

Communication from Public

Name: Sara Steffan

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:24 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: Establish the Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. The unhoused population needs to have a voice in the decisions made on how services are provided to them and in ending policing and criminalization.

Communication from Public

Name: Stacy Stearns

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:29 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I SUPPORT item 12 - the commission on lived experience of homelessness. This commission needs to be appointed by the PEOPLE not by the councilmembers for it to have any legitimacy at all. And while I am here I will ask you kindly to DEFUND THE POLICE and adopt the People's Budget. All eyes are on you, councilmembers: on your salaries, your benefits, your actions, your campaign donors. Try to earn the salaries that we fund. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Nora

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:29 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: This comment is on item 12. Homelessness in Los Angeles is growing exponentially and we are in the middle of a pandemic. It's time to acknowledge that this is not just a moral crisis but a public health one. In order to protect ourselves, we must protect our most vulnerable community members. The first step in doing that is to get rid of the failed and useless Homelessness and Poverty Committee and replace it with Mitch Bonin's motion to establish a Commission on the Lived Experience of Homelessness. Defund the LAPD and use that money to support our community members. Studies show financial support and services prevent crime much more effectively than violent law enforcement.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:35 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I support this motion. Unhoused populations deserve to have a voice in how services are provided to help them as well as in ending policing and criminalization of their communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Leiza Castillo

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:37 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I think its incredibly pretentious to claim to know how to solve homelessness without listening to the voices of those who have or are currently experiencing homelessness. So, abolish this committee, stop criminalizing our homeless neighbors, and direct funding to homeless and mental health services. Stop using the police to solve this problem; actually, they should be abolished because policing our communities does not help or promote public safety. More care, more interventions. Also, stop hiding behind "we need more studies." You do not. We have all the studies we need. WE know all that we need. More care, more care, more care.

Communication from Public

Name: Chris Venn

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:37 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: The rise in the number of un- housed residents for the 5th time in 6 years is unimaginable in a wealthy city like Los Angeles. I work in San Pedro and live nearby. The increasing number of tents on the streets in San Pedro, Wilmington and the LA City strip are residents, many of them working, who could be/should be housed. LAPD must be defunded! The billion plus dollars for the LAPD is not making us safe, it is criminalizing residents because they are poor. The Bridge Enforcement Zone in San Pedro that coincides with the construction of the Bridge Home Shelter at 515 Beacon Center cannot be used to sweep people off the streets with a Special Enforcement Zone established in San Pedro adjacent to the Bridge Home Shelter. Abolish the Homeless and Poverty (criminalization) Committee and replace it with a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness that Councilman Bonin has suggested. As a Committee you are responsible for creating the worst un-housed situation in the country. Receiving money from developers to fund your political election campaigns, like your past fellow council person Jose Huizar is disgusting. End Special Enforcement Zones Defund the police.

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Hu

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:44 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: It's clear that the City's minimal attempts at building and opening permanent supportive housing and A Bridge Home shelters are not working. We need a radical shift in our approach towards homelessness. We need to: 1. Defund the police. Criminalizing homelessness and overspending on policing has led to our current homelessness crisis. We need to re-route the funds to homelessness services. 2. Reinvest police funds in homelessness prevention measures like cancelling rent and greatly expanding the stock of permanent, public housing. In the coming weeks thousands of families are going to experience homelessness. That will include children. 3. House everyone in hotel rooms – commandeer hotels now, Garcetti! There are empty hotel rooms. We need to house our citizens. 4. LA has 100,000 hotel rooms, most of which are empty. Mayor Garcetti has refused to commandeer a single hotel while the unhoused population increases and COVID-19 cases rise. 5. Support Item 12: Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness (Bonin) appointment of commissioners must not be made by elected officials to ensure commissioners' independence and effectiveness. 6. Ensure that each neighborhood has access to cooling centers to prevent deaths among the elderly and vulnerable population. We are approaching hot summer months, yet there are NO cooling centers in most LA communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Gina Viola

