
  - If it is not possible for clients and staff to avoid crowded places, encourage spreading out (at least 6 feet between people) to the extent possible and wearing masks.

#### *Help link sick clients to medical care*

- Regularly assess clients for [symptoms](#).
  - Clients who have symptoms may or may not have COVID-19. Make sure they have a place they can safely stay in coordination with local health authorities.
  - If available, a nurse or other clinical staff can help with clinical assessments. These clinical staff should follow [personal protective measures](#).
  - Provide anyone who presents with symptoms with a mask.
  - Facilitate access to non-urgent medical care as needed.
  - Use standard outreach procedures to determine whether a client needs immediate medical attention. Emergency signs include (this list is not all inclusive. Please refer clients for medical care for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you):
    - Trouble breathing
    - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
    - New confusion or inability to arouse
    - Bluish lips or face
  - Notify the designated medical facility and personnel to transfer that clients might have COVID-19.
- If a client has tested positive for COVID-19
  - Use standard outreach procedures to determine whether a client needs immediate medical attention.
  - If immediate medical attention is not required, facilitate [transportation](#) to an isolation site.
  - Notify designated medical facility and personnel that the client has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - If medical care is not necessary, and if no other isolation options are available, advise the individual on how to isolate themselves while efforts are underway to provide additional support.
  - During isolation, ensure continuation of behavioral health support for people with substance use or mental health disorders.
  - In some situations, for example due to severe untreated mental illness, an individual may not be able to comply with isolation recommendations. In these cases, community leaders should consult local health authorities to determine alternative options.
  - Ensure the client has a safe location to recuperate (e.g., respite care) after isolation requirements are completed, and follow-up to ensure medium- and long-term medical needs are met.

## Considerations for encampments

- If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain

where they are.

- Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.
- Encourage those staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual.
  - If an encampment is not able to provide sufficient space for each person, allow people to remain where they are but help decompress the encampment by linking those at [increased risk for severe illness](#) to individual rooms or safe shelter.
- Work together with community coalition members to improve sanitation in encampments.
- Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day.
- If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, assist with providing access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people. These facilities should be equipped with hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).

## COVID-19 Readiness Resources

- [Considerations for food pantries and food distribution sites](#)
- Visit [cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19) for the latest information and resources
- [Information for health departments](#)
- Guidance for [homeless service providers](#)
- COVID-19 [fact sheets](#) for people experiencing homelessness (at the bottom of the page)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [COVID-19 resources](#) [↗](#)
- CDC's [COVID-19 stress and coping information](#)

Last Updated Aug. 6, 2020

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Thomas Webb

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 12:55 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Stop. There is no evidence to suggest this motion will help the unhoused community. This continued, blatant criminalization of unhoused people is barbaric. Let people live in peace. Help them instead of forcing them to keep moving. If you think you can sweep people under the rug to detract from your failure to provide housing, you're wrong. Stop being cruel and start solving problems, or resign. I understand many of your constituents would rather not have to acknowledge the existence of unhoused people, but you are obligated to be fair and just to all of your constituents, not just the most hateful. It's time you worked harder to solve the housing crisis. This is not how you do it. Sincerely, Thomas Webb in Sawtelle, 90025

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Audrey Knox

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 12:55 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I was horrified to learn about the recent motion by Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee to criminalize being homeless in Los Angeles, all for the sake of visibility and keeping up appearances. We are only as good as how we treat our most vulnerable population, and I am disgusted by the idea of harassing people who are just trying to live. Making it illegal to "store property" near a shelter is a recipe for disaster. People are going to get harassed and have everything they own potentially stripped from them and thrown away, and all for what??? Superficial pretend progress? It breaks my heart. I demand that this council focuses 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). I need you to end Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently. I demand that Los Angeles respects CDC guidelines and works with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement. I require that you halt all CARE+ "comprehensive cleanup" operations. Please REMOVE law enforcement from outreach. And immediately repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents. Of course I want to help solve this homelessness crisis. But we have to do this by lifting people out of homelessness through services, not by making their lives harder.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Annie Powers

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 12:58 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please do not pass this motion. I am a person who has been housing insecure for a long time, and at multiple points in my life faced homelessness if not for the kindness of friends. Reading this motion broke my heart. The city has nowhere close to enough housing to house all of the people that this motion would violently displace in the middle of an unprecedented global pandemic. The shelters you all claim to have are both inaccessible and inhumane -- they are like prisons, where people are expected to sleep in tiny cubicle with absolute supervision, with no privacy and no ability to shelter from the virus. These shelters are cruel and the decision to sweep people when there is no housing is both cruel and unconstitutional. As a person who has called LA my home longer than I've been anywhere, I am begging you to please, please not pass this motion. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lex Roman

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 01:00 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a City Council, you repeatedly fail us. There is never a scenario where intimidation, arrests, tickets, fines, and punishment is a substitute for meeting basic human needs with housing, food, services and support. It seems to me like you know this but have lost the will to try to serve your constituents. Easier instead to give up. Sweep them away. Let them die. We are tired of having to tell you to stop criminalizing people for your own failures. This harmful and lazy mode of operation signals to us that City Hall exists solely as your pitstop on the way to greater power and money. Somehow you manage to find avenues for your restaurant programs, your political billboards, your pet development projects. The right of way is yours for the taking. What kind of city is this? A city that exists at the whims of 15 people and those who can pay to get their attention. A city which leaves people on the sidewalks to die, first taking their belongings, then their dignity and leaving only a criminal record in return. Pete White says it best. Why don't you handcuff some courage? <https://twitter.com/KtownforAll/status/1175239734534107136?s=20> If you're not going to support people with housing and services, the least you could do is stop harassing us. Stop criminalizing people simply for being alive.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Margaret

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 01:18 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please pass this bill. The needs of the homeless and the needs of the housed need to be respected. Help the homeless find shelter and mental health, addiction and job services, and protect our streets, sidewalks and alleys from filth, trash and other health hazards. LA should not host the 2028 Olympics if it cannot address and solve the problem of homelessness

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:30 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. This motion addresses the serious Americans with Disabilities Act violations, it addresses the promises made and the promises broken by the city for residents who live near Bridge Housing Shelters, and it addresses LAMC Sec. 41.18. 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, Jake Koury  
Venice Resident/ Stakeholder

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:31 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is long overdue. Please, please, please and thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rhiana

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:39 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** No one wants to live under a freeway, but many of my unhoused friends choose to stay under them for shade, privacy, and to avoid busy right-of-ways. Criminalizing them for doing so is the most ass backwards idea i've ever heard. Shame on Bob Blumenfield for authoring this and shame on all the others who have signed onto this. In the City Attorney's draft ordinance, 41.18(d) is rewritten as follows: "At no time shall any person who has been offered shelter sit, lie or sleep in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way, or publicly owned property." This is a SHOCKING infringement of unhoused neighbors' rights. There are so many reasons why someone may decline to go to a shelter - if any of our city officials ever talked to their unhoused constituents, they would know this. Criminalizing people for not immediately accepting whatever "shelter" is offered to them is PURE EVIL. Please see the open letter attached from numerous LA organizations opposing this motion.

## LETTER TO LA CITY COUNCIL RE: 41.18

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers Martinez, Blumenfield, Bonin, Buscaino, Cedillo, De Leon, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, Krekorian, Lee, O'Farrell, Price, Rodriguez, Ryu, and Wesson,

**We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, are requesting that you oppose any legislation that allows the city to ban sitting, sleeping, and lying** within: 500 feet of freeways, ramps, and tunnels; 500 feet of any facility opened after January 2018 that provides housing, shelter, services, safe parking, or storage to unhoused people; or the storage of property in the areas listed above.

The proposed changes would make it illegal to be unhoused in a significant portion of Los Angeles City, as demonstrated by [this interactive map of comprehensive enforcement restrictions](#). According to Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) data, this could impact thousands of unsheltered individuals living in Los Angeles.

Public officials have stated over and over again that there are not enough available beds to support Los Angeles' unhoused populations. LAHSA's most recent [Housing Inventory Count](#) estimated that there were 15,000 shelter or bridge beds available across the Continuum of Care. Even if all of these beds were open, they would only provide space for a fraction of the people living unsheltered in the city. Further, even if there were sufficient beds, public officials, most notably LAHSA, consistently state [that inflow into homelessness is far greater and faster than what our homelessness service system can support](#). Proposals like these promote the myth that people are homeless by choice, not the result of a failure to expand the city's homeless housing stock (both shelters and permanent). Given this scarcity, prioritizing enforcement will do little more than move people from place to place, disrupting their lives along the way.

The focus of this legislation is to criminalize homelessness, a strategy that [wastes millions of city dollars while accomplishing very little](#). Legal scholars have argued that these ordinances constitute [cruel and unusual punishment](#) and [violate basic human rights](#). *Jones v. City of Los Angeles* ruled that enforcing the bans on sitting and sleeping in public violate the Eighth Amendment's cruel and unusual punishment clause. Despite these rulings, Los Angeles has continued to lead with criminalization in its response to the homelessness crisis. This is actively counterproductive toward reducing homelessness.

- Citations, arrests, and fees are impediments to obtaining employment, housing, and other needed resources.
- Displacing people can disrupt relationships with homeless outreach and caseworkers, who are necessary to enter into stable housing and services.
- Encampment sweeps by police and sanitation workers result in the loss of important possessions: documents, items of personal value, even medication.
- When documents are confiscated, people applying for housing and other services are set back—ID cards and certain forms are often needed to obtain assistance.
- When medications are confiscated or thrown out by police, the consequences can be fatal.

