

Communication from Public

Name: Jeff

Date Submitted: 02/17/2021 02:24 PM

Council File No: 21-0031

Comments for Public Posting: I live within 400 feet of the homeless encampment, located at the 2700 block of Military Avenue, under the 10 Freeway. There is on-going illegal activity (drug dealing), graffiti, and trash overflowing onto the street at this location. I have worked in downtown Los Angeles since 1982, and I have seen the homeless encampments grow (in downtown) exponentially since the 1990's. Today it is out of control, and the mounds of trash look like something out of the movie, Slumdog Millionaire. Why? Because many of the homeless are on drugs, many have serious mental issues, many don't care, many don't want to work, many are criminals, many are dealing drugs, and many break into residences to support themselves and their drug habits. BUT MOST OF ALL, the problem is due to the City's lack of effectively dealing with the problem for the last 25 years, and hoping it will somehow "voluntarily" go away. All the City has done so far is to put band aides on the problem, when they should have taken significant actions 25 years ago, when the problem was still manageable. The homeless have clearly shown for the last 25 years that they can not take care of themselves within the normal standards of society. The word "voluntary" is NOT in their vocabulary. The City has been hoping the homeless problem will "voluntarily" go away for the last 25 years, and reality is, the City's actions to date have failed miserably. The City needs to STOP coddling the homeless and take more proactive actions. Everyone of my neighbors, family members, friends and coworkers are sick and tired of living with the homeless encampments in our neighborhoods, their crimes, and their growing mounds of trash. Many of the aforementioned are moving out of Los Angeles because of the homeless crisis, and the City's failure to deal with the problem effectively. More and more working, tax-paying people are leaving California, and that is not a good thing. The language in 21-0031 needs to be modified. Clean-up of homeless encampments should be both voluntary and mandatory. If some of the homeless volunteer to have their camp cleaned up, that is fine. If other homeless don't volunteer to have their camp cleaned up, then the City needs to make it mandatory. The Citizens of Los Angeles deserve better than to have to live with the filth of the encampments in their neighborhoods, and mounds of trash on the sidewalks spilling over into the streets. What good does making

our City "Go Green", when the sidewalks and streets are full of trash? The fact is, littering is against the law. The Courts tell us that no one in this Country is above the Law, not even the President. Then why are the homeless above the law? The needs and rights of the hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying, citizens of Los Angeles have been neglected, and violated, for far too long in order to appease the homeless. The City Politicians need to make some difficult and perhaps unpopular decisions. Are they going to start dealing with the homeless problem and clean up the mess, or are they going to continue status quo, and continue to make Los Angeles into a Third-World City. The homeless have clearly demonstrated for more than 25 years that they can not, or will not, take care of themselves, and the problem will not "voluntarily" go away by itself. Therefore, it is time for the Government to step in and start taking control. Lastly, I see that there are Home Owner Associations, and citizens, who support a "Voluntary" approach to cleaning up the homeless encampments and mounds of trash in our City. Obviously none of them have homeless encampments, crime, and mounds of trash in their neighborhoods, like in my neighborhood. People see things very differently when the problem is NOT in their back yard versus the people who DO have problem in their back yard.