

09-2255-51

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES, INC.

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH MENTAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

3255 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 902
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010

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October 12, 2011

Councilmember Tony Cárdenas
councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org
Facsimile: (213) 847-0549
Councilmember Bernard Parks
Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org
Facsimile: 213-485-7683
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(Sent via facsimile or email)

Re: Support for Motion to Amend Los Angeles Municipal Code §45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS) is writing in strong support of your motion to amend the “daytime curfew” ordinance (Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) §45.04) to reduce its punitive effects on students, including the imposition of fines. This ordinance has disproportionately affected low-income students of color while failing to meaningfully increase community safety. MHAS is particularly concerned about the potential for overuse of daytime curfew or truancy ordinances on children with special needs and learning challenges. On behalf of MHAS, we would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

MHAS is a non-profit legal services agency that provides direct legal services to adults and children with mental health disabilities in Los Angeles County. MHAS also engages in policy work and impact litigation in furtherance of its mission to protect and advance the legal rights of children and adults with mental disabilities in order to maximize autonomy, promote equality, and secure the resources needed to thrive in the community. MHAS is concerned about the enforcement of daytime curfew ordinances because student absences often indicate that children and teens have unmet educational needs and other problems that can lead to school drop-out, unemployment, and incarceration. Baker, Sigmon & Nugent, *Truancy Reduction: Keeping Students in School*, Juvenile Justice Bulletin (2001). While causes of truancy are many, they can include unmet mental health needs and poor academic performance due to unmet special education disabilities. *Truancy Is a Risk Factor for Other Problems*, National Center for School Engagement, www.schoolengagement.org/TruancyPreventionRegistry, p. 5-6. For these reasons, it is important that law enforcement and schools be judicious in their reliance on daytime curfew

ordinances such as LAMC §45.04. MHAS supports the pending motion that LAMC §45.04 be amended to ensure that it is not overly broad or punitive.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES, INC.

By Pamela Marx, Supervising Attorney

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-0750
Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck, contact.lapdonline@gmail.com
facsimile: (213) 486-0168
City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich, ctrutanich@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-8312
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Councilmember Paul Koretz, facsimile: (213) 978-2250
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, facsimile: (213) 978-3092
Councilmember Tom La Bonge, tom.labonge@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 624-7810
Councilmember Ed Reyes, councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 485-8907
Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, facsimile: (310) 410-3946
Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., facsimile: (213) 485-9829

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for 18 Years!*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sally Fairman

THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS THEATRE COMPANY

November 29, 2011

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Councilmember Bernard Parks

Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org

Facsimile: 213-485-7683

Los Angeles City Council

200 North Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(Sent via facsimile or email)

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

We are writing in strong support of your motion to amend the "daytime curfew (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proved to be detrimental to students and the families and a failure in increasing community safety. On behalf of *The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company*, we would like to thank you for your leadership on critically important issue.

The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company mentors hundreds of at-risk throughout the City of Los Angeles. LAMC 45.04 makes it incredibly difficult to serve the youth who need our services the most by putting undue financial and emotional pressure on them and their families. To provide life-changing services to these youth we need the obstacles that keep them out of school and out of prison to be removed, not increased.

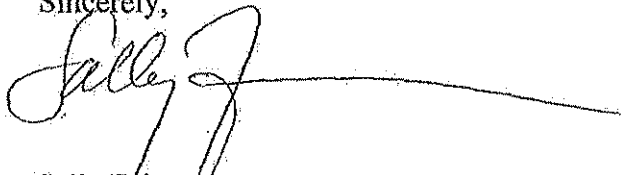
The current daytime curfew law is ineffective, wasteful and unfairly targets all students and in particular students of color. The latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students. Student receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days, to attend mandatory court hearings and the schools themselves lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Just as importantly, research unequivocally confirms that curfew statutes don't work – they do not reduce crime and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to be re-mishled.

The law hits families with low-incomes the hardest, forcing them to make hard choices to not pay for basics – like food for the family – to pay the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. As such, the undue financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04.

