

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned constituent, I'm writing to urge you to rescind 41.18(d). This is not the way to address the problems of people who are living on our streets because they have nowhere else to go. Currently, there are about 9,702 shelter beds in the city of Los Angeles, while over 36,000 individuals are homeless in the city, according to the 2018 homeless count. Obviously, permanent housing and services are the best long term solutions, but the progress on this front is far too slow. All the funds made available by Measure HHH three years ago have been dispersed and so far, zero out of 10,000 units of permanent supportive housing are available. In the meantime, when we move people around the city, put them in jail, and discard their belongings, we set them back farther on their journey out of homelessness, and by making it harder to survive, we make the situation much worse. I'm in sympathy with businesses and residents who must struggle with sometimes unsanitary and intimidating conditions on their streets, but pushing the homeless into concentrated areas far from sanitary facilities will not only increase the possibility of severe public health issues, it also cuts off their contact with caseworkers, creating major setbacks on their path to permanent housing. I urge the council to include the voices of homeless Angelenos, service providers, and others who are working every day on the streets with this population if they are serious about addressing safety issues around homelessness.