

Communication from Public

Name: Stephanie Montes

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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Stephanie Montes and I live in Sun Valley. I'm a member of the West Valley People's Alliance and I support item 12 by Bonin to create a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. We know current initiatives to address homelessness are not enough and real solutions must incorporate the input of those most impacted by homelessness. In the Valley, the recent Homeless account exposes we have one of the highest increases in homelessness and we know there it's going to get much worse when evictions increase due to tenants who can't pay rent during the pandemic. Overspending on policing has not only not solved homelessness, and the resulting criminalization has only made it worse. It means people cannot qualify for housing and get jobs. We must defund the police \$3.15 billion dollar budget and instead invest in solving homelessness and by putting resources for black and brown communities. The City Council must act now on the creating of this commission to find real solutions to homelessness and support the People's Budget. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Stephanie Montes