

Communication from Public

Name: Mar Vista Voice

Date Submitted: 01/06/2022 10:50 PM

Council File No: 20-0291

Comments for Public Posting: Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal Re: CALL TO SUSPEND MUNICIPAL CODE 41.18 Dear Mayor Garcetti and members of the City Council: We are an organization representing Mar Vista stakeholders living in zip codes 90034, 90064 and 90066. Our membership calls on the City of Los Angeles to suspend enforcement of Los Angeles Municipal Code 41.18 while COVID-19 continues to ravage our community. Displacing people during the current COVID surge contravenes all public health guidance and puts the lives of LA's most vulnerable residents at risk. The California Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have warned that when non-congregate shelter options are not available, cities should "allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are" to slow the spread of the virus. In direct violation of this public health mandate, our city leaders continue to roll out enforcement of LAMC 41.18 which prohibits sitting, sleeping, lying and storing property in specified locations. Displacing people under 41.18 forces them to move around and lose contact with trusted outreach workers, service providers and medical staff. This makes it nearly impossible to receive vaccines, test for COVID or quarantine and isolate if necessary. There were a record 37,215 new COVID cases today, with 2,661 hospitalizations. Cases are soaring in this city and our unhoused neighbors are at disproportionate risk of both contracting the virus and suffering severe symptoms and death. They are much less likely to have access to MRNA vaccines, and only 55% of unhoused people have received two doses of a vaccine. Some members of the City Council have argued that LAMC 41.18 can be used as a stick to force "service resistant" people to accept available shelter beds. Criminalizing poverty is never the right approach, but this argument is even more absurd in light of the extreme danger of congregant shelters during a surging pandemic. Shelters are going into quarantine all over the city due to outbreaks and refusing to accept new residents, so there is simply nowhere for our unhoused neighbors to go. Enforcing LAMC 41.18 during this unprecedented surge is unconscionable and will leave City Council members who have designated areas for enforcement with blood on their hands. We echo the Services Not Sweeps coalition in calling on the City

Council, Mayor, and City leaders to "put public health before politics and stop displacing unhoused people during this surge." Suspend enforcement of LAMC 41.18 immediately. Sincerely,
MAR VISTA VOICE



January 7, 2022

Hon. Nury Martinez
President, Los Angeles City Council
nury.martinez@lacity.org

Hon. Kevin De Leon
Chair, Homelessness and Poverty
Committee,
Los Angeles City Council
kevin.deleon@lacity.org

Hon. Mayor Eric Garcetti
Office of the Mayor
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012
eric.garcetti@lacity.org

Via email and submission to City Clerk filing portal

Re: CALL TO SUSPEND MUNICIPAL CODE 41.18

Dear Mayor Garcetti and members of the City Council:

We are an organization representing Mar Vista stakeholders living in zip codes 90034, 90064 and 90066. **Our membership calls on the City of Los Angeles to suspend enforcement of Los Angeles Municipal Code 41.18 while COVID-19 continues to ravage our community.**

Displacing people during the current COVID surge contravenes all public health guidance and puts the lives of LA's most vulnerable residents at risk. The California Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have warned that when non-congregate shelter options are not available, cities should "allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are" to slow the spread of the virus. In direct violation of this public health mandate, our city leaders continue to roll out enforcement of LAMC 41.18 which prohibits sitting, sleeping, lying and storing property in specified locations. Displacing people under 41.18 forces them to move around and lose contact with trusted outreach workers, service providers and medical staff. This makes it nearly impossible to receive vaccines, test for COVID or quarantine and isolate if necessary.

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Some members of the City Council have argued that LAMC 41.18 can be used as a stick to force "service resistant" people to accept available shelter beds. Criminalizing poverty is never the right approach, but this argument is even more absurd in light of the extreme danger of congregant shelters during a surging pandemic. Shelters are going into quarantine all over the city due to outbreaks and refusing to accept new residents, so there is simply nowhere for our unhoused neighbors to go.

Enforcing LAMC 41.18 during this unprecedented surge is unconscionable and will leave City Council members who have designated areas for enforcement with blood on their hands.

We echo the Services Not Sweeps coalition in calling on the City Council, Mayor, and City leaders to "put public health before politics and stop displacing unhoused people during this surge."
Suspend enforcement of LAMC 41.18 immediately.

Sincerely,

Mar Vista Voice