As of September 21, coroner data shows that [964 unhoused Angelenos have died this year](#).

- Unhoused deaths represent 11% of all deaths in LA, despite representing 1% of the overall population.
- Unhoused deaths were almost twice as likely to be male and 1.6 times more likely to be black.
- Unhoused people were over two times more likely to have died from accidental and preventable causes compared to housed populations.

The Centers for Disease Control states “clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.” Increased enforcement creates another threat to unhoused Angelenos at a time when the city is already expected to surpass the number of [unhoused deaths of the previous year](#) and set a record for the **City with the highest homeless mortality rate**.

City Council is approaching enforcement with urgency, even as housing projects face [delays](#) and [higher-than-expected costs](#). We cannot prioritize building systems to force people into shelter when there is nowhere for them to go. **For the above reasons, we urge you to oppose the passage of [Council file: 20-1376](#).**

LETTER TO LA CITY COUNCIL RE: 41.18  
ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS



**YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE FRONT**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE FRONT**



LETTER TO LA CITY COUNCIL RE: 41.18

**CODEPINK**  
WOMEN FOR PEACE



**invisible PEOPLE**



UNITED  
COALITION EAST



AMERICAN  
CONSTITUTION  
SOCIETY at UCLA Law

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alana Shine

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:39 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I am an LA resident in council district 10. I am appalled that this motion would displace unhoused people without offering new services. It is particularly cruel to target these locations (near shelters or free underpasses) as both offer key resources to survive. We are in the middle of the pandemic. Transitioning out of homelessness is harder than ever. Why would we displace unhoused people in these conditions without providing resources? Worse, if unhoused people are arrested as a result of these measures, this makes it even harder to become housed. Please stop this inhumane action.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jacob

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:47 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** LET HOMELESS PEOPLE LIVE. This is so cruel. You fucking fascists should be ashamed of yourselves. Stop criminalizing the most oppressed people in our city who are just trying to survive. Fuck you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:49 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is such a great start, and I'm hoping we can continue to build on this to reduce the homelessness problem on our street and help these people in more constructive ways.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:53 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** We need our sidealk access back. Bridge housing has come at great cost to our tax dollars and has destroyed the safety of our area. Declining housing should be illegal we need involuntary commitment immediately.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Heidi Roberts

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:54 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council Persons - Please vote to uphold the promises you made to all of the Bridge Shelter host communities in Los Angeles. I am a believer in Bridge Housing - as well as shared housing - as viable strategies to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis that's festering on our streets. However, I also live in Venice and can assure you that conditions in our community have dramatically worsened since the opening of the Bridge Home. ALL safety and cleaning protocols have been abandoned and the surrounding residential community has suffered greatly. The environs are horrid for both housed and house-less alike. Maintaining this level of squalor, despite assurances that it would not be this way, only reinforces that all LA politicians are untrustworthy for refusing to uphold their promises. And I'm sure that no community will ever agree to host a Bridge facility in the future if they see the current conditions in Venice. The promise of Bridge Housing was to lift lives up. To create a space space for formerly homeless persons to recover from the trauma that made them homeless in the first place AND to address the dreadful conditions that encampments inherently bring to communities. So far, the Venice Bridge Housing shelter has done the opposite. It's destroying one community and doing nothing for another. It doesn't need to be this way. Please, if this Bridge Home concept stands half a chance of providing relief for tens of thousands on the streets and millions in homes, you must take steps to ensure they lift ALL communities. Deliver what you promised to the people of LA and ensure that Bridge Home shelters solve more problems than they create. Heidi Roberts Venice resident and founder/owner of Haaven Shared Housing

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Margaret

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 05:56 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Criminalizing homelessness is both heartless and pointless. More to the point, city leadership promised to reduce the role of the police and criminal justice in dealing with nonviolent situations after the demonstrations last summer. Or was that all a lie?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** keith Abouaf

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:01 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear LA City Council Members, Please move forward with enforcing the law to prevent the takeover of our streets by those suffering from drug addiction, mental illness, and those without homes. We cannot continue to let these people die on the streets. We need to help those willing to accept our help, and clear out those who want to stay on the streets. Thank You, Keith

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alec Vandenberg

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:05 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This measure is cruel especially in the midst of a pandemic and as the cold sets in. City Council needs to stop trying to criminalize homelessness and start providing adequate housing and services to lift people off the streets and to reaffirm human dignity.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Heather Dean

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:06 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please stop criminalizing homelessness. As an LA resident, I demand that City Council 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: 1. 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). 2. End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently. 3. Respect CDC guidelines, and working with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement. 4. Halt all CARE+ “comprehensive cleanup” operations. 5. Remove law enforcement from outreach. 6. Oppose and repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ashley Brim

