

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Services Not Sweeps Coalition

**Date Submitted:** 07/27/2021 06:04 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** 96 organizations across the City of LA have signed onto the Services Not Sweeps coalition letter opposing 41.18. See attached for the signatories. Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers Martinez, Blumenfield, Bonin, Buscaino, Cedillo, De Leon, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, Krekorian, Lee, O'Farrell, Price, Raman, Ridley-Thomas, and Rodriguez, We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, are strongly opposed to the City's decision to amend LAMC 41.18 and urge you to oppose the passage of the ordinance. The proposed amendments continue to criminalize homelessness, which is a losing strategy that does nothing to address the core causes of homelessness, but which Los Angeles continues to rely on to erase the visible evidence of its failed homelessness policy. Criminalization is not a solution to homelessness and passing a new ordinance like the one proposed today works at cross-purposes with the goal of getting people off the streets. LAMC 41.18 is a flawed, racist law that was passed in 1963 as an anti-loitering law. The law targets the simple act of sitting, sleeping, and lying in public and is unquestionably a law that targets people who are poor and unhoused. Throughout its history, it has also been disproportionately used to target Black and brown people. It is an ordinance that has no place in Los Angeles's municipal code today. Although framed as a kinder, gentler version of LAMC 41.18 and different from other proposed amendments to the ordinance, this version is nothing of the sort. While it purports to prohibit camping in only limited spaces, the combined impact of the various limitations leave unhoused people with very few places where they can be in public, and those places where people can be are subject to selective regulations. This version creates anti-homeless zones throughout the City, including around homeless housing projects and other designated spaces across the city. As these zones are implemented, this policy will lead to the imminent clearing of encampments, which will displace people from their communities and connections to services. It also ensures a significant increase in confrontational encounters between law enforcement and unhoused people. The proposed ordinance leaves in place the status quo and ultimately does nothing to remove police from the city's approach to enforcement. In fact, the current draft will increase the City's reliance on armed officers to clear public

spaces, repeatedly if necessary. The process used by Council to amend this ordinance raises serious concerns. The Council has entirely excluded public input in the process. For two years, the community, including the signatories of this letter, have come out in strong opposition to motions similar to the one rushed through council this week, including in 2019 when a version was introduced by Council Member O'Farrell and in 2020, when Council Member Blumenfield introduced the motion at issue on Tuesday. At both points, community opposition was so strong that the motions did not pass. The last time this occurred, the defeated motion was referred to the Homelessness and Poverty Committee, with an instruction to come up with a better way forward for unhoused residents and the City. Rather than seeing the fierce opposition to the proposal as a mandate to take a different approach, the City Council simply sat on the council file for six months and then brought back an equally flawed proposal. This version, hatched in secret, does nothing more to address homelessness. Instead, it doubles down on the City's criminalization strategy. The decision to move forward and consider an amendment to the ordinance was made in secret by just seven people and will impact the lives of thousands of the city's most vulnerable residents if it becomes the law. We reject this ordinance and demand that all processes involved in propelling this motion forward be halted immediately. We demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that provide a healthy and safe living environment for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and focus on providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a high standard of living.

# Letter to LA City Council in Opposition to LAMC 41.18 Amendment



## Communication from Public

**Name:** yuval ron

**Date Submitted:** 07/27/2021 05:31 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The city must clean up all the public spaces and make sure it shall be unlawful for a person to sit, lie, or sleep, or to store, use, maintain, or place personal property in the public right-of-way.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Joe ONeill

**Date Submitted:** 07/27/2021 10:03 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to urge the city council to vote NO on agenda item 20-1376-S1, which effectively criminalizes homelessness. To make it impossible for unhoused individuals to occupy any public space is unconscionable, especially when there are few alternatives. The city of los angeles has built lots of unaffordable housing in the last 10 years, giving piles of money to developers, while the number of unhoused residents has increased steadily. The city's solution is punitive and will be ineffective. Rather than criminalization the city should be spending its money on permanent supportive housing, mental health and drug treatment, while also increasing the amount of affordable housing in our city. In short, the city needs to stop treating homelessness as a problem for those who have homes. Any councilmembers voting for this motion should be ashamed.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Crystal Mozell

**Date Submitted:** 07/27/2021 09:31 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge Council to set aside this motion and focus on supporting and rapidly expanding access to safe, suitable housing while designing services enhancing safety for all Angelenos utilizing our streets and sidewalks to meet their basic needs. Criminalizing houselessness is NOT the answer! Providing safe, suitable shelter, offering mental health, drug rehabilitation programs will significantly improve and impact these individuals situations. Stop putting a band aid on an open infected wound!