

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 unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 10/10/2019

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 19-0602-S1

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The sweeping nature of the proposal by City Council is at issue here. Current proposal is much too broad in scope to be reasonably adhered to or enforced.



ECHO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



CERTIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 2002

Chair:

Darcy Harris

Vice Chair:

Sachin Medhekar

Chief Information Officer:

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Treasurer:

Michael Galano

Secretary:

Tad Yenawine

Community Impact Statement (CIS) Obstruction or Interference / Passage of Pedestrians / Public Right-of-Way / Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Section 41.18 / Amendment

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Council File 19-0602-S1

September 24, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Los Angeles City Council

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell, et al

The Echo Park Neighborhood Council hereby submits this Community Impact Statement in opposition unless amended to Council File 19-0602-S1.

The proposed rewriting of LAMC 41.18 as the City's response to the Martin v. Boise 9th Circuit Court decision, which already rendered the current writing of the existing ordinance unconstitutional, will continue the city's counter-productive approach the homelessness crisis. This bill would make it illegal to sit, sleep or lie within 500 feet of a school, park or daycare center, and 10 feet from any utilizable entrance, driveway or loading dock. Moreover, it contains broad, undefined language banning sitting, lying or sleeping at any time "In or upon any tunnel, bridge or pedestrian subway that is on a route designated by City Council resolution as a school route" as well as "...large venue-adjacent areas" which have never been defined by any City law and would be interpreted on subjective discretion.

While "Part A" regarding ADA accessibility of public paths is important for safety, security and hygiene, the overall motion is overly broad and punitive. We propose a rewrite that adds the necessary protections for the public safety without unnecessary broad restrictions effectively criminalizing homeless in most areas of the City of Los Angeles.

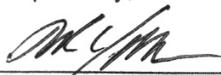
Instead of funding much needed services like additional hygiene facilities or addiction treatment, if this amended ordinance were to pass, resources would again be diverted to criminalize the unhoused and punish them for their poverty. Given the structural forces that lead most unhoused Angelenos to reside on the streets, this approach is needlessly cruel. Additionally, this measure makes it criminal to approach another person based on the mere perception of danger, echoing notorious "Stand Your Ground" laws.

Furthermore, this policy as written would be nearly impossible to enforce and would bring about a host of unwanted side effects. For example, children waiting for their parents to pick them up after school would be turned into criminals if they were to sit down on the sidewalk. Measurements related to doorways will be litigated ad nauseam at enormous expense to the taxpayers of Los Angeles. This ordinance, much like its predecessor, would struggle to withstand a legal challenge. As such, we oppose the adoption of this ordinance as written, and strongly urge the city to reconsider its approach to the issue of homelessness and utilize proven best practices from other cities.

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