There are many reasons why students are late or absent, including delays with public transportation, family problems, school struggles, illness, or even the need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. The common sense amendments in this critical motion will stop unnecessarily penalization of students who are trying to get to school, even if they are late, ensure that families do not suffer undue financial hardships, and help minimize court involvement by instead connecting children to resources to end the criminalization of tardiness and truancy.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,



Sally Fairman
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-0750
Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck, contact.lapdonline@gmail.com
facsimile: (213) 486-0168
City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich, ctrutanich@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-8312
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November 28, 2011

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Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(Sent via facsimile or email)

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) a RePower LA Campaign, we are writing in strong support of your motion to amend the "daytime curfew" law (LAMC Section 45.04). We would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue and efforts to improve the lives of youth and young adults throughout Los Angeles.

As an organization that is fighting to create quality jobs for low-income communities throughout the region, we are committed to removing academic and vocational opportunities. Over the last decade, we have seen the tremendous disadvantages young adults face in the job market when they have convictions on their record. Often times, their initial contacts with the criminal justice system are facilitated through laws such as the one you are working to amend.

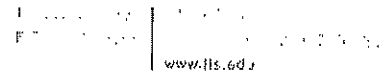
As an organization, we also applaud your efforts to redistribute valuable resources from enforcing ineffective curfew laws to addressing other public safety needs like quality job creation. We strongly urge you and the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,


Jessica Goodheart

Director, RePower LA Campaign (LAANE)

213-977-9400 ext. 135



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO: **President Pro Tempore Jan Perry:** (213) 473-5946
Assistant President Pro Tempore Dennis P. Zine: (213) 485-8988
Councilmember Richard Alarcon: (213) 847-0707
Councilmember Paul Koretz: (213) 978-2250
Councilmember Paul Krekorian: (213) 978-3092
Councilmember Bill Rosendahl: (310) 410-3946
Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.: (213) 485-9829

FROM: Michael J. Smith, Associate Clinical Law Professor
 Director, Youth Justice Education Clinic
 Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School

TELEPHONE: (213) 736-1337

DATE: September 30, 2011

NO. OF PAGES: 3 (including cover page)

RE: **Letter of Support for Amendment of LAMC 45.04**

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT TO LAMC 45.04

THIS MESSAGE AND THE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED ARE INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL, AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR THE EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE, AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. THANK YOU.



LOYOLA
LAW SCHOOL LOS ANGELES



September 29, 2011

Via EMAIL

Councilmember Tony Cárdenas
councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org

Councilmember Bernard Parks
Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

We are writing in strong support of your motion to amend the "daytime curfew" law (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proven to be detrimental to students and their families and has not increased community safety. On behalf of the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, we would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

The Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, through its Youth Justice Education Clinic and Juvenile Justice Clinic, represents many children (some already involved with the juvenile justice system) who attend schools within the City of Los Angeles. We very rarely encounter a child who is tardy or absent because they do not want to learn; it is usually due to environmental or family circumstances beyond their control or the stress and frustration of attending schools that have consistently failed to identify and meet their educational needs. In fact, many schools that we encounter do not make students and parents feel welcome or supported and do not try to engage students in the process of learning. This is particularly true of "high risk" youth who may need additional resources and time to become successful and productive students.

There are many reasons why students are late or absent, including: unmet special education or mental health needs, delays with public transportation, family problems, school bullying or harassment, illness, or even the need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. Students have told us that they will not try to attend school if they are just a little late, for fear they will be ticketed in a tardy sweep. Additionally, we have seen special education students ticketed even where school attendance is related to their disability (often because of anxiety or depression) and specifically addressed in their special education plan. As you know, the current daytime curfew law is ineffective and unfairly targets students of color. The latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES



CENTER for
YOUTH JUSTICE EDUCATION
CLINIC

Latino students. Students who receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days to attend mandatory court hearings, and school districts lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Additionally, research confirms that curfew statutes do not reduce crime and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to drop out of school and engage in high risk behavior.

The law impacts families with low-incomes the hardest, forcing them to make hard choices between paying for the basics, like food for the family, and paying the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. As such, the excessive financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need to amend LAMC 45.04.

The common sense amendments in this critical motion will stop unnecessary penalization of students who are trying to get to school, even if they are late; ensure that families do not suffer undue financial hardships; and help minimize court involvement of youth by connecting them with critically needed resources.

