

SAN PEDRO PROPERTY OWNERS' ALLIANCE

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April 2, 2015

The Honorable Carol Liu
California State Senate, 21st District
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to SB 608 ó Right To Rest Act

Dear Senator Liu:

The San Pedro Property Owners' Alliance (SPPOA), administer of the San Pedro Historic Waterfront Business Improvement District (PBID), represents over 800 parcels in San Pedro. Our Board of Directors at our regularly scheduled board meeting on April 1, 2015 voted unanimously to oppose SB 608.

SB 608 seeks to protect the homeless population from citations and imprisonment resulting from resting, sharing food and practicing religion in public. The bill does not in any way seek or provide a remedy for the systemic problems of the homeless. Nor does the bill offer any relief to the residents, merchants, employees and visitors who face an ever increasing decline of the quality of life in our community.

Implementation of the bill would be extremely difficult as the ambiguity of the bill's language will cause diverse and conflicting interpretation of its provisions.

We are one of the over three dozen BIDs within the City of Los Angeles. Our work focuses on providing programs and services that the City of Los Angeles can no longer provide due to budgetary restraints. We strive to improve the quality of life for our stakeholders. SB 608 will undermine the efforts of SPPOA and all BIDs. It would create an "anything goes" landscape and encourage the growth of the homeless population. One might conclude that we will be on the brink of becoming the ungoverned.

SPPOA will support programs and legislation that focus on providing services, shelter, education and nutrition for our entire community. We believe that there are far better ways to address homelessness than SP 608.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that my comments will lead towards a better solution.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Robbins

STEPHEN A. ROBBINS
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Joe Buscaino, Councilmember CD 15
E. Eisenberg
A. Johnson
J. Wilson