

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND RIVER COMMITTEE REPORT relative to developing voluntary, service-based protocols for Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement (CARE) Plus operations Citywide.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Bonin – Raman – De Leon – Harris-Dawson):

- 1) INSTRUCT the BOS to develop standards for street engagement and hygiene services Citywide that promote the health of the unhoused and the public that resolve barriers to access (ingress and egress) and paths of travel that reduce imminent safety risks and encourage connection to services with a preference for voluntary compliance whenever possible with said standards to include:
 - a) Compliance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines regarding public health and encampments unless there's a determination that the encampment poses an additional risk to public health or public safety other than the risk posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - b) Regularly scheduled and well-publicized cleanings.
 - c) Offers of services by the BOS such as trash pick-up, bulky item pick-up, etc.
 - d) The BOS Livability Services Division to continue to provide enhanced hygiene services to include, but not limited to:
 - i) Offering sanitary kits.
 - ii) Offering tent exchange and distribution programs.
 - iii) Sanitizing and pressure washing the right-of-way.
 - iv) COVID-19 testing.
 - v) COVID-19 vaccination, when available.
 - vi) Removal of hazardous and bio waste.
 - vii) Mobile showers and bath services.
 - viii) Case services.
 - ix) The offer of water.

- x) Designation of areas where waste and trash can be deposited for disposal and removal.
 - e) In addition to the outreach already conducted by other agencies, instruct the BOS to work with the Council Offices, to include funding, to coordinate with their community partners and ambassadors to improve connections to services for unhoused persons and cleanings.
 - f) The provision of Easy-Ups or other shade structures so people can temporarily relocate with their belongings during a cleaning, as stated in the original Motion, attached to the Council File.
 - g) Pilot hiring of unhoused residents to keep areas tidy, safe, and orderly between BOS cleanings, as detailed in the original Motion, attached to the Council File.
 - h) Accommodations for people with disabilities that are fully compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 2) INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to develop a budget and staffing proposal to implement new and robust BOS standards for street engagement and hygiene throughout the City of Los Angeles.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:

Atwater Village Neighborhood Council
Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council
East Hollywood Neighborhood Council
Echo Park Neighborhood Council
Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council
Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council
Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council
Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council
NoHo Neighborhood Council Mid-City Neighborhood Council

For, If Amended:

Los Feliz Neighborhood Council
Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On April 15, 2021, your Committee considered a Motion (Bonin – Raman – De Leon – Harris-Dawson) relative to developing voluntary, service-based protocols for Comprehensive CARE Plus operations Citywide. According to the Motion, tens of thousands of people, without opportunity for housing and shelter, fend for themselves in a growing number of makeshift encampments on our sidewalks. Our highest and greatest priority must be to provide a genuine alternative to sidewalk encampments- appropriate housing, In the meantime, in the middle of a public health crisis, City policy regarding encampments should be guided by the words of the physician's Hippocratic oath: "First, do no harm." Existing City policy does not follow that precept. The City of Los Angeles continues to ignore guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control regarding how to keep homeless encampments clean, safe and sanitary. CDC guidance states that "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."

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City followed these dictates, but took steps to reverse course in July, and then again in December of last year when it reinstated CARE Plus cleanups, which force unhoused residents to take down their tents, move all their belongings and relocate as crews power wash the sidewalks and remove trash. In re-instituting an involuntary program, the City seemed to accept the premise that sanitary conditions could not be maintained at encampments without an involuntary sanitation program which confiscated people's materials if they failed to comply. It does not need to be that way. There is an alternative way to maintain public health and keep conditions sanitary- a voluntary program that offers and provides services to remove trash and hazardous waste, and provide cleaning, without the threat of confiscation. Such an approach, compliant with CDC guidelines, has been advocated by the Services Not Sweeps Coalition, was promised and then promptly abandoned in the rollout of the CARE Plus Program, and has been piloted in recent months in portions of Council District 11. In the pilot program, which continues to evolve and improve, the BOS keeps a regular and predictable schedule and provides a voluntary service, much like it does to residential customers. Community ambassadors conduct outreach and seek cooperation ahead of time, allow people to leave their trash and waste in designated areas for easy pick-up, and invite encampment residents to move their tents if they desire a more thorough cleaning. Outreach teams also seek compliance with ingress-egress and ADA requirements, as well as provide services like food distribution, toilet services, showers, and tent distribution or exchange. This is accomplished without any involvement from the Los Angeles Police Department. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion, as amended, and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and River Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
O'FARRELL:	YES
RIDLEY-THOMAS:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
DE LEON:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES

ARL

4/15/21

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-