

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

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

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Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(1) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/08/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 03/13/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0031

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary:

Community Impact Statement in opposition of City Council File 21-0031

Modifications to Sanitation Cleanups

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

The Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council hereby supports Council File 21-0031, which would modify the CARE/CARE+ street cleaning and outreach protocols to conform with CDC guidelines¹.

Currently the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) conducts comprehensive CARE/CARE+ cleanups within the special exemption zones (SEZ) established around *A Bridge Home* shelters and at select locations of camped unhoused persons in collaboration with City Council members. While those cleanups were suspended in March of 2020 at the beginning of the COVID crisis, they were re-implemented in July and reaffirmed in December.

Said cleanups now occur weekly at the Bridge Home facility on Raymer Ave in North Hollywood and at the underpasses along the 170 and 101 freeways, and will occur in a radius around the Tiny Home Village set to open on Chandler Blvd on Feb 1. The sanitation program has a decidedly mixed record, resulting in removed refuse but also forcing unhoused residents to take down their tents and relocate while city workers power-wash the sidewalks. Noncompliance results in people's personal possessions being confiscated and discarded.

Council District 11 is piloting an alternate approach, in which the services provided by LASAN are voluntary rather than involuntary, and are orchestrated via community ambassadors with outreach connections to the unhoused population. Said outreach teams seek compliance with ADA guidelines while simultaneously providing services such as food distribution, toilet services, showers, and tents without the need for law enforcement presence.

As of January 4, 2021, The LA County Department of Public Health showed 4,578 cases of COVID-19 among the unhoused population, as the pandemic grew out of control in the Winter months.

This motion, if adopted, would direct LASAN to develop service-based protocols for CARE+ operations, or to revise present policy to incorporate the following:

- Compliance with CDC guidelines regarding public health and encampments
- Regular, scheduled and well-publicized cleanings

¹ "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."

- Offers by LASAN of services such as trash pick-up, bulky item pick-up, etc.
- Designation of areas where trash and waste can be placed for disposal and removal
- Use of community partners and ambassadors to conduct outreach and facilitation
- Provision of easy-ups or shade structures so people can temporarily relocate with their belongings during a cleaning
- Provision, through LASAN or partner agencies, of mobile showers, bathrooms, COVID-testing, tent exchange and distribution of food and water
- Hiring of unhoused residents to keep areas tidy between LASAN cleanings
- Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.

With these adjustments, this council believes the CARE+ program can be improved while aligning with the LAHSA's harm reduction goals.

Sincerely,

General Board

Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council