

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I applaud the efforts of those on the City Council to bar bicycle chop shops from sidewalks and right-of-ways. It is no secret that bike chop shops deal in stolen bicycles. Anyone who does not support barring these sites, knowingly or unknowingly supports theft. Bikes that are sold from these sites are built from parts that were originally purchased by working people who paid for them fairly. It is not in any way abusing the homeless by taking this action. Passing this motion is a step towards protecting hard working citizens of this City who increasingly suffer from many forms of theft such as mail theft, package theft, car break-ins, catalytic converter theft and now open hold-ups to name a few. It is also true that like auto chop shops, bicycle chop shops are connected to organized crime - in this case - gang activity. We have seen gangs take over encampments and expel actual homeless people. These encampments have been involved in drug sales, bike chop shops and wire stripping operations all rolled into one. We need to restore order and the rule of law on our streets that have become increasingly lawless. As regards the letter in opposition presented by the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council - be aware that this group in no way represents the wishes of the residents of Los Feliz. This small group has repeatedly proven that their recommendations reflect their own misguided political beliefs and these are a far cry from the wishes of the actual residents. In closing - I urge you to follow through on this action and help stop the open sale of stolen merchandise on our sidewalks.