

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: Good Morning Councilmembers, I am Tiffany Duvernay-Smith, a Systems Reform Champion in support of the City of Los Angeles creating a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. I followed public comment procedures but was not called for public comment and I wanted my verbal public comment on item #8 and my general public comment on record. All I can do is cry hard like a baby because I was living for the moment. Thank you for placing the Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness on today's agenda. Many, including myself, have been patiently waiting since the March 30, 2022 CLA Report and before that waiting since August, 5, 2020 when the Commission initially passed through City Council. The City creating a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness is in line with the direction our nation is going in to prevent end homelessness and will help the City make decisions that are in line with the actual needs of people experiencing homelessness. This is important to me as a person with lived experience fighting for people with lived experience to be viewed through an equitable lens as capable of advisement, leadership, governance, and the like such as designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies, programs, budgets, guidance, strategic planning, etc. I encourage you to research where the leaders of our state and nation, Cal ICH, NCH, HUD, NAEH, USICH and more stand on incorporating people with lived experience at decision-making levels in leadership and governance. [California Interagency Council on Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless, Housing Urban Development, National Alliance to End Homelessness, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.] Your constituents are the heartbeat of this city, especially people with lived experience. Do not continue to make logical decisions without your heart...your heartbeat. It is not wise. You need your logic and emotion to make a wise decision according to Mindfulness teachings. Your website (<https://www.la101.guide/city-council-members>) states, "Each Councilmember represents more than 270,000 people who live within their district. This makes it nearly impossible for a councilmember to know the needs of every community within their district." The small number of advocates currently serving in advisory roles with different organizations and agencies around

Los Angeles is growing, but it's small. Do not think they are enough. They are not enough. They are your checkbox. Does the Council currently seek out Lived Experience Advisory Groups, Councils, or Boards in its decision making? Does each Councilmember individually include people with lived experience in Council District specific decisions? Do you know the recommendations of your lived experience constituents? The City works through committees - I counted 15 current standing committees and a new Committee on COVID-19 Recovery & Neighborhood Investment. Is there an advocate with lived experience at the table of each committee? Kindly keep your responses to these questions in mind as you moved forward with the City Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. Thank you very much Councilmembers for being part of the Lived Experience Movement. You have the support of many on Item #8 - Council file 19-1020.