



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)

4 messages

Nicole Crilly-Larsen <ncrillylarsen@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 9:56 AM

To: councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org,

councilmember.price@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Council Members:

I am writing to express my opposition to the ordinance in either of the two draft forms provided by the City Attorney. The act of living in one's vehicle due to homelessness should not be illegal. With the rise of homelessness and housing prices, this proposed ordinance is an embarrassing example of our cities attitude towards homeless people.

Living in this city isn't easy even for those of us with "normal" jobs that include benefits/PTO/ and sick time. In fact, I struggle as a single person living in a rent-controlled building with low rent and minimal bills. Had I not been lucky enough to begin renting while prices were low, I could very well be kicked out of LA due to it's lack of affordability. Despite this reality, our laws seem to be constantly turning homelessness into a criminal act.

Our cities focus should be on lifting people out of homelessness, not making their lives more difficult. Please put your efforts towards affordable housing and reducing the increasing number of homeless individuals in our city.

Respectfully,

Nicole Crilly-Larsen

vmerriam-vbw@juno.com <vmerriam-vbw@juno.com>

Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 8:20 PM

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

councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear Councilmembers,

I find this ordinance unconscionable and shocking, for the following reasons:

1. Where do you expect these people to sleep--join the hordes already sleeping on the street?
2. What alternatives do you provide--any safe parking lots they can go to?
3. In Venice, where I'm a resident, this issue has come up three times before the Coastal Commission and been rejected. Why does the City of LA want to go against the Coast Commission?
4. Why victimize the people who are lucky enough to have a place to sleep, instead of dealing with the real problem?
5. Our councilman, Mike Bonin, promised--in a big meeting he recently-called--that he would address the homeless problem by building low-income and housing for the homeless on certain city property. Why not in the meantime do the simple thing: allow overnight parking in the city lots, and provide Port-a-Potties?

PLEASE COME TO YOUR SENSES ON THIS ISSUE!!

Respectfully submitted,

Vreni Merriam
1305 Ocean Front Walk
Venice, CA 90291

chirinof <chirinof@uci.edu>

Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 10:54 PM

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

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 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.

Sincerely,

Fernando Cortés Chirino, PhD
University of California, Irvine
Pierce City College

Ariel Chaklai <chakl101@mail.chapman.edu>

Wed, Jun 22, 2016 at 11:02 AM

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

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Ariel Chaklai
Chapman University
chakl101@mail.chapman.edu