

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Barbara Campbell  
**Date Submitted:** 10/22/2019 01:57 PM  
**Council File No:** 19-0602-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I met with Councilwoman Nury Martinez a year ago to discuss my grave concern over the homeless situation in Van Nuys. I am the Director of Church of the Valley Preschool, a small non-profit preschool, located on the corner of Vesper and Kittridge, blocks from the Courthouse. I helped open this school in 2001. I have watched the homeless encampments escalate in numbers. And, the people I am seeing are not those who have been displaced because of the cost of housing. The people I encounter appear to have substance abuse problems or mental illness. My number one job is to keep the preschool children safe. Over the past two years, I have seen things, and cleaned up things that no one should have to deal with. I run a lovely, idyllic little school but I am continually keeping watch to ensure our children and staff's safety. I have installed cameras. I have raised up fencing. I have done all I know to do. I am continually torn between my desire to help those in need and my anger at having to work so hard to protect our school community. Last week, there was a man wandering in and out of the church/preschool lot, yelling out loud to himself, appearing to have a serious mental issue. I called the non - emergency line asking for help. No response. 20 minutes later, I called 911. No response. This man's behavior was escalating. Some time after that, the minister of the church called 911. No response. Ultimately, I stood behind the gate of our school and blew my whistle loudly for a couple of minutes and the man left. But it could have gone very wrong. I had parents coming to pick up their preschoolers. I had to detain two families as I felt this man's behavior was becoming more erratic. I did not think it was safe for them to exit. I held them inside for several minutes until I finished blowing my whistle and saw him move on. When I met with Councilwoman Martinez, I told her that I was not naive enough to think we could keep homeless encampments 1/2 mile away from any school. But I asked if it might not be possible to at least get two blocks....to do something that sends a message that the safety of our children is of paramount importance. To make a law keeping the homeless two blocks from schools, would allow parents of older children to feel some measure of security if they chose to drop off their kids a block or two from school so they could walk. The current proposed legislation (No: 19-0602-S1) is a step in the right direction. It's not the two blocks I would have

hoped for but it is at least something. Van Nuys has been hard hit by the homeless situation. I believe it is because certain behaviors that previously were felonies and cause for offenders to be booked in Van Nuys and then sent downtown, are now misdemeanors. Therefore, these offenders are being booked in Van Nuys and many are released here. I have lived and worked in Van Nuys for over 25 years. Our city needs help from our city government. Two days ago, I counted 23 homeless encampments within a two block radius of our school. I am respectfully asking the council to support and pass No: 19-0602-S1.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alyssa Boyle

**Date Submitted:** 10/22/2019 10:02 AM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** I agree with amending LA Municipal Code 41.18 which would make it illegal for homeless individuals to make encampments on sidewalks around parks, schools, and doorways to businesses/apartment buildings, etc. I live in Encino and have seen the devastating effects of allowing people to trash our creeks and river. What I saw after the "cleanout" was environmental disaster. (This page is rejecting my photos.) Nevermind the fact that the people living there were not being treated for their mental illnesses/addictions. No sane person lives in a creek bed for 8,10,12 years. The only part of the proposed changes I disagree with is that, according to the map, my suburban street is not shown as being as off- limits for camping. Past maps have had almost my entire neighborhood redlined, as in no camping at any time. I'm not sure if the proposed map would overwrite past maps, but I want to go on record to voice my opposition to any camping, day or night, in any area not already designated as a legitimate campground. Our neighborhood counsels are hard at work on getting temporary/emergency shelters set up on government land. This will only be successful if the no camping laws are enforced, however. I'm sure you are constantly getting arguments regarding the civil rights of transients, and that's fair, but we as tax paying residents of this city also have rights and standards. I no longer want to just tolerate the trash, crime and chaos that has become our new "normal."

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kenneth Campbell

**Date Submitted:** 10/22/2019 04:42 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** The O'Farrell - Martinez motion to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 41.18 to conform to the 9th Circuit decision in the Martin v. Boise case particularly as it pertains to schools, daycares, parks and bike paths is common sense and long past due. Does it solve the mental illness and substance addiction that fuels the increasing number of homeless living on the streets....No. Has our current policies and funding decreased homelessness in the city....No. So whether we amend this municipal code or not, homelessness and the crimes, health risks, physical addictions, and mental afflictions will continue to flourish on public and private right of ways. Let's have an honest discussion of what it will do. It will allow parents to safely drop off their children at schools, daycare, and neighborhood parks. It will eliminate blocking free passage on sidewalks, driveway and loading docks as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. It will decrease the fear of bodily harm, damage or loss of property because of reasonably perceived threat or harm. Should we have intervention laws to provide the necessary and mandatory substance abuse programs and mental health treatment...Yes. But while our city, county and state have failed in these non efforts does it make sense to protect our children from physical harm and illness.....Hell Yes. Should we continue our current policies and practices of doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result....sounds insane, doesn't it?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** janet

**Date Submitted:** 10/22/2019 03:07 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support keeping homeless encampments away from schools or children. Children should not have to walk through unsafe and hazardous sites on public streets near schools. Sadly some of the homeless have mental health issues or drug addictions and can be violent , be using drugs , and or have hazardous waste and trash in the area. I understand that this is a city and nation wide issue and we must get to some root issues to help solve these problems. But let's keep our children safe! Thank you!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Joe Lisanti

**Date Submitted:** 10/22/2019 06:52 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** With regards to the amendments of LAMC 41.18...camping, sleeping or storing possessions within 300 feet of residences should not be allowed. We have plenty of land in California and there is absolutely no reason we should be letting homeless people camp out wherever they feel like it. We need rules and boundaries in order to have a functioning society and we'll never get out of this crisis without them. If people on the street continue to feel they can do as they please without repercussion, we'll continue to have the wild wild west out there which helps no one. LA is becoming a dangerous place as many of these homeless are drug addicts, thieves and mentally ill. In Venice, they have assaulted my neighbors, broke into homes, leave trash and filth everywhere. We must create laws to start protecting the law abiding citizens who actually work and pay taxes, rent and mortgages.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maxine Messina

**Date Submitted:** 10/22/2019 08:17 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, thanks for the opportunity to share our experience regarding the homeless encampment on South Citrus Avenue between Wilshire Blvd and Carling Way. Though we have deep empathy for the homeless and hope they city will provide them with essential services, our residential neighborhood, our homes, parks and businesses have been assailed by antisocial and intoxicated people haranguing passersby, displaying knives, and frightening kids and elderly in the park across the street. Some individuals have openly defecated and urinated. Violent altercations assail us in the night. Open drug use has been in evidence. Police were sympathetic but unable to create change, due to laws protecting homeless rights. We've respectfully requested that our rights as citizens be considered as important as well. We need intervention and protection by our city officials as residents of our neighborhood and city. Kindly provide alternate arrangements for these struggling individuals. They deserve care, safety, medical and psychiatric attention, and a safe place to sleep that doesn't create endangerment of others. Thank you for your consideration.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carol Reynes

**Date Submitted:** 10/22/2019 08:40 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** There should be no camping, sleeping or storing possessions within 300 feet of residences. We have plenty of land in California and there is absolutely no reason we should be letting homeless people camp out wherever they feel like it. LA is becoming a dangerous place as many of these homeless are drug addicts, thieves and mentally ill. In Venice, they have assaulted my neighbors, broke into homes, leave trash and filth everywhere. We must create laws to start protecting the law abiding citizens who actually work and pay taxes, rent and mortgages.