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:47 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: Since this committee was formed in 2016 to address Homelessness and Poverty, the homelessness crisis has only gotten worse, which is reflected in the most recent LAHSA homeless count. Masses of people continue to die in the streets (#3aDayinLA), while this committee passes ordinances to criminalize unhoused people (LAMC 56.11, 85.02, Bridge Shelter enforcement zones, attempts to revamp 41.18) This committee has NO CREDIBILITY in addressing this crisis. On the contrary, its actions have only contributed to it. Promises of Prop HHH and Project Roomkey have fallen woefully short while you continue to push bridge shelters with expensive+harmful criminalization zones. This committee must be abolished in favor of one suggested in Bonin's motion, led by people who are currently or recently unhoused. The first step towards this is immediately removing Committee Chair Mitch OFarrell from this committee as he holds in-person meetings with housed constituents regarding their complaints about having to see encampments while completely ignoring the voices of his constituents who are actually living and dying in encampments. Funding to criminalize homelessness vs funding for housing+services: Demands: Cancel Rent, Commandeer vacant hotels, expropriate vacant units, abolish all ordinances that criminalize homelessness, End Special Enforcement Zones, Defund The Police, provide harm reduction Services Not Sweeps and implement #PeoplesBudgetLA NOW.

Communication from Public

Name: Sasha K

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:17 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I support Bonin's motion for a Committee On Lived Experience With Homelessness. How can you all even make decisions on homelessness issues without working in conjunction and using the knowledge of people that have been homeless??

Communication from Public

Name: Christiana Cobb-Dozier

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:27 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: In the interest of public health, we must fill vacant hotel rooms for those who are unhoused. the current pandemic has resulted in an increase of homelessness and the numbers will continue to rise without proper services. We need services not sweeps and criminalization of those who are already suffering from traumatic circumstances. We must defund the police to end the criminalization of the homeless and the overspending on policing that has led to our current homeless crisis. I am in support of item 12 for the commission on lived experience with homelessness.

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Gamboa

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:49 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: The Los Angeles LGBT Center fully supports Item 12 regarding the establishment of a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. No greater voices exist than those who must endure and exist in a world that continuously fails them. And their voices must be heard so that CORRECT policies and programs related to homelessness can be made. The youth homelessness service world has been at the forefront of bringing lived experience into all aspects of the solutions. It's undeniable that the work is better. This is one of the more important motions that this group has discussed and we thank Mike Bonin for his leadership. We strongly encourage this committee to pass this motion. And finally, we would be remiss if we did not affirm that absolutely no funds should be taken from homelessness funds and applied to law enforcement. In fact, the reverse should be the case in broad support of the People's Budget LA. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Brittani Nichols

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:01 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: The unhoused population needs to have a voice in the decisions made on how services are provided to them. The prior behavior of people on this committee has been wildly inappropriate, evil, and it turns out, illegal. The loudest voices should be those most impacted which in this case is the unhoused. They need to be given a voice so that we end policing and criminalization of the unhoused.

Communication from Public

Name: Amaris Zamora

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:03 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I support item 12 and believe the commission should consist of people with homelessness experience. As a public health graduate, I think it's important for the City Council to recognize the severity of our homelessness issue in Los Angeles. We demand to defund the police and reinvent police funds in homelessness prevention measures and expand public housing. COVID-19 has affected all communities overall, but specifically the houseless community. These people are not receiving any support from our city council. I have previously worked with homeless organizations and these people know what exactly works to help the homeless community.

Communication from Public

Name: katy hammer

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:03 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: It is mind-boggling that Mitch O'Farrell chairs the Homelessness and Poverty committee, first of all. Secondly, yes, absolutely there needs to be a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness! It is abhorrent that people who actively vote against the interests of unhoused Angelenos are entrusted with continuing to make the life and death decisions that impact them. But this needs to be a truly impactful action, not like the Bridge Home shelters, which further criminalize homelessness under the guise of helping--which means that there needs to be transparency in selecting who is represented on the commission. Which means Mitch O'Farrell should not be involved at all in this selection process. Please entrust the community organizations that have been working with the unhoused community to lead this action--StreetWatch, LACAN, Ktown4All, SELAH, etc. Not sure if this is the right place for this, but blocking the Mayor's budget, which defunds the police and adopting the People's Budget--which will put an end to the terrorization of the unhoused community by the murderous and racist LAPD and invest desperately needed funds into housing and homeless services--would also be a great step for y'all to take. Just saying.

