

From: <venicebeach@gmail.com>
To: <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>
Date: 7/21/2009 1:03 PM
Subject: Fwd: Item 08-3125 on July 22 Agenda, Overnight Vehicle Lodging Amendment to LAMC 85.02

Dear Adam,

I understand Sharon is on vacation; could you make sure my letter is put in the file for the Transportation Committee meeting tomorrow ?

Thanks,

-- Richard

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Richard Myers <Richard.Myers@pobox.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 21, 2009 at 9:18 PM
Subject: Item 08-3125 on July 22 Agenda, Overnight Vehicle Lodging Amendment to LAMC 85.02
To: Bill.Rosendahl@lacity.org, councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org, councilmember.parks@lacity.org, councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org
Cc: "arturo. pina" <Arturo.pina@lacity.org>, Sharon Gin - Legislative Assistant <Sharon.Gin@lacity.org>, David.Hersch@lacity.org

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