



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

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

1 message

Judy Branfman <branfman@ucla.edu>

Tue, Jun 21, 2016 at 4:06 PM

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

Cc: Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear members of the LA City Council Homelessness and Poverty Committee:

I am opposed to LAMC ordinance 85.02 in either of the two draft forms provided by the City Attorney. It makes the act of sleeping/living in a vehicle a crime when homelessness is persistent and growing, does not create solutions, which is what this committee should be working on, and is inhumane.

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, community members and neighbors once housed in Los Angeles. In fact LAHSA has shown that 72% of adults experiencing homelessness have lived in LA County for more than 20-years.

There are no Safe Parking programs in place in LA, which might begin to help those living in vehicles, even though there are locations where they could be established. It would not take that much effort and I'm sure you know that living in a vehicle is safer than living outside on the street.

The fact is Los Angeles has a severe housing crisis and is one of the least affordable places to live in the United States. 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 the place to begin - and further criminalizing of the homeless will not help at all.

We need safe places for homeless people to rest and park, storage for their belongings, access to sanitary facilities, and more. Please help us with the solutions we all know can work.

Sincerely,
Judy Branfman
Venice CA 90291



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

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

1 message

Noel Gould <aquarianstudios@hotmail.com>

Tue, Jun 21, 2016 at 2:50 PM

To: "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.huizar@lacity.org" <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org" <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Cc: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <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 and it's ludicrous that you'd even consider something like this instead of creating affordable housing solutions:

- * 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 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 that housing people.

People need help not criminalization.

Many of the people complaining about the homeless situation are tied into the same people responsible for converting affordable housing to air bnb de facto hotels.

Sincerely,
Noel Gould,
President
Aquarian Studios

6 attachments

REVISED - HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 22, 2016
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS EDWARD R. ROYBAL HEARING ROOM 350 3:00 PM
300 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
* REVISED TO ADD ITEM NO. 4
MEMBERS: COUNCILMEMBER MARGUERITE HARRIS-DANSON, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER MARI BONIN
COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT GONZALEZ
COUNCILMEMBER CURREN D. PRICE, JR.

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