

My name is Carina Feldman and I've been a homeowner and resident of Montecito Heights since 2004.  
I'm writing to express my support for this ordinance.

The fast-growing number of homeless encampments in our neighborhood, the Arroyo and Debs Park poses a serious danger to the community's health and safety, not to mention a HUGE fire hazard both to the park and nearby residences.  
Cleanup efforts have been futile and apparently only symbolic in nature.

Meanwhile the area gets more and more polluted, unsanitary, unsafe and attracts crime that has already resulted in a home invasion and several burglaries and break-ins in our neighborhood, the latest by one such homeless man named Robert Ochoa.

Debs Park and the Arroyo are a vital resource for Los Angeles residents and should not be taken over by a few that make them unsafe and unsanitary for the entire community and put the whole area in extreme fire danger.

I urge you to support this ordinance and coordinate efforts between the different agencies involved to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the area.

Please consider not exempting parks from this ordinance, since it doesn't clarify whether our parks can have this level of enforcement.

Thank you,

Carina Feldman  
Montecito Heights resident

My name is Abe Hepner and I am a resident of the Montecito Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. I want to express my support for this ordinance. We are currently dealing with several homeless encampments in the Arroyo (particularly near Avenue 52). The number of encampments grows every day and recent efforts to clean up these camps have been only temporary fixes, as the encampments seem to come back within the week. These camps are a health and safety issue for those who live in them and for the nearby residents. Debs Park and the Arroyo are vital recreation areas to our city - an important resource for Los Angeles residents to maintain health and fitness. Instead our open spaces are being taken over by the few, making them unsanitary, unsafe and unusable by the rest of the community. Further, camps at the foot of Debs Park represent an extreme fire danger both for the park and nearby residences. I urge you to support this ordinance and undertake more coordinated efforts to keep the Arroyo and Debs Park clean and safe. Finally, please consider not exempting parks from this ordinance, as it is not clear that the parks are currently able to have this same level of enforcement.

Thank you,  
Abe Hepner  
Montecito Heights resident

My name is Kim Hepner and I am a resident of the Montecito Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. I want to express my support for this ordinance. We are currently dealing with several homeless encampments in the Arroyo (particularly near Avenue 52). The number of encampments grows every day and recent efforts to clean up these camps have been only temporary fixes, as the encampments seem to come back within the week. These camps are a health and safety issue for those who live in them and for the nearby residents. Debs Park and the Arroyo are vital recreation areas to our city - an important resource for Los Angeles residents to maintain health and fitness. Instead our open spaces are being taken over by the few, making them unsanitary, unsafe and unusable by the rest of the community. Further, camps at the foot of Debs Park represent an extreme fire danger both for the park and nearby residences. I urge you to support this ordinance and undertake more coordinated efforts to keep the Arroyo and Debs Park clean and safe. Finally, please consider not exempting parks from this ordinance, as it is not clear that the parks are currently able to have this same level of enforcement.

Thank you,  
Kim Hepner  
Montecito Heights resident

Honorable Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

While I fully support our City being able to keep its sidewalks and other public areas clear and safe through this amended ordinance, it has been 6 months in drafting and 2 years in need, and only breaks the surface.

Much more is needed, and that can't take more years and years to figure out. Many of us are watching with great hope that the CC's new committee dealing with homelessness can begin to craft a more complete solution, and one that can start making changes, yesterday. Simply put, having numerous City (County, etc.) departments play "wack-a-mole" with the lives and possessions of human beings who are often unable to care for themselves, or possibly a threat to others -- really serves no one well, least of all the working poor in our communities who are days or weeks from joining them. At the same time, any solutions can't take a toll on those of us still struggling to JOIN that recovery -- either from our wallets, or from our peace-of-mind as we walk streets.

For the same reasons (climate, opportunities, vitality) that L.A. attracts and keeps the homeless local, if outside interests -- especially -- want to erect new, profit-making housing and office structures over the skeletal remains of areas where the poor and homeless once barely survived -- and have now been displaced -- those same outside interests also need to pay more towards the human effects of their profit-taking.

\*\* We make builders who remove certain living trees replace them 3-to-1, yet developments that displace living human beings seem to get by just adding a tiny fraction of "affordable" (for whom?) units in their least desirable settings.

\*\* Developers now have to pay "Quimby" fees to improve City parks, but many of those same builders who remove low-income housing, should also be required by the City of L.A. to pay additional fees to bolster shelters in Los Angeles and help create ways to do even better by the homeless -- it just isn't logical to keep telling a growing army of the homeless to just "move along" without providing safer alternatives than now exist for them.

Please use this heightened challenge of rising homelessness alongside a fiscal recovery from recession as an opportunity to -- as our civic leaders -- find or create a longer-term, human, and non-fearful solution to why so many don't have -- or can't be directed to -- a safe, non-public corner of a huge metropolitan area that spans 500 square miles.

The willpower, a vision to do better for all of the City's residents -- regardless of status, and a non-partisan grasp of the bigger picture will all be needed. (And, that kind of resume isn't usually held by politicians -- no offense intended).

Joseph Riser  
HERMON Neighborhood of L.A.

Elected Neighborhood Council Boardmember, 2006-14

I am in support of making changes to Council File 14-1656 enabling the City of Los Angeles to act faster in addressing the transient camps along the Arroyo River and within Debs Park.

I wish there was a plan of aid for the transients such as toilets, showers and trash cans at the very least. I understand the heart wrenching plight of the homeless/mentally ill/addicted as well as the limited resources available to address this multifaceted issue. But the rise in violence, theft, general crime, fire and health hazard in my community of Montecito Heights is real and very apparent. Sadly, the transient community cannot maintain their encampments and view the neighborhoods along the Arroyo as a resource in which to pilfer and sully.

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**HOLLY H PHILLIPS**

Dear L.A. City Council and Committees,

I, Tiffanie Tran, currently reside in the Hermon neighborhood of Los Angeles, am in SUPPORT of the new proposed ordinance Council File 14-1656.

Tiffanie Tran  
5605 Bushnell Way  
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Thank you!