

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.

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Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(0) Abstain(2) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/04/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 11/10/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0147

Agenda Date: 11/04/2020

Item Number:

Summary: Dear Honorable Councilmembers, The Palms Neighborhood Council opposes the amendment to Council File 20-0147 of July 29, 2020, which authorizes the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to resume comprehensive CARE/CARE+ cleanups within the special exemption zones (SEZ) established around A Bridge Home shelters.

Community Impact Statement in opposition of City Council File 20-0147
Resumption of Cleanups in Special Exclusion Zones during COVID-19

November 3rd, 2020

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

The Palms Neighborhood Council opposes the amendment to Council File 20-0147 of July 29, 2020, which authorizes the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to resume comprehensive CARE/CARE+ cleanups within the special exemption zones (SEZ) established around A Bridge Home shelters.

On March 17, 2020, at the onset of the coronavirus crisis and in alignment with recommendations from the CDC, the City Council voted to instruct CARE and CARE+ crews to suspend enforcement of the law requiring tents to come down during daytime hours (with exceptions for those that impeded ADA access). Care was taken to minimize the COVID exposure risk to the unhoused that could correspond with forcible removal of ad-hoc shelter spaces, especially given the dearth of public indoor options for respite.

On July 31, 2020 the council voted to remove this restriction and resume enforcement of the no-daytime-tents rule within the Special Exemption Zones. Said cleanups now occur weekly in many parts of the city. A spokesperson from councilmember Krekorian's office described these cleanups as "good news" because unhoused persons "will leave the area because they will not like the enforcement" but the street sweeps can also result in the loss of extant documentation and personal property, increased (and potentially traumatic) encounters with law enforcement, and the disruption of outreach efforts that come with displacement.

This council opposes the resumption of the enforcement on the grounds that the pandemic remains an ongoing threat to the unhoused community entering the winter months, as it was at the time of its passage. July, 2020 marked the worst of the state's surge in cases (3,000 people died of COVID-19 in Los Angeles that month alone). The following weeks saw the worst heat wave in a decade, and the manifestation of extremely unhealthy air due to ongoing forest fires. Any one of these conditions should provide ample reason to suspend the forced removal of tents if they do not pose any additional pedestrian or emergency hazard. Temporary shelter spaces opened over the summer have now closed, and health experts predict another rise of cases this fall. A Bridge Home shelters are to be lauded for prioritizing the persons experiencing homelessness in their immediate area for placement, but existing rooms are full, and are not an option for those remaining unhoused.

There are aspects of the CARE/CARE+ deployments that should continue. We applaud the efforts of LASAN's Livability Services Division (LSD) to mobilize a Mobile Hygiene program that provides shower services to people living on the street, and the siting of hundreds of mobile hand-washing stations, portable toilets, and new trash receptacles proximate the tents and encampments of persons experiencing homelessness. We appreciate the efforts of the outreach

workers who conduct intakes at encampment locations, and the successful efforts to house local persons experiencing homelessness. We wish for these services to be expanded and maintained for the duration of the pandemic conditions and beyond.

Sincerely,

Eryn Piper Block
President, Palms Neighborhood Council