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:10 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The cruelty being proposed by this motion is staggering. That the council would move to criminalize homelessness without offering any solutions to the unhoused people they want to displace is shameful. That you would do this during a pandemic is irresponsible. We don't need more people in our jails where Covid continues to spread and we are averaging 3 unhoused people dying each day on our streets. The Centers for Disease Control states "clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread." Increased enforcement creates another threat to unhoused Angelenos at a time when the city is already expected to surpass the number of unhoused deaths of the previous year and set a record for the City with the highest homeless mortality rate. Please focus your efforts on housing people with Project Roomkey, building supportive housing and funding wrap around services so that our unhoused neighbors can have a safe place to heal.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Meleina Mayhew

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:11 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is a disgusting and totally cruel piece of legislation that uses bullshit technicalities to criminalize homelessness. STOP criminalizing homelessness, and actually DO something (like put resources towards support services) to help our unhoused neighbors of this city. It was a goddamn emergency before, and now we're in the midst of a pandemic... and this does absolutely nothing to help the most vulnerable among us.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gabriela Ambriz

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:11 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Stop criminalizing homelessness. All this serves to do is sweep this problem under the rug by hoping unhoused people will just magically disappear. This is not how we end homelessness. This is how our unhoused neighbors become further neglected and even die. Take a moment to think why they aren't taking the shelter options available. If you took even a few minutes out of your day to speak with your unhoused neighbors and have an actual dialogue you might actually begin to understand what they need. Housing is a human right

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Vlad Kopman

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:12 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** We cannot afford inaction when considering how dire our homeless situation is. And we cannot continue the inhuman practice of leaving people on the street.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Zachary Jenkins

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:19 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose 41.18. Stop criminalizing poverty and homelessness while refusing to solve these urgent problems. This and the inhumane "sweeps" of unhoused members of our community are disgusting. These people are your constituents as much as I am! You refuse to combat homelessness by banning evictions, canceling rent, and commandeering hotel rooms. And then proceed to make things even harder on people on the streets.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Valerie

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:20 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** NO on 41.18 please. As a cd13 constituent I ask u please not to do this. We need care not sweeps. This will deeply affect our unhorsed communities and they are already extremely vulnerable. Please. No on 41.18.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chloe Parks

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:24 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm disgusted and disappointed by the suggestion that the people of Los Angeles would prefer that their unhoused neighbors be blocked, punished, or otherwise harmed for simply existing. If the city provided adequate shelter or resources to those without permanent homes this wouldn't be an issue, but because LA does not provide for its unhoused inhabitants it is only adding insult to injury to create further restrictions on those who make their homes where they can. Shameful.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Katie Miles

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:26 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 to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city. 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. This is unethical, immoral, and just horrible behavior on the part of our elected officials. Unhoused Angelenos are city residents just like anyone else – they are our neighbors, family members, friends, and co-workers. Just like anyone else, they deserve to be treated with dignity, and for their basic human and constitutional rights to be respected. It is especially egregious that the Councilmembers introduced this motion during the COVID pandemic, as cases are again rising in Los Angeles. More than 900 unhoused people have died this year in Los Angeles. These Councilmembers should be ashamed that they are more concerned with providing nice optics for housed constituents than working to end the crisis of death and needless suffering on our streets. 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:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:32 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The sidewalks have become unusable in Venice and most of the trash is overflowing into the street

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Danielle Barrett

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:33 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** 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. This motion addresses the serious Americans with Disabilities Act violations, it addresses the promises made and the promises broken by the city for residents who live near Bridge Housing Shelters, and it addresses LAMC Sec. 41.18. 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.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Uhlawntay  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:33 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** This is so disgusting!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sierra

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:33 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing to urge you to vote no on 41.18. We want a city that decriminalizes poverty and homelessness and focuses on providing hotel rooms and permanent housing to all unhoused Angelenos. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** ETHAN METCALFE

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:35 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** You "councilors" are a disgrace. How dare you sit there, act like you've done your job (when you've only ever made things worse), and then put this trash motion out there like you've accomplished something? You people are CHILDREN, and it's sad how your unpaid constituents have to do your jobs for you constantly - from education to outreach to just being decent human beings, everything good done in this city comes from its own people and not from you or your jackbooted shock troops in LASD/LAPD. Why don't you deal with them, the real menace to our society, other than criminalizing and harassing poor folks. None of you should ever get to sleep soundly. What a complete and total failure each one of you is.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Madhu Vijayan

