

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](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

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#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(20) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/24/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 02/06/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1376

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Echo Park Neighborhood Council vehemently opposes this CF. Brought forward in the name public safety and accessibility, this motion introduced in late October seeks to greatly expand the city's ability to criminalize homelessness itself through mass displacement, incarceration, and violence—facilitated by sweeps and policing.

Echo Park Neighborhood Council  
Community Impact Statement  
Council File #20-1376  
Stance: Opposed

Brought forward in the name public safety and accessibility, this motion introduced in late October seeks to greatly expand the city's ability to criminalize homelessness itself through mass displacement, incarceration, and violence—facilitated by sweeps and policing.

The motion seeks to create a false sense of progress by simply pushing the unhoused out of our neighborhoods and city—the city for whom a majority of those targeted have called home for over 5 years—instead of actually addressing the underlying issues that cause homelessness in the first place: out of control rents, stagnant wages, and a dire lack of physical or mental health resources. This motion also comes during a time when unemployment in the city is at record heights, and studies project a massive wave of evictions in the near future.

To create the appearance of progress, this motion seeks to enable the criminalization of homelessness within 1000 ft. wide zones centered around any of the following:

- Any Overpass
- Any Underpass
- Any Freeway ramp
- Any Freeway tunnel
- Any Pedestrian subway
- Any supportive housing site
- Any supportive services
- Any safe parking sites
- Any unhoused storage facility

The language brought forward by the City Attorney also seeks to criminalize homelessness in any public space so long as “shelter” is “offered” though it does not elaborate on this extremely vague terminology.

The effects of this motion, combined with already existing enforcement zones and criminalization, will be devastating. This greatly expanded criminalization is also sure to fall heavily on black and brown communities, which already suffer from disproportionately high homelessness and police violence—the results of our city's long history of segregation and racism.

Because the terms of this motion are so vague, EPNC is greatly concerned about the potential for “weaponizing” services. Because this motion seeks to create a 1000 ft wide enforcement zone around services, storage facilities, and safe parking sites, it opens up the ability for the city to simply create minimal services in areas with high concentrations of people experiencing homelessness just to facilitate the displacement of those residents.

Criminalizing our way out of homelessness does not work. As a city, we must take responsibility for this crisis—for allowing rents to greatly outpace incomes, for prioritizing large luxury development over the preservation and creation of affordable housing, and for allowing evictions and displacement to ravage our communities and force tens of thousands out of their homes and onto the streets. These are the root causes that have created this unprecedented crisis, and it is only by addressing these underlying issues that we will have any chance to make progress in the right direction.

Closing our eyes doesn't make homelessness go away—it makes us complicit in the systemic racism and violence that has already caused so much suffering. We need housing, services, and compassion—not expanded criminalization.

Finding appropriate housing solutions for the people sleeping on our sidewalks and in our public spaces is rightly a priority, but serious changes to the current proposal are necessary. Offered housing should be local, long-term, and flexible to specific individual and family situations.

Additionally, we greatly support the alternative motion provided by Councilmember Bonin which seeks to investigate the path necessary for commandeering hotels and motels to serve as housing for people experiencing homelessness. With several thousand hotel and motel rooms sitting vacant—many in properties that have received generous public subsidies—this proposal is of the utmost importance and should be passed instead of the current damaging and dangerous motion in front of council.