

Communication from Public

Name: S. Daniels

Date Submitted: 11/05/2019 05:18 PM

Council File No: 19-0602-S1

Comments for Public Posting: To: City Council Homelessness & Poverty Committee Re: CF 19-0602-S1: Obstruction or Interference / Passage of Pedestrians / Public Right-of-Way / Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Section 41.18 / Amendment From: S. Daniels Personal Impact Statement I am submitting this personal impact statement to indicate my support for this amendment. My husband and I recently purchased a home in a small pocket in Lake Balboa in the Valley. We believed this area to be clean, safe and friendly – a place where we could walk our neighborhood and enjoy the parks nearby. Since we moved here three years ago, our neighborhood has become increasingly overrun with small homeless encampments and individuals who are clearly mentally ill and/or severe substance abusers. This is becoming more prevalent as the large Sepulveda Basin encampments are cleared out nearby. We submit complaints to the city, but it keeps getting worse. I believe this issue of homelessness is no longer a moral issue of criminalization of the homeless or punishment for poverty, but one of safety for all citizens of Los Angeles. I do not feel safe in my community. It is not safe for individuals to live on sidewalks. We need to start somewhere to fix this, for the benefit of all. I believe the current effort to amend 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. is an acceptable first step in tackling the overwhelming homelessness problem in Southern California. Further, I hope it will lead to use of resources to develop centers for addiction and mental health, and create direct pathways to assistance for the overwhelming majority of homeless individuals who are suffering from mental illness and severe substance abuse. These are individuals who need help beyond housing to make it out of their current situation. If this proposal does not pass, my husband and I are concerned about: 1. The health hazards these unobstructed encampments create in our neighborhood. We have a lot of wildlife in our neighborhood. Fleas carrying typhus from rats that proliferate where these encampments grow can travel on squirrels, tree rats and more into our neighborhood. The garbage and human waste that is a bi-product of homeless encampments threatens our health and the health of local kids who play in playgrounds in our parks right

beside homeless encampments (E.g. Louise Park at Louise and Sherman Way and a growing encampment at the children's playground). 2. The fire hazards these encampments create. We live a few blocks from the fire that roared through a homeless camp in the Sepulveda Basin in July 2019. These preventable fires threaten our personal property, our family's safety and our lung health. They also increase our taxes as firefighter resources are allocated to the multitude of encampment fires that start here in the Valley. 3. Personal safety. I am not comfortable walking my neighborhood in the early morning or late evening alone. Homeless individuals from nearby encampments have started frequenting our neighborhood pocket. Some of these individuals are obviously addicted to drugs. A neighbor posted recently on our community website that she saw a homeless woman urinating in the street front of her house. She has also had to pick up human feces from her front yard. She lives on Victory Blvd., a few blocks from my home. This makes me feel unsafe. 4. Home value. Finally, is not trivial or callous to be concerned about the potential decrease in home value these street encampments in and around our neighborhood may cause. Our home is our financial security and our investment is important to us. Those who oppose this ordinance as written are throwing the baby out with the bathwater, so to speak. As I said above, we have to start somewhere and I, a community member, support the adoption of this amendment. Sincerely, S. Daniels Lake Balboa, CA

Communication from Public

Name: Matt McCartie

Date Submitted: 11/05/2019 03:42 PM

Council File No: 19-0602-S1

Comments for Public Posting: To whom it may concern, Let me start by saying that the homeless among us do indeed break my heart. My family donates our time and treasure through our community and church to help these people. However, something else that is near and dear to my heart, is the health and well being of my family and my neighborhood. With the homeless epidemic reaching cataclysmic proportions in LA County and in our neighborhood parks (Lake Balboa) something new must be conceived to help all parties involved. I am aware that no community impact statement has been submitted for my area but let me assure you that there are areas of Lake Balboa Park that my children aren't allowed to ride their bikes and areas near other neighborhood parks that have become convenient places to camp, due to near by public restrooms. These spaces are there for the benefit of the public and are therefore paid for by the public. When they are subsequently taken hostage, the public is refused access and further, the public health is put at risk. Additionally, I think that because we have laws that forbid camping in our parks (not sure they are enforced but...), it is consistent with the spirit of that law to keep clear the areas around them. So, I am formally writing to inform you of my support for "Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Section 41.18 / Amendment" and ask that you would see this as a smart, early step to battling homelessness and protecting the citizens of our county. Thank you in advance of your consideration. Matt McCartie Council file # 19-0602-S1

Communication from Public

Name: E. Banville

Date Submitted: 11/05/2019 03:44 PM

Council File No: 19-0602-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I'd like to express my support for Mr. O'Farrell and Ms. Martinez's proposal: Obstruction or Interference / Passage of Pedestrians / Public Right-of-Way / Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Section 41.18 / Amendment. As a voter, it is important to me that our elected officials do what they were put in place to do, manage our city in a way that keeps it sanitary and safe. The homeless crisis has made this much more difficult, and while we should always practice compassion, there comes a point when the build up of trash and refuse, the rats it attracts, and the disease they spread becomes a health crisis that goes far beyond the homeless. Keeping sidewalks, parks, and doorways clean is a start toward preventing more spreading things like typhus, which is rampant. I thank you for your time and hope you will join me in supporting Mr. O'Farrell and Ms. Martinez's proposal.