We therefore strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Smith
Director, Youth Justice Education Clinic
Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org.
Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck, contact.lapdonline@gmail.com
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Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., facsimile: (213) 485-9829



5801 S. San Pedro Street, LA, Ca 90011 323-238-0445 323-230-6271 f

February 7, 2012

Councilmember Tony Cárdenas
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Councilmember Bernard Parks
Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org
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Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SENT by FACSIMILE AND EMAIL

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches is writing in strong support of your motion to amend the "daytime curfew" law (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proved to be detrimental to students and their families and a failure in increasing community safety. On behalf of Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches Board of Trustees and congregations members, we would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

LAM network of small churches are located primarily in South LA and we represent 50 congregations and approximately 4,000 voters. Our churches are a safe meeting place and resource for loved ones and parents doing their best to educate and protect their children in Los Angeles City. As you know, African American and Latino children and low income families face the most obstacles and challenges in pursuit of public education. Please organize approval of LAMC 45.04 and make this legislative change a priority in the City of LA and you'll send a message to parents and voters that you care about their children. You can make it right for low income families in the City.

The current daytime curfew law is ineffective, wasteful and unfairly targets all students and in particular students of color. The latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students. Students who receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days, to attend mandatory court hearings and the schools themselves lose critical Average Daily

Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Just as importantly, research unequivocally confirms that curfew statutes don't work – they do not reduce crime --- and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to be pushed out of school early and become more susceptible to becoming involved in delinquent behavior.

The law hits families with low-incomes the hardest, forcing them to make hard choices to not pay for the basics – like food for the family – to pay the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. As such, the undue financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04.

There are many reasons why students are late or absent, including delays with public transportation, family problems, school struggles, illness, or even the need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. The common sense amendments in this critical motion will stop unnecessarily penalization of students who are trying to get to school, even if they are late, ensure that families do not suffer undue financial hardships, and help minimize court involvement by instead connecting children to resources to become productive residents of Los Angeles.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,

Kelvin T. Calloway

Pastor Kelvin T. Calloway,
President Board of Trustees, Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches (LAM)
Bethel AME Church

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-0750
Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck, contact.lapdonline@gmail.com facsimile: (213) 486-0168
City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich, ctrutanich@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-8312
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Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, facsimile: (310) 410-3946
Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., facsimile: (213) 485-9829



Los Angeles Community Action Network

November 16, 2011

Councilmember Tony Cardenas
Councilmember Bernard Parks
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(Sent via email)

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Councilmembers Cardenas and Parks:

We are writing in strong support of your motion to amend the “daytime curfew” law (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proved to be detrimental to students and their families and a failure in increasing community safety. On behalf of the Los Angeles Community Action Network we would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

The Los Angeles Community Action Network is a grassroots organization working in Downtown and South Los Angeles. Our members are generally extremely low-income individuals and families, who are struggling even more than ever in this economic environment. Our members living in the Pueblo del Rio public housing development have been most impacted by the daytime curfew law, as most have school-aged children. Additionally, last year the Housing Authority added truancy as a reason for eviction – creating even more detrimental impacts from the daytime curfew law citations. Thankfully, after tenants organized against this new policy, it was recently rescinded.

The current daytime curfew law is ineffective, wasteful and unfairly targets all students and in particular students of color. The latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students. Students who receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days, to attend mandatory court hearings and the schools themselves lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Just as importantly, research unequivocally confirms that curfew statutes don’t work – they do not reduce crime --- and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to be pushed out of school early and become more susceptible to becoming involved in delinquent behavior.

The law hits families with low-incomes the hardest, forcing them to make hard choices to not pay for the basics – like food for the family – to pay the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket.

Los Angeles Community Action Network

530 S. Main Street, Ground Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone # 213-228-0024 Fax # 213-228-0048 www.cangress.org

November 16, 2011

Page 2

As such, the undue financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04.

There are many reasons why students are late or absent, including delays with public transportation, family problems, school struggles, illness, or even the need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. The common sense amendments in this critical motion will stop unnecessarily penalization of students who are trying to get to school, even if they are late, ensure that families do not suffer undue financial hardships, and help minimize court involvement by instead connecting children to resources.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,



Becky Dennison
Co-Directors



Pete White

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck
City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich
City Council President Eric Garcetti
President Pro Tempore Jan Perry
Assistant President Pro Tempore Dennis P. Zine
Councilmember Richard Alarcon
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Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

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Pastor
St. John the Baptist Catholic
Church, Baldwin Park

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Immigration Attorney

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December 8, 2011

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Clergy & Laity United
for Economic Justice

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jones Allen".

