

Communication from Public

Name: Shelby

Date Submitted: 03/31/2021 08:56 AM

Council File No: 20-0263

Comments for Public Posting: As it has been show time and time again, sweeps do not help anyone. Sweeps are violent and cause harm to the unhoused community. The city has failed its unhoused community and failed to provide permanent and stable housing solutions. The most adherent example of this is the events at Echo Park Lake this past. After giving the unhoused residents only a few days notice and then forcefully evicting them under Covid-19 protections (were are still in the middle of a Pandemic in case you forgot), and not to mention, arresting protestors and journalists for using their constitutional rights to protest and free speech. Not only should every single City Councillor publicly denounce how things were handled this past week but you should all call for Mitch O'Farrell to resign from office immediately.

Communication from Public

Name: Hans Beischel

Date Submitted: 03/31/2021 09:56 AM

Council File No: 20-0263

Comments for Public Posting: The sweeps must stop. Through their wasteful administration (and subsequent settlements), they rob residents of dignity and critical funding that could otherwise be directed to real, tangible, and necessary services. They are a violent expression of a city fighting itself; trapping our most vulnerable in the crossfire. We saw this exemplified in the actions undertaken last week at Echo Park Lake. This violent attack—at the behest of Councilmember O'Farrell and in coordination with LAPD, the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Urban Alchemy, LAHSA, campaign donors, and vocal NIMBYs—represent the latest in this city's shameful treatment of our growing population of unhoused residents. This forced displacement was harmful, cruel, unsafe, unwise, contrary to CDC guidelines, and, most fundamentally, just plain wrong. Furthermore, the constant stream of defamatory misrepresentations, falsehoods, and outright lies perpetuated in an attempt to justify these actions by CM O'Farrell and his staff in press conferences, online, and in coordinated interviews and PR stunts, are an egregious affront to transparency and forthrightness in government, and make a mockery of the entire council. CM O'Farrell has betrayed his constituents, his colleagues, and this city at large; he has placed ego and selfish interest above the safety of his district and his city, and it is time for him to immediately resign.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer Buscher

Date Submitted: 03/31/2021 10:03 AM

Council File No: 20-0263

Comments for Public Posting: Last week, I followed what was happening at Echo Park Lake (#EchoParkRiseUp). I was both disgusted & heartbroken by how those events played out - how a community was destroyed and displaced via police violence. I sincerely hope that this will NOT become the standard for how unhoused neighbors are treated throughout the city of Los Angeles. These sweeps violate CDC recommendations that unhoused people should be able to shelter in place during the COVID pandemic. Have the unhoused people who are being displaced through these sweeps been vaccinated yet? Is there a danger that they will further spread COVID when they are forcibly removed from their current homes? If we rush to "clean up" our neighborhoods and push our unhoused neighbors somewhere else before they are vaccinated, won't that make our overall pandemic situation throughout LA city & county worse? What happened at Echo Park Lake last week was completely & utterly despicable! I hope that the City Council will reconsider its approach to the homeless crisis throughout Los Angeles in a way that treats everyone who lives in our city - both housed & unhoused - with dignity, respect, and compassion. Thank you,
Jennifer Buscher

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/31/2021 10:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0263

Comments for Public Posting: CARE sweeps have been a consistent form of endangering houseless and housed humans. These careless, dehumanizing and dangerous sweeps must stop. Listen to houseless people and respond to their needs and provide resources, instead of consistently making their lives more difficult, which solves nothing. Houseless people are not the problem that needs solving, lack of resources is the problem (solvable!), violent criminalization of poverty is the problem (solvable!), and outrageously high rent and inaccessible housing is the problem (solvable!). The expensive, violent response to the unhoused community at Echo Park Lake was disgusting. Intentionally seeking to harm unhoused residents and housed residents that support them is disgusting. The police did nothing but harm. An outrageous amount of money was poured into this performative show of force against an unarmed, peaceful group of people. This is petty, violent and proof that the LAPD's allocation of money is used ineffectively and used to enact violence and strike fear into LA residents. This must stop! Stop lying to the public and genuinely address what you allowed to happen. Genuinely and compassionately address all these solvable issues, which requires ZERO police presence and ZERO violence and ZERO arrests.

Communication from Public

Name: Sonya Mendoza

Date Submitted: 03/31/2021 10:29 AM

Council File No: 20-0263

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of CD13 and absolutely appalled that my city council member was able to violently evict houseless people from my neighborhood using the LAPD. The rest of the council must address homelessness with a way to house people NOW. These are our neighbors.

Communication from Public

Name: Thea Rodgers

Date Submitted: 03/31/2021 10:31 AM

Council File No: 20-0263

Comments for Public Posting: I'm a resident of CD13 and I'm appalled at my councilmember's violent removal of the Echo Park Lake residents. Working with the LAPD to remove these people from the most stable home they've had in a global pandemic is not only a violation of CDC guidelines but a statement to our community that O'Farrell is violently opposed to the well-being of his own constituents. I received emails from O'Farrell alleging that all residents had been housed and that a mob had incited violence at Echo Park, in direct conflict with videos and personal testimonies from former Echo Park residents who are back to sleeping on the streets and even a housed passer-by who was injured by the LAPD's attacks on local residents. I don't want my tax dollars going to arming a militarized police force and I don't want them fueling police helicopters and I definitely don't want them paying the LAPD overtime to brutalize my neighbors and arrest journalists. I want better solutions for the catastrophic homelessness epidemic in Los Angeles, as outlined in the LA Alliance for Human Rights v. City of Los Angeles case. I'm furious about this latest instance of violence against our houseless community in Los Angeles. It was embarrassing and disgraceful to watch how this played out under O'Farrell's guidance and I'm calling for him to resign.