

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Copenhaver

Date Submitted: 04/26/2021 03:35 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I know what it is like to be food and housing insecure. I grew up in government housing in New York City, living in abject poverty for the first 20 years of my life. When I had my first job, working at the White House, my mother was homeless, and my father was in prison. Being poor is incredibly stressful. There are many challenges. Through grueling decades of education, hard work, luck and (yes!) government assistance over the years, I have built a beautiful life in Malibu with my husband and two young children. Despite the suffering and violence I experienced growing up, nothing could prepare me for what I am seeing in Los Angeles today. Poor people (like everyone else) used to be expected to follow laws, respect private property and social norms and find a way to build a better life in our meritocracy. Where I grew up, dignity was something each person strived for regardless of the hand they were dealt. Unfortunately, these norms have given way to government-sponsored mayhem. There is no moral high ground in tolerating, even encouraging, the chaos and lawlessness that is a reality for so many LA neighborhoods today. On the Westside, a coalition is quietly and politely building to oppose the tiny houses at Will Rogers beach. Sadly, many residents fear speaking out too strongly because of “cancel culture” but behind the scenes homeowners and renters alike are panicking at the thought of our political leaders turning the Crown Jewels of our communities – parks, beaches, and open spaces – into homeless encampments. In Venice, Brentwood, Westwood and Studio City, we have seen the devastating consequences of these decisions. Venice has become an apocalyptic hellscape. I would not dream of bringing my children there or encouraging out-of-town tourists to visit. My twin sister, who has lived in Studio City for years, is selling her house in a fire sale and moving to Palos Verdes in search of safety. Mentally ill people are running through her streets naked, wielding machetes and nun chucks. It is all so horrifying. And this is through the eyes of women who grew up in New York City during the height of the crack epidemic. Our parks and public spaces are littered with bodies, trash and feces. I’ve called the police from playgrounds in Santa Monica many times — once because a completely naked, deranged and filthy man was standing in the women’s bathroom. I was traumatized and

shaking. Other times I've called the police because full on brawls were breaking out on the bike path in front of my children. It's not ok. There is no moral high ground in tolerating, even encouraging, the chaos and lawlessness that is a reality for so many LA neighborhoods today. The homeless I encounter are not "unhoused neighbors" who are down on their luck. These are people who need tons of help, who have no relationships or support systems because they are mentally ill and / or chronically addicted to drugs. Moving them to beachfront homes in Pacific Palisades, which has 15+ schools within 2 miles, is absurd and not helpful to anyone (homeless or housed). Children deserve a childhood. Hardworking adults who have invested in themselves and their communities deserve a better quality of life. And the city itself should think more about how it can preserve and perpetuate its competitive advantage in coming years as more and more people will have a choice as to where they live and work.

Communication from Public

Name: Tully

Date Submitted: 04/06/2021 07:24 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: I am deeply disappointed that we are catering to people that are most likely not from this area who are bringing in their drugs and crime and decreasing property values in the West Side area. If they were LA residents who have paid into the tax system, they would have the ability to extend their lease if they lost their job due to Covid. The saying "if you build it, they will come" is applicable to this. Adding more housing will only exacerbate the problem. It will attract more transients from random parts of the US and the world. The Government needs to break down these encampments and get these people one-way tickets to a loved one, jail, a mental health facility or rehab. If things keep going the way they are, a vast majority of the affluent communities leave for safer areas. Good luck taxing the homeless when the tax payers leave.

Communication from Public

Name: Penny Lai

Date Submitted: 04/26/2021 12:16 PM

Council File No: 21-0350

Comments for Public Posting: Public parks should be kept safe for the community to use and not be a haven for criminal activity and stolen property. Encampments at Mar Vista Park have been allowed to grow even when residents have asked for assistance in keeping them away. I have been requesting help since 2015 from LAPD (Officers Acosta, Ceja, Muther, and Villary), the Parks and Rec Dept, LA Parks Police, and Councilman Bonin's office. Nobody has stepped up to help the community and stakeholders and now Bonin wants to INVITE the encampments. Is he even listening to the residents he's supposed to be representing? Now more than ever Los Angeles needs safe, clean, outdoor spaces for exercise and recreation.