Communication from Public

Name: Kris Rehl

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:13 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to establish the Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. The inhumanely treated unhoused population of our city deserve a voice in the decisions made on how services are provided to them and in ending policing and criminalization!

Communication from Public

Name: Colleen Evanson

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:12 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Colleen Evanson and I'm a resident of District 2. Today I'm writing to support Item 12: Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. And the appointment of commissioners must not be made by elected officials to ensure commissioners' independence and effectiveness. LAHSA's homeless count showed an increase of 14.2% in the City of LA. It's clear that the City's minimal attempts at building and opening permanent supportive housing and A Bridge Home shelters are not working. We need a radical shift in our approach towards homelessness, and this is one way to help do that. Thank you for your time and service.

Communication from Public

Name: CHRIS R RIDDLE

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:15 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: LAHSA's homeless count showed an increase of 14.2% in the City of LA. It's clear that the City's minimal attempts at building and opening permanent supportive housing and A Bridge Home shelters are not working. We need a radical shift in our approach towards homelessness. We need to: DefundThePolice – Criminalizing homelessness and overspending on policing has led to our current homelessness crisis. Reinvest police funds in homelessness prevention measures like cancelling rent and greatly expanding the stock of permanent, public housing. House everyone in hotel rooms – commandeer hotels now, Garcetti! It's uncontrovertible not to use eminent domain to protect the homeless. LA has 100,000 hotel rooms, most of which are empty. Mayor Garcetti has refused to commandeer a single hotel while the unhoused population increases and COVID-19 cases rise. Support Item 12: Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness (Bonin) appointment of commissioners must not be made by elected officials to ensure commissioners' independence and effectiveness. Ensure that each neighborhood has access to cooling centers to prevent deaths among the elderly and vulnerable population. We are approaching hot summer months, yet there are NO cooling centers in most LA communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Katherine Tattersfield

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 09:48 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I support Councilmember Mike Bonin's motion to create a Los Angeles City Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. It's critical for unhoused neighbors to have a voice in decision-making that affects their livelihood. The City has ignored the voices of people experiencing homelessness for far too long while catering to anti-housing homeowners. This must end. The only way to move forward with solutions that work for everyone is to allow everyone a seat at the discussion.

Communication from Public

Name: Shawn

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 08:56 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I support Item 12, establishing a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. It's clear that the city budget is allocated improperly and needs to be reallocated drastically different. One of the main reasons we are where we are were acts of police overspending and criminalizing homelessness. Police budgets should be divested in favor of going towards homelessness prevention measures like canceling rent and creating more permanent, public housing. To help with the current public health crisis, short-term solutions should be implemented ASAP. Los Angeles has thousands upon thousands of vacant hotel rooms at the moment. COVID-19 cases are rising. We need to use those unused spaces to house the unhoused population. Accelerated climate change has led to even hotter summers. We need to ensure each neighborhood has access to cooling centers to protect our elderly and vulnerable population. We need those not dealing with poverty to truly be sincere and humane when dealing with those who are currently dealing with it. To ensure commissioners' independence and effectiveness, I believe the appoint of commissioners to the Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness must not be made by elected officials. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Bill Pitkin

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 09:50 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I fully support this to motion to create a Los Angeles City Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. For too long, policy makers have made plans and funding decisions without the vital input of people who are most affected by the issue. People with Lived Expertise of homelessness know better than anyone the barriers and challenges that cause it and what is needed to solve it.

