

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(21) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/24/2019

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 10/10/2019

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-1057-S8

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Our community strongly opposes this City Council action. Criminalizing homelessness has never worked and is a terrible response in the current crisis. The CIS recommends steps that can proactively serve the community while addressing the City Council's concerns in a proactive and constructive way.



ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



Chair:

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Secretary:

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CERTIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 2002

Community Impact Statement (CIS) “Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Section 85.02 / Safe Parking / Urgency Clause / Extension of Expiration Date”

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Council File 14-1057-S8

September 24, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Los Angeles City Council

Dear Councilmembers,

The Echo Park Neighborhood Council stands in strong opposition to the Council’s decision regarding LAMC 82.05, the “Vehicle Dwelling Ban.”

There are over 16,000 people living in their vehicles throughout the county. This decision to criminalize this already marginalized population directly threatens the one reprieve protecting these men, women, and children from a life in tents and on the streets.

Safe Parking, one of the few solutions being offered to address this rapidly growing issue, is far from meeting the need. There are only about 150 Safe Parking spaces currently available—*less than 1%* than is necessary. In the coming months, plans for developing additional Safe Parking spaces only bring that number to about 2% coverage.

Last year alone saw an increase of over 4% for vehicle dwelling in the county. The current rate of development for Safe Parking spaces clearly cannot keep pace with the number of people being displaced into their vehicles.

The Echo Park Neighborhood Council understands and respects the sentiments of constituents and homeowners who feel that aspects of vehicle dwelling negatively affect them and their properties. However, this neighborhood council feels that criminalizing and displacing this group without providing any viable alternative is inhumane.

Therefore, the neighborhood council proposes a solution to help alleviate this issue on all sides: A tax on parking lots over a certain size, that would be applied on a per-space basis. The tax on this proposal would go directly to the funding of additional Safe Parking lots and permanent supportive housing. Furthermore, parking lots that elect to participate in Safe Parking would be exempted from this tax.

This would incentivize large parking lots to participate directly in supporting our unhoused neighbors and create an additional revenue stream for the much needed development of permanent supportive housing.

While there are many details that would need to be ironed out by lawmakers with such a tax, the Neighborhood Council believes this proposal would represent a strong step in the right direction.

The ordinance as written also sweeps too broadly. For example, it does not distinguish between passenger cars and RVs. Restrictions that may apply to much larger RVs and campers need not also apply to much smaller vehicles like standard passenger cars. The ordinance groups together thousands of people without attention to the important differences between each family's and person's story and needs. Its breadth underscores how counterproductive and dehumanizing it is.

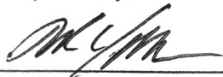
Criminalizing homelessness is not a solution to homelessness.

The council needs to focus its efforts on expediting the development of housing and homeless services such as Safe Parking if there is to be any progress in this effort to end homelessness.

Board Resolution

On September 24, 2019, with a quorum of 21, the EPNC Board of Governors held a Brown Act-noticed meeting and with a vote of 21 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions, the EPNC voted to submit this CIS.

Respectfully,



Tad Yenawine
Secretary, Echo Park Neighborhood Council