

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Stop Sweeps now! Housing is healthcare. Housing is a human right. Stop displacing our homeless residents during the midst of a deadly pandemic! It's violent and cruel to do sweeps of encampments at any time. But now, it's especially inhumane, violent and cruel with a deadly pandemic bearing down and the dangerous heat of the summer months with no public places open to cool off for our homeless citizens. Housing is healthcare. Housing is a human right. Housing will save lives during a pandemic. Sweeps spread illness. Evictions lead to illness and death. We must be better as a society and actually care for people. Instead of violent sweeps that simply displace and terrorize people, leaving them with less protection, shelter and fewer belongings, and instead of calling the police on homeless people, how about we spend that money to feed them, clothe them, and ultimately, house them? When COVID started, the CDC recommended against encampment sweeps, saying they disperse people and spread illness. We must listen to the recommendation of the CDC here. Stop sweeps and evictions now! Instead of actively working with the LAPD to displace people let's go through the proper channels to get these people the resources they need and bring them food, water, etc. It's so depressing to see elected officials and public servants, who probably have never experienced the pain, terror, despondency, degradation and danger of being homeless trying to pass regulations and bills that will make things worse for our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness DURING A DEADLY PANDEMIC that we know ravages the most vulnerable populations of our society the most. We can use this moral outrage we all feel when seeing encampments to inspire us to be better. To love and offer care. Jesus went to the margins of society. The lepers and the beggars, the prostitutes and the outcasts. He fed them and clothed them and blessed them. We must do the same if we can. We must not displace them with these violent and cruel sweeps! We need to use our moral outrage to help these people, not making the situation worse by calling the cops on them to perform these cruel and violent sweeps, which just results in these people losing what little possessions they have to just be displaced somewhere else, opening them up to more potential exposure, illness and death. It's shameful that rather than help people our government just want's

to displace people away from public view! The cops are not equipped to deal with this issue and it always makes the situation worse. If we learned anything from the terrible tragedies of the last few months it should be that we do not endanger homeless people, poor people, or people transitioning out of the carceral system by calling the police on them. My goodness. Care more about people than property, for goodness sake! We must stop these cruel and violent sweeps and instead use resources to feed, clothe, and house people and connect them with the care and support they need! And at the very least stop, If you're not going to wash feet and bless people, then at the very least stop making it harder for those of us working in our free time to help people by further harming, displacing and terrorizing them. At least when there is an encampment organizers, activists, and citizens know where to reach homeless people to bring them fresh food, water, and basic supplies. When you do these sweeps it just creates more pain and does nothing to solve the root issue. In the richest city, in the richest state, in the richest country in the world, we have the money to solve this issue and make sure every American is housed. But we don't do anything about it because elected officials and corporations don't stand to get rich off of morality. This is a moral issue! We can solve it, and therefore we must. Come to the table with inventive solutions that actually SOLVE the problem: GETTING PEOPLE HOUSED. Sweeps solve nothing. Sweeps are an act of violence. If either one of us were homeless, how would we hope to be treated? I know that none of us would appreciate being violently harassed, abused and terrorized by the police while our campsites were destroyed and our few possessions seized. Shame on you. Any council member who thinks sweeps solve anything: WE WILL REMEMBER YOUR NAMES. SERVE THE PEOPLE. ALL PEOPLE. PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS DESERVE RIGHTS, PROTECTION AND BASIC DECENCY JUST AS MUCH AS THOSE RESIDENTS LIVING IN MANSIONS OUTSIDE OF GRIFFITH PARK AND IN THE FRANKLIN HILLS. ALL GOD'S CHILDREN DESERVE RESPECT, CARE AND DECENCY. STOP THE SWEEPS AND INSTEAD SOLVE THE PROBLEM AT HAND! THAT'S WHAT WE ELECTED YOU TO DO.