Councilmember Tony Cárdenas Councilmember Bernard Parks
councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org
Facsimile: (213) 847-0549 Facsimile: 213-485-7683

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

We strongly support your motion to amend the "daytime curfew" law (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proved detrimental to students and their families and has failed to increase community safety. We would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

Religious leaders whom we represent witness firsthand the debilitating effects of unnecessary criminalization of our youth in our churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples. Our young people need smart support, not simplistic subjugation.

The current daytime curfew law unfairly targets all students, particularly students of color. Police officers issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009, a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students. **Students who receive curfew tickets miss more school** to attend mandatory court hearings; the schools then lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Research also unequivocally confirms that curfew statutes don't work – they do not reduce crime. The law hits families with low-incomes hardest, often forcing them to choose between buying food for the family or paying hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. This undue financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04. There are many reasons why students are late or absent—Delays with public transportation, family problems, illness, even a need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. Common sense amendments in this motion will stop unnecessary penalization of students trying to get to school, even if late, ensuring that their families not suffer undue financial hardships, thus minimizing court involvement and instead connecting children to resources to end the criminalization of tardiness and truancy. **We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.** Blessings,

Rabbi Jonathan Klein
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-0750 LAPD Chief Charlie Beck,
contact.lapdonline@gmail.com facsimile: (213) 486-0168 City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich, ctrutanich@lacity.org,
facsimile: (213) 978-8312

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Councilmember Mitchell Englander, Councilmember.Englander@lacity.org facsimile: (213) 473-6925

Councilmember Jose Huizar, Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org facsimile: (213) 847-0680

Councilmember Paul Koretz, facsimile: (213) 978-2250

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, facsimile: (213) 978-3092 Councilmember Tom La Bonge, tom.labonge@lacity.org,
facsimile: (213) 624-7810 Councilmember Ed Reyes, councilmember.reyes@lacity.org , facsimile: (213) 485-8907

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, facsimile: (310) 410-3946 Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., facsimile: (213) 485-9829



September 26, 2011

Councilmember Tony Cárdenas
councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org
Facsimile: (213) 847-0549

Councilmember Bernard Parks
Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org
Facsimile: 213-485-7683

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(Sent via facsimile or email)

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

We are writing in strong support of your motion to amend the “daytime curfew” law (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proved to be detrimental to students and their families and a failure in increasing community safety. On behalf of the members, staff, and Board of **Community Asset Development Re-defining Education (CADRE)** we would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

For the last decade, CADRE has been rooted in the lives and experiences of South LA African American and Latino parents and caregivers whose children attend local public schools, and whose children are the very ones most likely to be caught in the crosshairs of this law. With poverty and high degrees of crisis concentrated in this community over several generations, our parent members already face considerable challenges to ensuring that their children have their basic needs met and attain an education. As a result, CADRE has been organizing South LA parents and providing them with the space to acquire the advocacy and policy change skills, as well as power in numbers, to change the political obstacles to raising their children as students in South LA. With an emerging base of 300 members, CADRE has been invested in transforming school discipline in LAUSD, as well as other policies that inappropriately and disproportionately punish South LA children and youth for the complex barriers they face, leaving them saddled with law enforcement interaction and criminal records rather than a high school diploma.

The current daytime curfew law is ineffective, wasteful, and unfairly targets all students and in particular students of color. The latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students. Students who receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days, to attend mandatory court hearings and the schools themselves lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Just as importantly, research unequivocally confirms that curfew statutes don’t work – they do not reduce crime --- and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to be pushed out of school early and become more susceptible to becoming involved in delinquent behavior.

The law hits families with low-incomes the hardest, forcing them to make hard choices to not pay for the basics – like food for the family – to pay the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. As such, the undue financial

hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04.

There are many reasons why students are late or absent, including delays with public transportation, family problems, school struggles, illness, or even the need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. The common sense amendments in this critical motion will stop unnecessary penalization of students who are trying to get to school, even if they are late, ensure that families do not suffer undue financial hardships, and help minimize court involvement by instead connecting children to resources to become productive residents of Los Angeles.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,



Maisie Chin
Executive Director/Co-Founder

Roslyn Broadnax
Core Parent Leader

Danielle LaFayette
Associate Director of Organizational Growth

Eddie Madison
Core Parent Leader

Rob McGowan
Associate Director of Organizing

Leticia Arevalo
Core Parent Leader

Thelmy Perez
Lead Organizer

Silvia Mendez
Core Parent Leader

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
mayor@lacity.org

Facsimile: (213) 978-0750

Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck
contact.lapdonline@gmail.com

