

Communication from Public

Name: Rick Garvey

Date Submitted: 07/26/2020 03:22 PM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I write to urge you to OPPOSE Agenda Item #46. As a homeowner who lives adjacent to the SECZ zone in Venice I have witnessed first hand the harassment of unhoused people that accompanied the introduction of the SECZ around the Bridge Housing project on Main street. It seems to me that the purpose of this zone is purely symbolic, simply a way to post signs to appease the neighbors who opposed the placement of the ABH in our neighborhood. The extra “cleaning” seems to be only an excuse to displace people without offering any options for housing. In our neighborhood, the area newly designated as a SECZ has for years been the only place that local people without a home can safely sleep. Instead of providing housing, or services to these vulnerable Angelinos the City has instead chosen to enact rules that do nothing except make their lives harder. The weekly sweeps had been going on for years, but the new sweeps were more often and more disruptive. They result in confrontations between the police and the community which benefits nobody, and can easily lead to a tragedy. During the last few months of the “stay-at-home” order, the program was relaxed and instead of ramping it up again it should be abolished. We are still in the middle of a pandemic, and the CDC explicitly recommends against displacing encampments for COVID safety. These Special Enforcement Zones lead to displacement and the potential spread of COVID19, endangering unhoused residents and the larger community. If city leaders are truly committed to reimagining public safety and an unarmed response to non-violent calls, they must abolish the cruel, costly, punitive “Special Enforcement Zones” that surround homeless shelters. It’s time to reimagine how we spend our money, and the \$8.4 million price tag for geographically targeted enforcement is unjustifiable in light of the city’s need for more homeless services and housing. Please oppose this item. Rick Garvey 234 Horizon #5, Venice, CA 90291 Pronouns: He/Him/His

Communication from Public

Name: Monisha Parker

Date Submitted: 07/26/2020 04:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: A homeless person is traumatized when a person sweeps up their belongings in their area. A homeless person is afraid of the police because they fear that a police officer will beat their behind or handcuff them. When the city of Los Angeles decides to sweep around the homeless encampments area then offer them a shelter or Project Roomkey before the city of Los Angeles wants to sweep around the encampment area. My suggestion is give them 3-days notice before the city of Los Angeles wants to sweep around the encampment area.

Communication from Public

Name: Alexandra A Tangalos
Date Submitted: 07/26/2020 10:20 AM
Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I'm calling for the city council to vote NO on Item 46 on the City Council agenda. While disguised as a public health measure to improve city sanitation, it actually explicitly goes AGAINST what the CDC recommends for homeless encampments right now:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html> "If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are. Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread." Resuming LAPD sweeps is not the answer to help homeless people. These people need services and care. They need cooling shelters, handwashing stations, public restrooms/showers, masks, and tents. They don't need to be forced to move their belongings again and again, or worse, coming to their shelter to find all their worldly possessions gone--including vital documentation without which they can't access services. Even the LAHSA warns that encampment clearings and sweeps unfairly target the people living on the streets and make homelessness worse. We don't need sweeps and police enforcement. What we NEED is Project Roomkey. The Dean of Berkeley Law has said the city is well within its rights to commandeer hotels to shelter people:
<https://www.westernjournal.com/los-angeles-may-commandeer-hotels-not-complying-plan-house-homeless/>
The coronavirus crisis is more urgent than ever. The problems that we had in March--looming mass evictions, virus spread among vulnerable populations, unemployment and economic freefall--those problems are no better now than they were then. What has changed is that the City Council has begun to recognize that we won't criminalize our way out of our problems. We need to be prioritizing services, care, humanity, and dignity--the proven solutions to our problems. Vote NO on Item 46. Pass motions to accelerate Project Roomkey and other humane homeless services instead. Our budget reflects our values. My values are to protect our most vulnerable Angelenos, which in turn protects us all. What are yours?

Communication from Public

Name: Griffin

Date Submitted: 07/26/2020 10:40 PM

Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: LA's new homeless shelters created under the Mayor's A Bridge Home program are surrounded by "Special Enforcement Zones" (SECZs) where LAPD aggressively police houseless neighbors who couldn't get inside. This is a cruel, costly practice. It harms people without housing, it doesn't solve anything for the neighborhood and it's a big expense for the city. If city leaders are truly committed to reimagining public safety and an unarmed response to non-violent calls, they must abolish the cruel, costly, punitive "Special Enforcement Zones" that surround homeless shelters. To me, and many other residents of this city, that is unconscionable. Struggling Angelenos need #HomesNotZones! We won't forget this vote.