Communication from Public

Name: Samantha Smart

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 09:54 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I support item 12 and Councilmember Bonin's proposal to create a commission on lived experience with homelessness. Additionally, as COVID cases rise and in the interest of public health, I urge you to fill vacant hotel rooms with the vulnerable homeless population. It is despicable that people are dying on the streets while hotels remain vacant. I also am sickened by the criminalization of homelessness and demand we defund the police and adopt a people's budget. The people do not want their tax dollars paying for LAPD's outrageous overtime budget and other offensive bloated spending habits. The police are public servants and should not be lining their pockets with our tax dollars while beating people in the streets. Adopt a people's budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Ashley Brim

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 09:55 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: Writing in Support of agenda item 12 relative to the establishment of a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. The appointment of commissioners must not be made by elected officials to ensure commissioners' independence and effectiveness

Communication from Public

Name: Allie Kiekhofer

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 01:30 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of district 13, Mitch O'Farrell's district (zip code 90029). I am writing to address the urgency of the homelessness crisis in LA and to support item 12, the creation of a Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. LAHSA's homeless count showed an increase of 14.2% in the City of LA. The City's minimal attempts so far at building and opening permanent supportive housing and A Bridge Home shelters are not working. We need a radical shift in our approach towards homelessness. We need to: 1. Defund the police. Criminalizing homelessness and overspending on policing has led to our current homelessness crisis. 2. Reinvest police funds in homelessness prevention measures like cancelling rent and greatly expanding the stock of permanent, public housing. 3. House everyone in hotel rooms. Put pressure on Mayor Garcetti to use his power to commandeer hotels. Project Room Key has not come close to reaching its goal of filling rooms. The city of LA has 100,000 hotel rooms, most of which are currently empty. Mayor Garcetti has refused to commandeer a single hotel while the unhoused population increases and COVID-19 cases rise. On average, 3 unhoused people die per day in LA. 5. Support Item 12: Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness. Commissioners should not be appointed by elected officials, who will use the ability to appoint as a way to advance their own interests. 6. As summer and hot temperatures approach, we need access to water stations and cooling centers in every neighborhood. This will be vital in preventing deaths among the elderly and vulnerable population, who are already at exponential risk because of Covid. Thank you.
Allie

Communication from Public

Name: Allie Kiekhofer

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 02:18 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am calling on Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (my councilmember) to abolish this committee in favor of the proposed committee put forth by Councilmember Bonin. Since this committee was formed in 2016, allegedly to address Homelessness and Poverty, the homelessness crisis has ballooned. What is the explanation for that? The most recent LAHSA homeless count showed over a 14% jump in homelessness. You all know that will get worse with Covid-19 bound to put more on the streets if you continue this way. Three people on average die in the streets of LA per day. Have any of you listened to the We The Unhoused podcast? Maybe you should. It doesn't seem like you're listening to the voices of actual unhoused people. Councilmember O'Farrell, your committee continues to pass ordinances to criminalize unhoused people (e.g. LAMC 56.11, 85.02, Bridge Shelter enforcement zones, attempts to revamp 41.18). This committee has NO CREDIBILITY in addressing the homelessness crisis. Its actions have only contributed to it. This is basically a homeless and poverty criminalization committee. Promises of Prop HHH and Project Roomkey have fallen embarrassingly short—and everyone knows. Meanwhile, you guys continue to push bridge shelters with criminalization zones. Abolish this committee. It isn't doing what you said it would do. Replace it with the committee suggested in Councilmember Bonin's motion. It must be led by people who are currently or recently unhoused. The first step: Remove Committee Chair Mitch O'Farrell from this committee. He holds in-person meetings with housed constituents who complain about petty things like "having to see encampments." Meanwhile, he completely ignores the voices of his constituents who are living and dying in encampments. It has been honestly shameful to be one of Councilmember O'Farrell's constituents. I have been consistently horrified by his pseudo-measured approach to reform, which continues to prioritize only his richest constituents. Mitch, if you disagree, prove me wrong. I will be waiting. I support Councilmember Bonin's motion. Thank you.