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:37 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** We need an immediate return to responsible governance. The city has pandered to fringe zealots to make a bizarre case for allowing homeless populations to be exempt from the law under the pretext of being humanitarian (even though the very state of homelessness imperils the homeless themselves and society at large). Meanwhile, the safety and public health of law abiding, hard working residents is cast aside for political gain. Without laws being enforced even the most compassionate social programs will fail. Moreover it is far too convenient to tout housing programs for the homeless - it appeases the fringe advocates and allows for extensive real estate graft, yet does nothing to alleviate the homeless crisis. The city is not interested in a comprehensive mental health and drug rehabilitation programs as that requires actual work, and are much harder to defraud taxpayer money from. Without a return to civil social order the city is looking to eventually end up in a class action law suit for abrogating its responsibility to its tax paying, law abiding citizens. Individuals who have lost their cognition and live on the streets have to choose between availing of taxpayer funded rehab facilities/programs or prosecution and incarceration. The rule of law and public safety must not be compromised by unhinged political special interest groups.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** lisa Fox

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:38 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 for too long dismissed by the city of Los Angeles. Disallowing sidewalk access to the disabled due to tents and encampments blocking entire sidewalks and not allowing for the 3' sidewalk clearance is wrong and a civil rights violation against the disabled and wheelchair bound. The disabled are forced onto the streets and their lives are being endangered with cars whizzing by them at 40+ mph. There must be a three-foot (3') clearance of all sidewalks in the city of Los Angeles to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The disabled through the ADA are guaranteed equal access to and equal opportunity in public Accommodations and prohibits discrimination in all areas of public life. It gives the disabled civil rights protections similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. 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 surrounding the shelter. 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. From late February when the Bridge Shelter Venice opened to August of this year, there were 144 police calls. The residents living around bridge shelter are suffering without the police protections they were promised. Promises made, promises broken. To rebuild the faith, the Police, Mayor, Council and the Councilman for CD11 must keep the promises made to Venice residents surrounding this bridge shelter. If the promises are not kept, then no community will want a Bridge Shelter in their neighborhood because they cannot trust the City will keep their promises made of safety zones, and clear of encampments. 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,

\_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Fox \_\_\_\_\_ Venice Resident /Stakeholder

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ellen Parry

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:40 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Due to the COVID encampment cleanup policies, we lost access to our primary greenspace in Echo Park, the Echo Park Lake. Before the pandemic, the Echo Park Lake was one of the most culturally diverse, vibrant public parks in Los Angeles. Over the past 6 months, a homeless encampment has taken over the entire West side of the park, along Echo Park Avenue. During this time, the landscaping has begun to die off, and the educational exhibits surrounding the park and bird sanctuary have been vandalized. There are daily reports of sewage being dumped into the water by occupants at the encampments. We want the City to immediately begin enforcement of the no camping policies at Echo Park Lake and clean-up the illegal encampment. As members of the Council are aware, Echo Park Lake is one of the only major public parks that serve the greater Echo Park, Filipinotown, Westlake communities. This working-class neighborhood deserves a clean, safe, and accessible space for outdoor recreation and it is wrong that the City has allowed a small group of citizens to take over a shared public facility. The senior citizens who live at the corner of Glendale and Park Avenue have been primarily affected because the homeless encampment is directly adjacent to their home, spanning across and the entire west side of the lake along Glendale Blvd. Over 4 people have died this year living at the encampments due to poor sanitation. There have been countless assaults on community members and the vandalism and illegal dumping of sewage are rapidly destroying the ecosystem and infrastructure at the lake. The community no longer feels safe to go outside and utilize this shared public space. Respectfully, we urge the council to immediately enforce the encampment clean-up policies and we request that Echo Park Lake be the first area to be served by the LA Sanitation crews. This is a shared public resource, and we deserve fairness and equal access to our park.

# PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE ECHO PARK LAKE ON 10/15/20



## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:44 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The takeover of our sidewalks in Venice has been utterly outrageous and a huge hazard to the community. I personally have had to clean up human feces myself and woke up at 5 am thinking my house was under attack because a camper blew his tent up while cooking meth in his tent, on my residential block. This was frightening and traumatizing. His presence prevented us from walking on the median and was utterly unsafe, unhygienic and he was clearly violating the law with his drug dealing and chop shop. I strongly urge that that our sidewalks are cleared so our citizens with disabilities and otherwise can walk safely around our streets. As a Venice homeowner, I pay \$36k in property taxes a year. And what do I get for it?? Shoveling human feces and feeling traumatized by an exploding meth lab on my block. Fix this NOW.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kelly

