

## MOTION

The City of Los Angeles spends nearly \$30 million per year on clean-ups at homeless encampments, and it is nearly impossible to find anyone who is satisfied with the result:

- Unhoused residents living in encampments repeatedly report that the clean-ups are disruptive or punitive, and result in the confiscation of tents, and the permanent loss of important or essential items, such as medical prescriptions, personal identification documents.
- Housed residents living near and business located near encampments repeatedly report that the clean-ups are ineffective, and have little impact on reducing trash or blight, minimizing public health impacts, or clearing the public right-of-way for public access.
- City employees repeatedly report that the clean-ups are tense and sometimes confrontational, that protocols are complex and time-consuming, that the costs are expensive, and concede that the percentage of encampments cleaned is small.

It is clear the City's policies and programs have been designed reactively and are shaped by lawsuits and legal rulings. The current system is expensive and the public policy objective is murky. It appears to be an ineffective and inefficient effort to deal with the presence and appearance of encampments, rather than a focused and clearly-defined program to reduce the public health risks (to both housed and unhoused residents) associated with homeless encampments, or an effort to help move people more swiftly off the streets and into housing.

It would be beneficial to analyze data and metrics of existing clean-up efforts, to examine best practices in other jurisdictions, and to assess how well encampment clean-up efforts align with the goals and objectives of the city's Comprehensive Homelessness Strategy.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Administrative Officer (CAO) Homelessness Coordinator, in consultation with the Bureau of Sanitation, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and other agencies as appropriate, report back on the efficacy of existing clean-up efforts, detailing key objectives and providing metrics of success or failure.

The analysis and report should include, but not be limited to, answering the following questions:

1. **Are we improving public health?** Do current policies and programs benefit public health, and how can that be measured? Would other practices be more effective? If so, what would they cost? What best practices have other jurisdictions used? What do public health agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and professionals recommend?

APR 30 2019 |



2. **Are we helping or hurting efforts to get people out of encampments and into housing and services?** Do current policies and programs facilitate efforts to connect people to services, social workers, and/or stable housing? Or do they disrupt those efforts? How effective have clean-ups been at adhering to the City's "No Wrong Door" approach? What percentage of people living in encampments have been approached for services and housing, how many have accepted, and how many have successfully moved into long-term housing? What is the view of people who are formerly or currently homeless?
3. **What is the appropriate role of law enforcement in clean-ups?** To what extent do employees of city departments, as well as social workers and outreach workers request or require the presence of law enforcement personnel at clean-ups? How many citations have been issued or arrests made in connection with clean-ups, and what impact has that had on reducing crime, reducing blight, and getting unhoused people into services or housing?
4. **What is the appropriate level of oversight and community engagement?** Should the city form an advisory committee composed of public health officials, people with lived experience with homelessness, neighborhood councils, or community-based organizations to help monitor, provide feedback on, and improve programs?

PRESENTED by  \_\_\_\_\_  
MIKE BONIN, Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED by  \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL