Los Angeles City Council

Date: 30-July-2019

Re:

Agenda Item 19 - Submit To Council File 14-1057 S8

This Is A Public Comment Opposing The Draft LAMC 85.02, Vehicle Dwelling Law



There are just 200 Safe Parking spaces for the 16,500 recent LAHSA vehicle dweller count for the county with 9,570 of those in LA City. Even if the full 300 spaces, which have been funded, are created that is less than 2% of that January 2019 count.

Many of these people work, many are disabled, many are elderly, some are students, and some are families who simply cannot afford the high cost of rent. Each day more Los Angelinos who cannot afford to pay rent in Los Angeles are evicted from rent controlled apartments and they are forced to live in a vehicle.

This law is cruel and it criminalizes these people. Here are some of the major problems:

- The new LAMC 85.02 makes it illegal for a vehicle dweller to be by a public park at any time, but that is where most public sanitary facilities are. Keeping people away from the limited available public sanitary facilities provided by public parks is a health hazard.
- The draft LAMC 85.02 assumes that vehicle dwellers are not residents in a community and it is being used as a tool to remove them far away from their home and away from services like food or medical by using residential zoning language. There is no available parking 9pm-6am anywhere near the Venice Family Clinic that is 500 feet away multiple family or single family residential.
- There is no program that helps maintain vehicles for mobility or vehicle registration and many of the vehicle dwellers live on social security income or less. So moving daily to a far away unknown and unsafe area zoned as non-residential is an extreme hardship.
- Safety for the vehicle dweller is not being considered. Leaving the safety of a known community with services and moving to (and possibly getting stuck in) an industrial zone somewhere is a cruel way of not caring for a vulnerable population.

Of course affordable housing is the real answer. But until an adequate amount of Community Based Alternatives for Safe Parking spaces can be provided, pushing people away from services, away from access to sanitary facilities, away from communities they are residents in and find safety in - is inhumane.

There are people pressuring the City to move forward with this law, but some of these are the very same people fighting against solutions in their community like HHH or Bridge projects. In fact that 500 feet rule written in the draft law appears to have been plucked out of a Ryavec playbook to make sure the vehicle dwellers are removed. Don't side with them. Go back to the drawing board. Find solutions. Vote No.

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- The new LAMC 85.02 makes it illegal for a vehicle dweller to be by a public park at any time, but that is
  where most public sanitary facilities are. Keeping people away from the limited available public sanitary
  facilities provided by public parks is a health hazard.
- The draft LAMC 85.02 assumes that vehicle dwellers are not residents in a community and it is being used as a tool to remove them far away from their home and away from services like food or medical by using residential zoning language. There is no available parking 9pm-6am anywhere near the Venice Family Clinic that is 500 feet away multiple family or single family residential.
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- Safety for the vehicle dweller is not being considered. Leaving the safety of a known community with services and moving to (and possibly getting stuck in) an industrial zone somewhere is a cruel way of not caring for a vulnerable population.

Of course affordable housing is the real answer. But until an adequate amount of Community Based Alternatives for Safe Parking spaces can be provided, pushing people away from services, away from access to sanitary facilities, away from communities they are residents in and find safety in - is inhumane.

There are people pressuring the City to move forward with this law, but some of these are the very same people fighting against solutions in their community like HHH or Bridge projects. In fact that 500 feet rule written in the draft law appears to have been plucked out of a Ryavec playbook to make sure the vehicle dwellers are removed. Don't side with them. Go back to the drawing board. Find solutions. Vote No.

Los Angeles City Council

Date:

30-July-2019

Re:

Agenda Item 19 - Submit To Council File 14-1057 S8

This Is A Public Comment Opposing The Draft LAMC 85.02, Vehicle Dwelling Law

There are just 200 Safe Parking spaces for the 16,500 recent LAHSA vehicle dweller count for the county with 9,570 of those in LA City. Even if the full 300 spaces, which have been funded, are created that is less than 2% of that January 2019 count.

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