

To: LA City Council Homelessness and Poverty Committee
LACity Councilmember Harris-Dawson councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org
LACity Councilmember Huizar councilmember.huizar@lacity.org
LACity Councilmember Bonin councilmember.bonin@lacity.org
LACity Councilmember Cedillo councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org
LACity Councilmember Price councilmember.price@lacity.org
Legislative Assistant Eric Villanueva Eic.Villanueva@lacity.org
CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Re: June 22, 2016, Agenda Item 4, Council File 14-1057
Amending LAMC 85.02 (to prohibit lodging in a vehicle on city streets)

Council members:

I am opposed to this ordinance in either of the two draft forms provided by the City Attorney:

- It makes the act of lodging in a vehicle a crime when homelessness is persistent and growing.
- It does not create solutions first and foremost, which is what this committee should look at first considering the urgency of the homeless situation in Los Angeles.
- It is inhumane and innocent people will be harmed.

The City of Los Angeles saw another increase of 11% in the homeless count of 2016 from that of 2015 (one-year). The prior 2015 count saw an increase of 12% from 2013 (two-years). Clearly the homeless problem in Los Angeles is persistent and growing.

These counts are of people, not simply numbers. They are community members and neighbors once housed in Los Angeles. In fact 72% of adults experiencing homelessness have lived in LA County for more than 20-years. (Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) Homeless County Presentation <https://documents.lahsa.org/Planning/homelesscount/2016/factsheet/2016-HC-Results.pdf>)

There are no Safe Parking programs in place, if ever created at all, which might meet the demand of those living homeless in a vehicle. Such programs may take years to develop. Any person of average intelligence can understand that living in a vehicle is safer than living outside "rough." Furthermore, Los Angeles does not have enough homeless shelters for the homeless people living "rough."

The fact is Los Angeles has a severe housing crisis and is one of the least affordable places to live in the United States. (National Low Income Housing Coalition: Affordable Housing Gap Analysis 2016 http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Gap-Report_print.pdf) I suggest the City of Los Angeles take a look internally to find reasons why so many low-income Angelinos are becoming homeless. Protecting, monitoring, and increasing low-income housing is one key place to begin.

In the mean time, emergency measures are in order now. We need safe places for homeless people to rest, storage for their belongings, access to sanitary facilities, and so much more.

Turning homeless people into criminals is cruel, it certainly is not a solution and it has proven more expensive than housing people.

Please deny this ordinance.

Peggy Lee Kennedy

Venice Justice Committee
P.O. Box 2881, Venice CA 90294



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

June 22, 2016, Agenda Item 4, Council File 14-1057

1 message

Jordan Liu <liujo@lls.edu>

Sun, Jun 19, 2016 at 10:08 AM

To: councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

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- It does not create solutions first and foremost, which is what this committee should look at first considering the urgency of the homeless situation in Los Angeles.
- It is inhumane and innocent people will be harmed.

The homelessness problem in Los Angeles is persistent and growing.
Los Angeles does not have enough homeless shelters for the homeless people living "rough."
It is safer for those who face homelessness to be able to sleep in a locked, secure vehicle.

Please consider the impact of this legislation on a significant portion of the population who need our care the most.

Sincerely,
Jordan Liu, J.D.