

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nick Ciarelli

**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 09:41 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** 41.18 is a absolutely disgraceful ordinance and it is both disturbing and baffling that it is even being considered by City Council at all. It is sad that homelessness advocates have to continually remind our elected officials just how harmful 41.18 is to our city's most marginalized individuals, people that our representatives are supposed to be taking care of but continually ignore or pass laws that drive their lives and existence into more despair. 41.18 would legalize apartheid in Los Angeles and cause further strife in a city that is in the throes of a housing and homelessness crisis. We need sound and humane solutions to what unhoused people are experiencing and this is not it. It is disgusting that language surrounding 41.18 needs to be debated or discussed at all and Mitch O'Farrell should be ashamed that he introduced this at all. It is unforgivable.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Darian Lopez

**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 10:33 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** 41.18 is disgusting & we are watching. Your legacy will be criminalizing the unhoused & literally adding to the increasing number of deaths people suffer trying to survive living on the streets. At this rate I'm wondering if you all are ACTIVELY trying to maim, harm, & kill homeless people. We need Services Not Sweeps. Repeal 41.18 & if you don't I hope it weighs on your consciences for the rest of your lives. Even though it "isn't on the docket" it sure should be. You're just too cowardly to face it & speak to it. Shame on you all.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Julia Devanthery, ACLU of Southern California

**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 11:12 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** ACLU of Southern California Public Comment on the Proposed Amendments to LAMC 41.18 The ACLU of Southern California strongly opposes to proposed amendments to LAMC 41.18. We are disappointed to see the City of Los Angeles subscribe to the Trumpian ethos of criminalizing our neighbors experiencing homelessness instead of seeking viable housing solutions to the crisis. By creating banishment zones that make broad swaths of the City off limits for people without homes, the City promotes a segregation era policy that prohibits people without homes from living in certain places. We urge the Councilmember O'Farrell to withdraw this dangerous motion, and if it moves forward, we entreat the Council to unambiguously reject it. We are particularly troubled by the disingenuous framing of the motion which states that the proposed amendments are to "conform to the 9th Circuit decision in the Martin v. Boise case". In fact, instead of clarifying that unhoused Angelenos cannot be criminalized for sleeping and camping outdoors until there is adequate shelter options for those who have no indoor place to sleep, which is what the Martin decision held, the changes do the exact opposite. They create more and more opportunities to criminalize people for performing life-sustaining activities outdoors, notwithstanding the City's woeful lack of housing and shelter options for people experiencing homelessness. These proposed amendments move the City back to failed policies of filling jails with low-income people, people of color, and people with mental health disabilities for no other offense than being too poor to afford a place to live. The City should turn away from cruel, unconstitutional criminalization policies and towards Housing First. Housing is the answer to the County's homelessness crisis, not jails.

## **ACLU of Southern California Public Comment on the Proposed Amendments to LAMC 41.18**

The ACLU of Southern California strongly opposes to proposed amendments to LAMC 41.18. We are disappointed to see the City of Los Angeles subscribe to the Trumpian ethos of criminalizing our neighbors experiencing homelessness instead of seeking viable housing solutions to the crisis. By creating banishment zones that make broad swaths of the City off limits for people without homes, the City promotes a segregation era policy that prohibits people without homes from living in certain places. We urge the Councilmember O'Farrell to withdraw this dangerous motion, and if it moves forward, we entreat the Council to unambiguously reject it.

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Angel Martí Castillo  
**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 02:55 PM  
**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am asking that the city council vote NO and completely reject the City Attorney's proposed apartheid amendments to LAMC 41.18. Los Angeles already is failing to address any of the issues that cause homelessness: stagnating wages, rising rents, and gentrification exacerbated by the absence of any just cause eviction laws in the whole county. People pursuing college degrees are living in their cars because life in Los Angeles is too expensive. Homelessness can't be blamed on any kind of mental deficiencies or moral failings of individuals. It's gotten to the point where anybody can just walk down the street and see that. The rising number of tents lining almost every major thoroughfare in this county can, just mathematically, not be because every one of those people in those tents somehow didn't try enough or chose to be unhoused. Knowing that, it is morally indefensible to pass laws that only serve to increase the suffering of unhoused people when we're offering them no alternative. How can we tell them what spots of grass they're not allowed to sleep on if we're not putting in the same amount of energy to give them a real bed? How can we act like unhoused people are a threat to us when they're more likely to die on any given night because of lack of access to clean water or food or healthcare or because of police brutality? Laws like these only achieve one thing: more death. The amendments to LAMC 41.18 are written in the blood of people whose names will be forgotten before they even get a toe tag, because we've decided human life in Los Angeles has a dollar value.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jane Demian

**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 03:29 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing in opposition to this Motion and the City Attorney's draft amendment to LAMC 41.18(d) which criminalizes homeless individuals who sit, lie or sleep in public areas. This Motion was presented at the Homelessness and Poverty Committee meeting on August 21st, where Committee members voted to approve...however since then three of the Committee members are now opposing this Motion on the grounds that it will criminalize homeless individuals and create a unilateral process whereby community members and law enforcement will determine that normal behavior like "sitting, lying or sleeping" is "criminal" behavior. I understand the need to control public space, but this Motion does not consider that the reason why unhoused individuals sit, lie or sleep on public grounds is because they do not have access to HOUSING. The City Council needs to prioritize HOUSING opportunities with services as front and center to deal with our homelessness crisis instead of criminalizing the homeless with this Motion. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jordan Pendergrass

**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 03:38 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** The proposed policies do not make me feel safer as a pedestrian nor do they make me feel proud to live in this community. We need policies that support the unsheltered and promote growth and empathy. The proposed policies discussed here today do neither. I am dismayed that we are yet again encouraging increased policing and fines for people that are already severely over policed.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Joseph  
**Date Submitted:** 09/23/2019 07:53 AM  
**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** We need to be ensuring the safety of our unhoused neighbors and NOT arrest them for just trying to survive. These revisions are a direct threat to the homeless community.