

Communication from  
Public  
08-3125  
7/18/09

Dear Members of the LA City Transportation Committee,

I would like to ask you to please not approve item 08-3125 on your agenda submitted by Councilmembers Rosendahl and Zine. This motion seeks to modify LAMC 85.02 to allow council members to establish in their districts areas where people in RVs can lodge overnight on a temporary basis. While the goal of helping the mobile homeless is laudable, the approach proposed by the Rosendahl/Zine proposal is lacking in essential details for a successful program and will weaken an ordinance that is already rarely enforced in my neighborhood of Venice Beach.

The proposal is modeled after one in Santa Barbara, but this proposal is much less likely to help the homeless population it is targeted at. In Santa Barbara they have strict ordinances specifically against parking RVs or any vehicle more than 3/4 ton on city streets for more than 2 hrs or anytime overnight. This is the way Santa Barbara has ensured that the truly needy will use the program and those who have chosen the lifestyle of free beach front living will be forced to move on and pay for legitimate overnight camp facilities. Due to the Coastal Commission's opinion that Venice may not enforce overnight restrictions on RV parking, there is no incentive for RV dwellers to use the program, which has a limited duration, versus living indefinitely on city streets.

The Rosendahl/Zine proposal also does not specify any specific requirements for these city sponsored RV parks to be separated from residential areas or what specific sanitary facilities or social service programs must be provided to help the residents. There is also no requirement that the owners of the RVs taking advantage of the program be means tested or have a time limit to transition to permanent housing. Without these, and many other carefully considered provisions, it is dangerous to modify LAMC 85.02. It would be sounder policy to establish specific pilot programs in a proposal that clearly outlines the details of location, services and other program features, including a time limit for the pilot. Once such a pilot has been completed it would then be possible to think more of modifying LAMC 85.02 to include an exception for programs that take the most successful features of a pilot program and establish it more widely.

Thank you for your time and dedication to both public safety and caring your citizens well being.

-- Richard Myers, Former Executive Officer of the Venice Neighborhood Council  
638 Rose Ave., Venice

Members of the LA City Transportation Committee

As a resident of Venice since 1976 I ask you to please not approve item 08-3125 on your agenda submitted by Council-members Rosendahl and Zine. This motion seeks to modify LAMC 85.02 to allow council members to establish in their districts areas where people in RVs can lodge overnight on a temporary basis.

This approach proposed by the Rosendahl/Zine proposal lacks essential details for a successful program and will weaken an ordinance that is already all too rarely enforced in Venice Beach.

For the over 30 years I have lived in Venice it has been a struggle to keep the area safe, clean, livable for the residents. The problem of people for what ever reason deciding to live on the streets of Venice in their cars, vans and motor homes has been here as long as I've be a resident and now has escalated to an situation out of control.

LAMC 85.02 while not perfect gives the police one tool to help control the dire situation.

That our City Council wants to work to provide a parking place for those in need is admirable , but it should not be done to the detriment of the legitimate residents of Venice

If some one is living on the streets any where in LA because they like the area, this is not a good enough reason to subject the rest of us to the problems they cause. And if you doubt the problems come visit or ask Councilman Rosendahl; residents have taken him on a tour of some the blighted areas. Or ask any of the LAPD Senior Lead Officers how much of their time is taken up with the problems of the "street dwellers".

There are under used areas away from residents where a pilot program to bring in such street dwellers could be set up in an attempt to "rehabilitate " and move them off the streets in to a productive lifestyle.

It has taken 20 years of hard work by Venice residents and the LAPD clean up the once drug and gang infested streets please do not do any thing to take us back to those days.

Please think of us, the residents of Venice you know the ones who pay the taxes , the mortgage, the rent.

EDWARD V BARGER  
[edvbarger@mac.com](mailto:edvbarger@mac.com)  
Mobil 310 922 6251



THINK BEFORE YOU PRINT!

Please don't print this email unless you really need to

Recipe for happiness in Khaborovsk  
or any place

One grand boulevard with trees

with one grand cafe in sun  
with strong black coffee in very small cups

One not necessarily very beautiful  
man or woman who loves you

one fine day

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Lawrence Ferlinghetti

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Thank you

Phil Raider

Past Secretary Venice Neighborhood Council,

Past Secretary VNC Land Use & Planning Committee

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