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:46 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I am submitting public comment urging the City Council to take real, substantive steps to address homelessness in our city rather than simply criminalizing it. I believe this motion presented by Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee is ineffective, inhumane, and more concerned with placating wealthy Angelinos upset at having to look at unhoused people than it is with actually addressing the root causes of homelessness. In the midst of a pandemic, this motion is especially wrongheaded and callous. I believe the Council has an opportunity to build a powerful, positive legacy by standing on the right side of history and investing in actual support for ALL Angelinos. The motion presented does nothing to actually address homelessness and will only hurt our city, including this Council's legacy, in the long run. Instead, I'd like to see this Council 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 to oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. Those of us who want to see an end to the harmful criminalization of homelessness are far more numerous than the vocal minority content to simply banish unhoused folks from sight.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gene Cunningham  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:51 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please secure the safety of our sidewalks and streets buy enforcing regulations that keep them clear of Campers, drug addicts, trash, and encampments. Our Community is being destroyed by the unrestricted lawlessness being allowed to exist on our public common areas.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Olivia Campbell  
**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 06:58 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing in opposition to a motion (council file 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization for those experiencing homelessness. This is a callous and heartless action at any time and more so during a pandemic. Criminalizing homelessness is NOT the solution to the housing and mental health crisis- we have seen this time and time again. As a family nurse practitioner I am desperate for resources for my patients experiencing homelessness.... further criminalization is not the help for which we are asking. I implore the City Council and the Mayor's office to focus on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic. Los Angeles should be a leader in identifying solutions to homelessness- 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.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lauren Sorensen

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 07:00 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a Los Angeles city resident of CD 13, I would like to voice my STRONG opposition to this proposed measure. It is outright criminalization of people for existing without a home, during a pandemic when more and more of our neighbors have to find a way to live without homes. It offers NO SOLUTION to help the people who are the most vulnerable in our city. Instead of working for our city residents to find real solutions to help our houseless neighbors, council members Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee have chosen the easy way out: punch down and punish. Please do the right thing and work on real measures to provide housing and services and stop this absurd measure which is a clear violation of human rights. On the brink of an historic election our own Los Angeles City Council is going with the most Trump-ian move of all in even putting this initiative on the table. I strongly urge you to vote against this extraordinarily hateful and vile proposal.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shane

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 07:01 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I motion the vote to restrict where homeless individuals can encamp and to remove their bulky items that block pathways and curbsides and are not ADA compliant making it dangerous for people with wheelchairs or strollers to navigate a busy street as curbside are obstructed by encampments.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kristen Studard  
**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 12:02 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am outraged at the way human beings are being treated in this city. We demand that City Council 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: 1. 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). 2. End Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently. 3. Respect CDC guidelines, and working with health department officials to ensure that basic sanitation needs are met without the threat of displacement. 4. Halt all CARE+ “comprehensive cleanup” operations. 5. Remove law enforcement from outreach. 6. Oppose and repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Roger Carnow

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 12:03 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I'm a lifelong angeleño and I'm begging you, please, to oppose the council file 20-1376 to amend LA Municipal codes 41.18 and 56.11. This will further criminalize homelessness and exacerbate our problem. 3-4 unhoused people are dying on the streets of Los Angeles every day and yet you're putting together a motion that doesn't provide any new housing, services, or solution to the number of people on the street, instead you're actively trying to make it harder for these people to LIVE. Please, think about the human life on the line in your actions. I demand city council instead find ways to increase the amount of transitional / permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities. Please work with unhoused people and advocacy groups to find solutions both short term and permanent. We have no social safety net in a city with a largely progressive or liberal voter base, who are you representing with this action? This action is dangerous, short sighted, unethical, and undemocratic. I strongly oppose the motion to instruct the city attorney to draft amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11, and I urge you to do the same. -Roger Carnow

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sierra Ka'iulani

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 12:55 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing on behalf of my unhoused neighbors as a Los Angeles neighbor who cares for every aspect of our community, even for those who have been outcasted by society. Unhoused individuals have not only struggles, but ambitions and skills, and for some reason they have not been treated with equal respect to any other stranger primarily because they carry around what others refer to as "trash". I ask you to reflect on how much "trash" piles up on your kitchen counter or dining room table at home. How many little items has someone asked you why you even own that hold some value to you? How many of you still have a shirt from a loved one since passed? We need to reconsider the humanity of the people, because they are people. They may not be able to afford walls with doors and locks, but they shouldn't suffer emotional, physical, and safety consequences because of that. We as citizens of the city are responsible for caring for the people who live in our city, and that includes our unhoused neighbors. If we valued these people as humans whom at a basic level are no different from us in reference to what they need to survive, then we need to end Special Enforcement and Cleaning Zones (SECZ) permanently and halt all CARE+ "comprehensive cleanup" operations. Their belongings are essential and no different than what you or I would need in that given situation. These are necessary items and making people move or trashing their items create further instability in their lives, ie. making things worse. That is not the role of the city. Instead, the city needs to House the Unhoused. We have the resources to do so and thus far we have lacked initiative, become frustrated with the process, and made it bureaucratically impossible to have our neighbors efficiently housed. We have the resources to house our unhoused neighbors in hotel rooms, motel rooms, and permanent housing. ALL unhoused Angelenos deserve housing solutions (not just those in specific areas that are visible to the general public) and if we want them to move then we are responsible for offering solutions. It is a compromise. We also need to repeal LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, and all ordinances used to criminalize unhoused residents. They serve no purpose outside of maintaining a visual appearance of the city and offer no real solution. Many generalize our unhoused neighbors as degenerate rejects without having a conversation with one to know why they are there and

