

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion is part of a broader movement in California and the nation to attempt to flatten the causes and extenuating factors of mental illness into simple categories that render people who fall into the complex intersections of poverty and chronic health conditions totally vulnerable to the whims of a carceral, punitive state. Whatever Traci Park and other proponents of measures such as this may tell you about their compassionate motivations, the reality is that they want the government to have more power to indefinitely detain people so that they stop being a public nuisance. In a state that refuses to invest in social housing and preventative healthcare, it can almost begin to make sense to expand the rights of the state to place "mentally incompetent" people in conservator-ships and other similar programs that strip them of their agency and allow the state to strictly control their lives. The truth is, a person who may be experiencing a mental health crisis on the street right now may very well be able to stabilize and return to a relative level of normalcy once they access the proper treatment and an adequate standard of living. Saddling them with a long-term label of mental incompetency and removing their rights to autonomy and agency only serves to create people who become "service resistant". Putting people in long-term facilities against their will is not how you build trust, and it is not how you begin to untangle the thorny problem of homelessness. Traci Park has spent her career fighting against people's civil rights and on behalf of the interests of private capital. She is a white supremacist and a segregationist, she has no interest in doing the long-term work of building a safer city for all, she simply wants undesirables removed from her district. I hope the rest of this council can be firm in blocking her attempts to be able to use punishment under the guise of compassion.