

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/28/2017

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 12/07/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 17-0363

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The EPNC opposes the proposed ordinance which would criminalize minor infractions of City rules and regulations, including rules governing public meetings where citizens should have an opportunity to petition their government for redress. Any offensive or harassing conduct sought to be addressed is already subject to specific criminal penalties under existing law, and broadening criminal liability under such a vague ordinance will only lead to selective and discriminatory enforcement that targets our most vulnerable citizens or those whose opinions happen to be critical of the City government. If there is specific harmful conduct occurring in public spaces that merits criminal treatment and that is not already covered by current laws, the City should formulate a narrowly tailored ordinance specifically identifying such conduct and the corresponding penalty.

ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

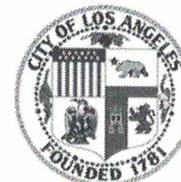
P.O. BOX 26557, L.A. CA 90026



Community Impact Statement (CIS) Council File 17-0363

Proposed Ordinance Criminalizing Minor
Infractions of Rules for City Facilities

November 28, 2017



**CERTIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL**
APRIL 16, 2002

To: Honorable City Council, Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, room 395, Los Angeles, CA 90012 c/o Office of the City Clerk. The Echo Park Neighborhood Council (EPNC) is requesting that the following Community Impact Statement (CIS) be attached to City Council File 17-0363.

On November 28, 2017, with a quorum of 17, the EPNC Board of Governors held a Brown Act-noticed meeting and with a vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions, the EPNC voted to submit this CIS in opposition to the proposed ordinance which would criminalize minor infractions of City rules and regulations, including rules governing public meetings where citizens should have an opportunity to petition their government for redress.

Any offensive or harassing conduct sought to be addressed is already subject to specific criminal penalties under existing law, and broadening criminal liability under such a vague ordinance will only lead to selective and discriminatory enforcement that targets our most vulnerable citizens or those whose opinions happen to be critical of the City government. As stated in the October 24, 2017 Letter from the ACLU on this subject ("ACLU Letter"), "[p]art of the duty of public officials is to bear the brunt of the public's displeasure as well as expressions of gratitude and satisfaction." For all the reasons stated in the ACLU Letter, which is attached here and incorporated by reference, the EPNC opposes this proposed ordinance and urges City Council to reject it.

We are all for protecting our public spaces for the benefit of all. We encourage the City to propose more narrowly tailored laws identifying specific conduct to be prohibited and the specific consequences for those actions.

Respectfully,

Tad Yenawine,
Chair, Echo Park Neighborhood Council