

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

Neighborhood Council: Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council

Name: Richard Loew

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(1) Abstain(2) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/03/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 08/04/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1376-S1

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council is disappointed that the City Council voted to approve reinstating LAMC 41.18: the “sit, lie, sleep” law that has been in existence as a racist, anti-vagrancy law since 1963. This law criminalizes the poor and unhoused without presenting meaningful or effective solutions to LA’s housing and homelessness crisis. Despite consistent community opposition, and an Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement opposing this Ordinance dated November, 2019, the City Council continues to fall back on policies that rely on criminalization and law enforcement to address homelessness, even though we know the only real solutions to homelessness are HOMES. Presently, housing opportunities for the homeless are scarce or not available. Therefore, it is short-sighted to institute punitive measures while attempting to relocate individuals into housing that does not exist.

**EAGLE ROCK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Executive Committee

Richard Loew, President
Michael Sweeney, Vice President
Lindsay Kiesling, Treasurer
Wade Harpootlian, Communications
Laura Gonzalez, Secretary
Jesse Saucedo, Immediate Past President

**CITY OF
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August 3, 2021

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT - Unlawful Sitting, Lying, Sleeping /
Unlawful Personal Property Storage, Use, Maintenance / Private Property / Los Angeles
Municipal Code / Amendment (CF 20-1376-S1)**

On August 3, 2021 a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held with a quorum of board members present and that by a vote of 14 yes, 1 no, and 2 abstentions, the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council (ERNC) adopted the following Community Impact Statement concerning the amended [Ordinance](#) connected to [CF 20-1376-S1](#).

The Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council is disappointed that the City Council voted to approve reinstating LAMC 41.18: the “sit, lie, sleep” law that has been in existence as a racist, anti-vagrancy law since 1963. This law criminalizes the poor and unhoused without presenting meaningful or effective solutions to LA’s housing and homelessness crisis.

Despite consistent community opposition, and an Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement opposing this Ordinance dated November, 2019, the City Council continues to fall back on policies that rely on criminalization and law enforcement to address homelessness, even though we know the only real solutions to homelessness are **HOMES**. Presently, housing opportunities for the homeless are scarce or not available. Therefore, **it is short-sighted to institute punitive measures while attempting to relocate individuals into housing that does not exist.**


An [LA Times Editorial](#) dated July 1, 2021 asserted that telling homeless people where they cannot camp does not stop them from becoming homeless. "Simply putting up a lot of signs prohibiting camping will not make encampments vanish from the sidewalks," the LA Times Editorial

Board argues, adding that "citing and arresting homeless people for being on the street has yet to solve homelessness." The article proposes that if council members are serious about implementing street engagement strategies they must first provide an extensive outreach program, and also ensure that enforcement happens only after actual housing has been offered.

The Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council offers the following recommendations to mitigate the harm caused by this Ordinance:

- The City Council must create maps indicating where unhoused people can set up tents such as "Safe Sleeping Zones."
- The City must implement an extensive Street Engagement Strategy led by service providers which ensures that unhoused individuals are offered housing that is available, and relocate unhoused individuals into satisfactory interim housing to prepare them for permanent housing.
- Recognize that service providers need time and patience to engage adequately using a trauma-informed approach with those living on the street to help them transition into interim or permanent housing.
- Suspend posting 14-day notices at locations listed in the Ordinance. The notices are ineffective, and unnecessarily will lead to issuance of citations and arrest. Law enforcement involvement should only be used to deal with criminal behavior.
- The City Council must address the root causes of homelessness, which are a combination of many factors including recovery from a pandemic, job loss, low wages and high rents, a dearth of low income housing, and a lack of County Public Health and Mental Health services.

The Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council looks forward to acknowledgement from City Councilmembers of our concerns and we request suspending the Ordinance or issuing amendments to the Ordinance to stop criminalization and harm to our unhoused neighbors.

Sincerely, 

Richard Loew

President

Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council