SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

December 9, 2014   Council File 14-1062

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 14 - 1062 regarding <u>Vending and Camping in Public Parks / Prohibitions / Penalties for Violation / Ordinance Amendment.</u>

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT
The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council opposes the <u>Vending and Camping in Public Parks</u> proposal because:
1. Section 1. Subsection A
The definition of "vending" should not include "bartering" and "donations".
2. Section 3. Subdivision 4
The definition of "camping" criminalizes legal activity, such as being in possession of a backpack, or consuming a meal, activities that are legal in parks and on beaches.
3. Section 4, Subdivision 9, of Subsection 1.
The definition of "tent" does not include the use of tents for protected speech and protest and allows for violators to be fined and jailed for erecting a tent.
4. Section 5, Subsection R
The fines imposed by this ordinance are exorbitant and burdensome. Many people who will run afoul of this ordinance will do so because of their homeless status and will not be able to pay the fines. This ordinance criminalizes homelessness. Jailing homeless persons is not a viable nor humane solution to the problem.
5. We also ask that current restrictions against street vending be reviewed and street vending decriminalized, as street vendors provide a valuable service to the community.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the action taken at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on December 3, 2014, when the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion by a vote of 18 yes, 2 no, 0 abstaining and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

Motion:
"The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council moves to request the Los Angeles City Council to refer amendments to LAMC Ordinance Section 63.44 as a whole back to the Office of the City Attorney to modify the following sections:
1. Section 1. Subsection A
The definition of "vending" should not include "bartering" and "donations".
2. Section 3. Subdivision 4
The definition of "camping" criminalizes legal activity, such as being in possession of a backpack, or consuming a meal, activities that are legal in parks and on beaches.
3. Section 4, Subdivision 9, of Subsection 1.
The definition of "tent" does not include the use of tents for protected speech and protest and allows for violators to be fined and jailed for erecting a tent.
4. Section 5, Subsection R
The fines imposed by this ordinance are exorbitant and burdensome. Many people who will run afoul of this ordinance will do so because of their homeless status and will not be able to pay the fines. This ordinance criminalizes homelessness. Jailing homeless persons is not a viable nor humane solution to the problem.
5. We also ask that current restrictions against street vending be reviewed and street vending decriminalized, as street vendors provide a valuable service to the community.

Further, we are concerned that the amendments to this ordinance may be interpreted by the City as a ban on serving food to homeless persons in parks and on beaches, which could lead to police harassment of, and fines and jail sentences for, those who serve those without houses.

The SLNC urges the City Council to refer this ordinance back to the Office of the City Attorney for revision of the items mentioned above, and approves the delivery of the attached letter and Community Impact Statement."