where they want to be. They are deserving of decent respect of human rights and these ordinances violate that. We do not need to make it impossible to rest. We do not require walls to be legal, so why are we making it illegal to sleep without them? We also need to remove law enforcement from these social programs and put social workers and mental health professionals in these situation instead because they have garnered more trust and respect within the unhoused community than officers have. In resolution, I also encourage us to all think about why it is that unhoused individuals are treated with such disdain and avoidance by their housed equivalents. Why have we created a “them” vs “us” conflict?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sara Steffan

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 08:25 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** As Sec. 5 (Urgency Clause) of this ordinance states, the City must strengthen its laws that promote accessible right-of-way under the Americans with Disabilities Act. All over the city, on a daily basis, right-of-way is violated by street lights, parking meters, trees, lack of sidewalks, lack of curb cuts, and numerous other impediments that have not been sufficiently addressed by the City to allow for free-flow of pedestrian traffic and to protect our safety from cars going 35 to 50 miles per hour in the streets. To use this Urgency Clause to enforce an inhumane ordinance during the middle of a pandemic when insufficient shelter beds are available is a slap in the face to all Los Angeles pedestrians, and most especially disabled ones. This ordinance cannot be enforced until all city sidewalks comply with Willits v. City of Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 08:28 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** 100% support this motion. Our neighborhoods have been taken over by crime and our sidewalks are not accessible for the elderly and handicap. We see hoards of people walking in the middle of the street because of all the encampments that have grown near the bridge home in Venice. Please pass this motion asap! Our children are no longer safe because of the bridge home and the encampment fires they have brought just 25ft from the entrance.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Molly Segakl

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 08:29 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly oppose proposes the proposed amendments to 41.18 and 56.11. Making houselessness MORE criminalized during an unprecedented pandemic is wrong headed and cruel. There are no long term solutions to in these proposed amendments, just the desire to hide the misfortune of others (and gross mismanagement of our city) out of sight so as not to be "inconvenienced" by our unhoused neighbors. Criminalizing people sleeping under freeways is not the way.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 08:31 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I writing in support of this motion. I also believe the City must be addressing the issues homeless people are having while maintaining the safety and cleanliness of our streets. Many residents around the bridge housing area are under constant stress from crime and vandalism since the housing became operational. The city promised to secure this area as an important part of the bridge housing project. It has not done so. The street encampments are often attracting some lawless elements who mix in and endanger vulnerable homeless women and other's who are law abiding homeless. It's not a solution. The city needs to also rethink costly large homeless housing projects that only check a box to institutionalize the homeless while costing huge amounts to construct that only benefit developers. These large projects like the Venice bridge housing and possible Venice median project magnify problems for surrounding communities. The answer is the city finding smaller, more manageable housing solutions, purchasing and repurposing small apartment buildings and motels/hotels throughout the city that are less institutions and a more humane size for the homeless individuals and also less of a burden to communities. I support this motion as part of a broader approach to dealing with this issue in a humane manner.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michael Bourret  
**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 08:38 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Once again, the city council is voting on whether to criminalize poverty. The existence of shelters does not immediately solve all the problems of the unhoused. 41.18 does nothing to help our unhoused neighbors, but instead tries to hide the problems of homelessness and poverty by pushing the evidence of it somewhere else. It's also preposterous and impossible to enforce: how will police know if someone has been previously offered shelter when they encounter someone sleeping on the street? We need to stop making poverty a crime, and we need focus on both temporary and long-term housing instead. We also need to stop the CARE+ sweeps and instead replace the police and sanitation workers with people from the health department. Let's replace CARE with actual care, and let's treat other human beings with respect and dignity. Please vote against 41.18 and show the people of Los Angeles that you are not controlled by property and owners and developers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shelly Schwartz  
**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 08:39 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I am in favor of the motion that bans homeless from sleeping and blocking sidewalks .

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Liam Fitzpatrick

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 09:29 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Not only is this motion cruel and inhumane, it is going to cost us money. Think about how much the city spent fighting Martin v. Boise in the courts. What's the upside? That we are able to force our most marginalized residents into prison for like six months until this motion is eventually declared unconstitutional? People are going to die if this passes -- they are going to be forced into jail for "sitting on the sidewalk," they are going to be infected with a deadly virus, and they are going to die. Let's not waste any money during a \$400 million budget shortfall on criminalizing poverty.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andrew

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 09:30 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please help us clean up our communities. They are being destroyed by short sighted policies that have produced rapid decay and little help for the drug addled and mentally ill. Allowing them to slowly decay on the streets while preying on the community is not compassionate.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cayla Blachman