Facsimile: (213) 486-0168

City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich
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Councilmember Bill Rosendahl

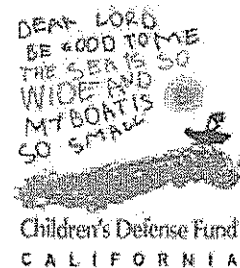
Facsimile: (310) 410-3946

Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

Facsimile: (213) 485-9829

November 28, 2011

Councilmember Tony Cárdenas
councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org
Facsimile: (213) 847-0549
Councilmember Bernard Parks
Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org
Facsimile: 213-485-7683
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Re: Strong Support for Motion that would Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

I am writing in strong support of your motion to amend the “daytime curfew” law (LAMC Section 45.04), as the daytime curfew law has proved to be detrimental to students and their families as well as failed in increasing community safety or promoting school attendance. On behalf of the Children’s Defense Fund – California, we would like to thank you for your leadership on this important issue and reiterate our support of your motion.

The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) is a national child advocacy organization committed to ensuring every child a safe start and a fair start in life and a successful passage to adulthood. For years the Children’s Defense Fund has been deeply concerned about the cradle to prison pipeline that gives African American boys born in 2001 a one in three chance of going to jail, and Latino boys born in 2001 a one in six chance of the same fate. A key part to dismantling this cradle to prison pipeline is dismantling the school to prison pipeline that is funneling too many of our youth away from the education they deserve and need and into unemployment or even the juvenile or criminal justice systems. Our schools and our policies around education in Los Angeles and across the country must seek to level the playing field, not make it worse. Yet the current daytime curfew law does increase inequity, as it unfairly targets students of color. Indeed, the latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students.

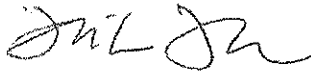
In addition to being inequitable, the current daytime curfew law is ineffective, wasteful, and counter-productive. Students who receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days, to attend mandatory court hearings and the schools themselves lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Just as importantly, research confirms that curfew statutes don’t work – they do not reduce crime --- and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to be pushed out of school early and become more susceptible to becoming involved in delinquent behavior. The Children’s Defense Fund believes it is imperative we keep kids out of the justice system whenever possible, not funnel them in for things like tardiness to school.

The law also hits families with low-incomes the hardest, even forcing them to make hard choices to not pay for the basics – like food for the family – in order to pay the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. As such, the undue financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04.

There are many reasons why students are late or absent, including delays with public transportation, family problems, school struggles, mental or physical illness, or even the need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. This motion offers some common sense amendments that will stop unnecessarily penalizing students who are trying to get to school (even if they are late), ensure that families do not suffer undue financial hardships, and help minimize court involvement by instead connecting children to the resources they need to be successful in school.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion, and to get rid of all fines associated with daytime curfew and reduce the need for court appearance or involvement.

Sincerely,



Michelle Newell
Policy Associate
Children's Defense Fund – California

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-0750
Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck, contact.lapdonline@gmail.com facsimile:
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Violence Prevention Coalition
of Greater Los Angeles

February 7, 2012

OFFERING COMMITTEE

Victim Services

Youth At Risk

Adolescent Health

Children's Institute

John Sanchez

Violence Intervention

Program LAC-USC

David Lopez

West Coast Family

Foundation

Timothy Sandoval

Youth Justice Coalition

Les Curran

L.A. County Probation

Department

Dwain Brown

Girls and Gangs

Lee Shilling

L.A. City Attorney's Office

David Blake

Center for Health Justice

Julian Stebbins

The Power Alliance

Paul Camlin

St. Francis Medical Center

Adrian Barajas

LAURA

Maria Fukunaga

Community Services

Mike Walsh, Founder

WCLA Department of

Epidemiology, Violence

Prevention Program

Councilmember Tony Cardenas
councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org
Facsimile: (213) 847-0549
(Sent via facsimile)

Councilmember Bernard Parks
Bernard.Parks, Jr@lacity.org
Facsimile: 213-485-7683

Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

I am writing in strong support of your motion to amend the "daytime curfew" law (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proved to be detrimental to students and their families and a failure in increasing community safety. On behalf of the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, we would like to thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

As Director of the Violence Prevention Coalition – an organization representing seventy agencies and their thousands of clients across Los Angeles County, we are constantly working with community-based organizations, law enforcement, and public officials in an effort to improve the safety of our communities, and improve the lives of our young people. Our members have come out in favor of this amendment as an effective, prevention-based approach that can have a significant impact.

