

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: West Adams Neighborhood Council

Name: Steven Meeks

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

Date of NC Board Action: 07/19/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 07/28/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1376

Agenda Date: 07/19/2021

Item Number: 11. I

Summary: As written, the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) Board, opposes this effort to apply citations and other penalties for sitting or sleeping in public places throughout the City of Los Angeles. While this council file has existed since 2020, the motion voted on Tuesday was entirely new, and was passed without input from stakeholders, including people with lived experience of homelessness, currently unhoused individuals, and members of impacted communities. The urgency to pass this motion stands in stark contrast to the drawn-out efforts to build housing and shelter, and to provide our unhoused residents with basic services. We in West Adams are reminded of this daily and weekly, where our WANC-sponsored outreach volunteers are typically the first service providers in months, and often the first ever, to make contact with persons living on our streets and greenspaces. City of Los Angeles lawmakers must do more to service the needs of those living on our streets, especially those living in dire conditions by providing trash collection, portable toilets, showers and the hygienic cleaning of informal encampments on a regular basis. Those living in public spaces must have a viable and safe alternative to the conditions they face everyday.

BOARD OF THE WEST ADAMS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 78474
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westadamsnc.org westadamsnc@gmail.com

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Yolanda Davis-Overstreet - Vice President
Brian Platek - Treasurer
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John Ma - At Large Representative
Jace Dawson - At Large Representative



West Adams Neighborhood Council
Meets Every Third Monday of the Month @
Vineyard Recreation Center, 2942 Vineyard Ave,
Los Angeles, CA, 90016

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West Adams Neighborhood Council



7/13/2021

To: Los Angeles City Councilmembers Martinez, Blumenfield, Bonin, Buscaino, Cedillo, De Leon, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, Krekorian, Lee, O'Farrell, Price, Rodriguez, Raman, and Ridley-Thomas,

West Adams Neighborhood Council Board & Ad-Hoc Homelessness Committee's Community Impact Statement, Re: Council File: 20-1376 Unlawful Sitting, Lying, Sleeping / Unlawful Personal Property Storage, Use, Maintenance / Private Property / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment OPPOSE Motion 55A

We, the West Adams Neighborhood Council (WANC) Board & Ad-Hoc Homelessness Committee, oppose this effort to apply citations and other penalties for sitting or sleeping in public places throughout the City of Los Angeles. While this council file has existed since 2020, the motion voted on Tuesday was entirely new, and was passed without input from stakeholders, including people with lived experience of homelessness, currently unhoused individuals, and members of impacted communities. The urgency to pass this motion stands in stark contrast to the drawn-out efforts to build housing and shelter, and to provide our unhoused residents with basic services. We in West Adams are reminded of this daily and weekly, where our WANC-sponsored outreach volunteers are typically the first service providers in months, and often the first ever, to make contact with persons living on our streets and greenspaces.

This motion does nothing to solve homelessness. What it will do is move people from place to place and create a patchwork network of unpredictable rules. These rules are applied differently per differing

priorities across local council offices. If we are going to regulate our streets, we need rules that are clear, predictable, and universal for those to whom they apply.

The motion makes it clear to the public that city leaders view unhoused people as inherently criminal, and their existence a threat to their housed neighbors. Based on WANC's focus for years on the needs of our unhoused communities, and our Ad-Hoc Homelessness Committee's recent months of outreach and direct community-building with our unhoused, we find that perspective to be demonstrably false. In addition, we consider it to be a fundamental misunderstanding of the power dynamic and interpersonal realities between housed and unhoused residents in and around our neighborhood. In our experience, many housed and unhoused people struggle with the same issues of a cost-of-living that has dwarfed wage growth. Many housed and unhoused residents experience the same lack of data connectivity, as well as lack of ready access to public resources and benefits. A large population within Los Angeles, in particular within communities of color, experience unreliable transportation and inconsistent nutrition that dislocate us from work and our ability to provide for ourselves and our families. West Adams' unhoused population is made of long-time residents priced out of apartments, families, and people suffering from a range of emotional illness, mental illness, and neuroatypical communication styles. The unhoused population also includes survivors who have fled from domestic violence. All of these community members are human lives who need cohesive interventive care and housing. Until then, they need clear rules they can follow - not a patchwork of banishment zones.

Our city is facing a homelessness crisis, one which city leaders will readily admit we lack the resources, or have failed to prioritize our resources, to address. As we slowly but steadily accumulate permanent supportive housing and shelter beds, the number of available beds still lags far behind the number of people who need them. Moreover, individuals placed into interim housing are not transitioning to permanent options within the three-month time frame that the city had previously expressed was the goal. Without resources to meet the problem, we cannot place the onus on unhoused people to make themselves invisible, nor should the unhoused be coerced with unjust citations and other forms of inhumane and traumatic consequences.

We fully oppose the motion to make sitting, sleeping, or lying in public space an unlawful act.

/s/

Yolanda Davis-Overstreet
Chair, Public Safety Committee
Vice President, West Adams Neighborhood Council

/s/

Ad-Hoc Homelessness Committee, West Adams Neighborhood Council

/s/

General Board, West Adams Neighborhood Council

The Council vote for this community impact statement was __Y __N __A on [DATE]