



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

Homelessness File 14-1057

1 message

julie rico <julierico@yahoo.com>
 Reply-To: julie rico <julierico@yahoo.com>

Tue, Jun 21, 2016 at 1:39 PM

Instead of criminalizing people - HELP THEM! The energy it takes to help people will be the same as to impose this ridiculous ordinance. The difference is that when you help others you are helping yourself, your community, the city at large and the world will notice a positive response. This is not right. IT IS NOT RIGHT!

Julie Rico

See below too:

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/.../2016/fact.../2016-HC-Results.pdf>)

There are no Safe Parking programs in place yet, 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.

Julie Rico
 juliericogallery.com



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

Opposition to Agenda Item 4, Council File 14-1057

1 message

MARIE KENNEDY <mariekennedy@ucla.edu>

Tue, Jun 21, 2016 at 5:43 PM

To: councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmembere.price@lacity.org, eric.villanueva@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Members of the LA City Council Homelessness and Poverty Committee:

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed amendment of LAMC 85.02 (Agenda Item #4 on tomorrow's agenda) which would prohibit sleeping in vehicles on city streets. I wish I could be there to directly testify, but I cannot attend tomorrow.

Given the crisis of homelessness in LA, it is unbelievable that you would even consider prohibiting sleeping in vehicles. Is it not better for those who are unhoused to be sleeping in a vehicle rather than on the sidewalk or in other public spaces? Until there are real solutions to this crisis, please do not take away the one possibility a few of the unhoused have of a more secure place to sleep than out in the open.

Many of those who are unhoused are longtime LA residents (almost three-quarters have lived in LA County for more than 20 years according to LAHSA). Many more of your constituents will be unhoused at one time or another, unless we solve our serious housing affordability crisis. As I'm sure you are aware, LA has the largest income-rent gap in the country.

On a personal note: 40 years ago, I was homeless with a 3 year old child, even though I already had a graduate degree from Harvard. Luckily, I had a car to sleep in and, given my privilege as a white woman and my education, my crisis did not last long. Now I teach at UCLA and am no doubt one of the gentrifiers of Venice. But, I am very aware of how close many in LA are to losing the roof over their head and I recognize the unhoused and those who are one paycheck away from being unhoused as member of my community.

Please do not further criminalize the unhoused. As the Homelessness and Poverty Committee, I would hope that you would turn all of your attention to developing solutions, not to furthering the problem.

Sincerely yours,

Marie Kennedy

Venice homeowner

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