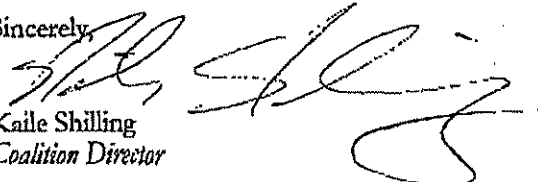
The latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students. Students who receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days, to attend mandatory court hearings and the schools themselves lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Just as importantly, research unequivocally confirms that curfew statutes don't work – they do not reduce crime – and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to be pushed out of school early and become more susceptible to becoming involved in delinquent behavior.

The law hits families with low-incomes the hardest, forcing them to make hard choices to not pay for the basics – like food for the family – to pay the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. As such, the undue financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04. There are many reasons why students are late or absent, including delays with public transportation, family problems, school struggles, illness, or even the need to walk a little sister or brother to a different school with the same start time. The common sense amendments in this critical motion will stop unnecessarily penalization of students who are trying to get to school, even if they are late, ensure that families do not suffer undue financial hardships, and help minimize court involvement by instead connecting children to resources to become productive residents of Los Angeles.

We support the amendment to LAMC 45.04 because it will improve public safety and reduce unnecessary contact between young people and the justice system. Most importantly, it protects and supports Los Angeles' most cherished residents and most valuable resource: our youth.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Sincerely,


Kaile Shilling
Coalition Director

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-0750
Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck, charlie.beck@lapdonline.com
facsimile: (213) 486-0168
City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich, carmen.trutanich@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-8312
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Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., facsimile: (213) 485-9829
Tammy Bang Luu, Associate Director Labor/Community Strategy Center, facsimile 213-387-3500



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November 26, 2011

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Los Angeles City Council
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Re: Strong Support for Motion to Amend LAMC 45.04

Dear Council Members Cardenas and Parks:

We are writing in strong support of your motion to amend the "daytime curfew" law (LAMC Section 45.04), which has proved to be detrimental to students and their families and a failure in increasing community safety. On behalf of the entire membership of the Youth Justice Coalition, thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

As you know, the Youth Justice Coalition represents youth who have been directly involved in the juvenile and criminal court systems, detention and incarceration. For nearly all of us, our push into the system began with our push out of school. Truancy tickets, sweeps and the resulting disciplinary actions resulting from harsh and ineffective attendance policies have impacted hundreds of YJC members, and have led to crippling fines, inability of some youth to get driver's licenses, violation and lock-up for youth on Probation, and even drops in school attendance or leaving school all together to avoid further ticketing. As you know, policies that were intended to improve student success have actually discouraged youth from completing school and severely impacted their future higher education and employment opportunities.

Unbelievably, in all the experiences our members have had with curfew tickets, no one was ever asked by a police officer or school official why they were late. Common reasons include late or slow bus schedules, crowded buses that pass students by, having to take younger siblings to school, working late nights or early mornings to help support families, problems at home, a lack of safe passage to and from school that causes youth to deal with everything from bullying, theft and banging on their own, or alcohol or other substance abuse issues.

Particularly given the reasons that youth are late to school, the current daytime curfew law is ineffective, wasteful and unfairly targets all students and in particular students of color. The latest statistics reveal that police officers have issued more than 47,000 tickets between 2005 through 2009 with a disproportionate share going to African American and Latino students. Students who receive curfew tickets miss additional school, sometimes two or three days, to attend mandatory court hearings and the schools themselves lose critical Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding for those missed days. Just as importantly, research unequivocally confirms that curfew statutes don't work – they do not reduce crime -

-- and when we involve students with juvenile court, they are almost four times as likely to be pushed.

The law hits families with low-incomes the hardest, forcing them to make hard choices to not pay for the basics – like food for the family – to pay the hefty fines of \$250 or more per ticket. As such, the undue financial hardship on thousands of families in the City of Los Angeles clearly points to the need for reform to amend LAMC 45.04.

We strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council to pass this motion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kim McGill
Lead Organizer

Maritza Galvez
Youth Chairperson
Board of Directors

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor@lacity.org, facsimile: (213) 978-0750
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