

Communication from Public

Name: Grass Roots Neighbors

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Council File No: 21-1115

Comments for Public Posting: This motion starts from the assumption that all bicycle repair or storage in public is criminal. In fact, it fundamentally assumes any existence of unhoused people and associated activities necessary for survival is criminal. Banning the repair and storage of bicycles will criminalize unhoused people and cause unreasonable harm. While police address bike theft where able, without any proof of the provenance of the bikes, this ban will make a critical activity for survival illegal. Being able to store, repair, and sell bicycles is a critical function of transportation (and access to services) as well as finance for unhoused individuals. While we are sympathetic to the need to address community-wide bike thefts and hazards caused by unruly storage- we suggest the appropriate steps to take is one of harm reduction and support to our unhoused community. Perhaps providing unhoused people who are trying to earn income through bike and car repair or art with adequate storage options is a better alternative that will allow homelessness to be addressed without further marginalizing our most vulnerable neighbors. If we don't want bicycle repair to occur in public space, let's explore options to solve the question of location. Let's make the need to engage in survival activities irrelevant because we have brought people inside and given them solutions for moving forward. Criminalization just continues the cycle of homelessness and fails to address the problem.