

Item 08-3125 - Overnight Vehicle Lodging Amendment to LAMC 85.02  
Now Continued to September

Dear Members of the LA City Transportation Committee,

Over the last few years, many Venice residents are becoming more concerned about the negative impact of RV, truck and motorhome dwellers who are living on our streets and in front of our homes and how they affect their quality of life, sense of security and privacy, as well as the dreadful way that these people abuse our streets and public places.

For example, this came in to me yesterday from one of my neighbors:

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-----Forwarded Message-----

>From: "Paul P. Soucek" <paulsoucek@mac.com>

>Sent: Jul 23, 2009 6:41 AM

>

>Regarded Neighbors Of The 'Hood,

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>Well the city doesn't seem to care about it; neither does Intracorp, or  
>whoever owns the lot on the Southeast corner of 5th and Rose...

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>Issues that have come up:

>• Bums break into the lot and spray graffiti...

>• Bums try to break into neighbor's apartments.

>• The RV bums pee & crap on the sidewalks, & are generally hostile  
>to the neighbors.

>• The RV bums blast their TVs and music, & run generators all night.

>• The Intracorp lot is a blight, as well as the sidewalks surrounding it.

>• Used condoms, syringes and general trails of trash. Who's cleaning it  
>up? Residents who don't want to live in a ghetto of garbage...

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>Then why are these miscreants still parked on and soiling our streets?

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>As I previously put forth, only a few days ago I was out on my morning  
>walk and one of the RV scumbags was simply peeing out of their door  
>onto the sidewalk.

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>This is untenable, and instead of having meetings about saving water --

>which we all are trying to do -- perhaps councilperson Rosendahl and Mr.

>Piña could take action to get these damn bums off our streets!

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>Councilperson Rosendahl and Mayor Villaraigosa need to collaborate and

>come up with a solution. We deserve more than this milquetoast governance.

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>They make a lot of promises..... It's shameful.

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>Paul P. Soucek

>Venice, CA

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I understand the difficulties that LAPD faces in dealing with the problems associated with these RV dwellers. The OPD plan was developed by LADOT and The City Attorney, at the request of Venice residents, to provide LAPD officers a more effective enforcement tool to deal with issues related to these "rubber tramps."

Unfortunately, the effort to establish OPD in Venice; that won at a special Venice-wide election at the Library by a two-thirds majority, approved by the Venice Neighborhood Council Board, and supported by our Councilmember, to give LAPD another tool to address and manage the problems associated with vehicle dwellers on city streets has been stymied for the moment by a California Coastal Commission ruling..

As such, LAMC 85.02 remains the primary tool for LAPD to deal with issues related to such squatters, though its utility is limited because many of those that live in their vehicles are familiar with how to avoid and evade enforcement efforts.

Councilman Rosendahl's proposed ordinance reads "the current ordinance should be amended, creating a process that allows each councilmember to designate zones in his or her district where people can sleep in their vehicles."

While this might have been acceptable in conjunction with the OPD, I urge you not to change LAMC 85.02 until social service programs are developed, service managers for such programs are identified, and appropriate qualifying criteria are established to help transition RV dwellers to some permanent housing. I am certain that many long-time Venice stakeholders share my opposition to any effort to weaken LAMC 85.02 because doing so would just make the police officer's job even harder.

Thank you for your consideration.

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