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:15 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a lifelong resident of Los Angeles, I am incredibly angered by the lack of solutions the motion provides. From a very young age, I have witnessed the ways our city fails to help its homeless population, or provide real solutions to the issue of homelessness. I am tired of this city sweeping this problem under the rug, rather than creating real pathways to reducing the homeless population of Los Angeles and ultimately ending homelessness. 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. These are some alternative ideas that I believe would be more productive in beginning a long lasting reduction of our homeless population: 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:** JC

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:18 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please pass this ordinance. And if it passes, please ensure that the motion is actually enforced. We who have invested our livelihoods in our neighborhoods deserve to be safe and to live in clean neighborhoods.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ruby Condon

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:26 AM

**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. The text of the motion instructs the city attorney to draft amendments to 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. The Los Angeles incarceration system has become a means of denying assistance to those who need the most help. Instead of providing the time, effort, and money to support these people, we criminalize them, lock them away, and forget them (or even worse—profit off of 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:** Elan Rubinstein  
**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:27 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is unethical, inappropriate and ineffective for the city of Los Angeles to ban unhoused individuals from underpasses and streets without providing housed alternatives or social support services. To what different streets do city councilmembers expect these people to go when forced to leave those proscribed areas, and how do city councilmembers expect them to travel there? How does this new ban solve the homelessness problem, or is the objective really to move homelessness out of public view? Enforcement will put policemen and policewomen in an impossible situation, is not a productive use of their time or skills, and is not a good use of taxpayer money. By not including living alternatives or social services for people impacted by this ban, the policy will make matters worse overall - a cosmetic fix for the housed who would prefer to avoid the discomfort of seeing the current state of affairs. Please, councilmembers, don't waste your time or squander your credibility on such bans - find real solutions to this growing problem.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Phil Portnoy

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:29 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose this proposed ordinance amending 41.18. It is an act of aggression against the houseless population. The city and the country as a whole are facing unprecedented challenges. This ordinance does nothing but turn the homeless population into a scapegoat for the city's inability to address the broader issues. In particular, it's cruel and unreasonable to criminalize people who are "sitting, sleeping or lying" near a facility that offers homeless services. All this will do is discourage people from seeking out services, and undermine the City's efforts to address the fundamental issue.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ryan McCabe

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:29 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Until the city can provide housing for every single unhoused individual, it is wrong to put this in action. We are failing our neighbors who have fallen in bad times and we should not criminalize them for finding a small place of refuge. Our support system is woefully unequipped to handle this crisis but we cannot use brutal unproven tactics to address it. It is a waste of money and resources when it has been shown providing for housing is a net positive investment. The money smart thing to do is to pay for housing and services, not punishing human beings.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Luis Figueroa

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:32 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council Members – We are writing today from Para Los Niños to share our organization’s opinion on comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting on Skid Row. Para Los Niños is a social services non-profit that serves approximately 6,000 students, families, and youth through 3 charter schools, 7 early childhood education centers, and 6 youth workforce and community services centers. Since our founding, we have intentionally situated ourselves in some of LA’s most vulnerable communities that include Skid Row, East Los Angeles, Westlake/McArthur Park, and Downtown. Five of our sites, Charter Elementary School, Charter Middle School, Tina and Rick Caruso Early Childhood Center, our Mental Health headquarters, and Operations Headquarters, are all situated in Downtown and either in or in close proximity to the Skid Row neighborhood. The homeless encampments that have gone up near them over the past few months are now overcrowding our sidewalks. We wholeheartedly understand of the CDC’s guidance that was issued around homeless encampments during the covid-19 pandemic. However, we strongly support the return of weekly comprehensive cleanings and disinfecting practices. The current situation is becoming increasingly unsanitary. The locations that are being impacted have helped us provide essential services such as food distribution and early childhood education to students and families during the entirety of the pandemic. Our staff are constantly having to navigate around the encampments are risking themselves further to provide services to our constituents. We urge the city council to bringing back the comprehensive cleanup of sidewalk encampments, and banning the storage of bulky items on sidewalk. Please contact us with any follow-ups or further conversation. Best, Luis Figueroa Associate Director, External Affairs Para Los Niños







## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kristen Parker

**Date Submitted:** 10/27/2020 10:37 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** We demand that you decriminalize homelessness including 41.18. Focus your efforts on providing hotel rooms and permanent housing to ALL unhoused Angelenos. Currently, there are 93,500 vacant units in Los Angeles. Financiers and investment vehicles own 67% of Los Angeles rental units and own vacant LA lots totaling an area of 22 square miles. Criminalize these financiers!! 72% of DTLA rental units are luxury units and 97% of new DTLA residential construction are luxury units. Where do you expect unhoused citizens to go? Also, we demand that you work with mental health department officials to meet residents' needs without threatening displacement.