

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: Mid City WEST Neighborhood Council

Name: Lauren Nichols

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(30) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/10/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 11/23/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1376

Agenda Date: 11/24/2020

Item Number: 24

Summary: Dear City Council: The Mid City West Community Council requests the following Community Impact statement be attached to Council File 20-1376. The Mid City West Community Council (MCW) Board of Directors approved following motion (30 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions) at the Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 board meeting. We, the Mid City West Community Council, strongly OPPOSE adopting Council File Number 20-1376 and believes this motion and subsequent amendments to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) are the wrong approach to solving homelessness in Los Angeles. At the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we were extremely encouraged to see the swift and compassionate response from the City placing many of our unhoused Angelenos into temporary shelter. As the pandemic continues to persist, we had hoped that the City and County would work together to continue finding solutions to care for our unhoused community members. Instead, we are greatly disappointed to see this proposed draft motion from our City Council members and the City Attorney's report. If approved, the motion would allow an ordinance amending Section 41.18 of the LAMC to specify the particular times and locations where it shall be unlawful for a person to sit, lie, or sleep on public property. Ultimately giving the City of Los Angeles authority to make it illegal for people experiencing homelessness to exist near any shelter or homeless services related property, within 500 feet of freeways, or anywhere in the city if they have been "offered shelter." This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles and constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades.



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November 23, 2020

Honorable City Council
C/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring St, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Letter in Opposition of Council File Number 20-1376

Dear City Council:

The Mid City West Community Council requests the following Community Impact statement be attached to Council File 20-1376. The Mid City West Community Council (MCW) Board of Directors approved following motion (30 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions) at the Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 board meeting.

We, the Mid City West Community Council, **strongly OPPOSE** adopting Council File Number **20-1376** and believes this motion and subsequent amendments to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) are the wrong approach to solving homelessness in Los Angeles. At the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we were extremely encouraged to see the swift and compassionate response from the City placing many of our unhoused Angelenos into temporary shelter. As the pandemic continues to persist, we had hoped that the City and County would work together to continue finding solutions to care for our unhoused community members. Instead, we are greatly disappointed to see this proposed draft motion from our City Council members and the City Attorney's report.

If approved, the motion would allow an ordinance amending Section 41.18 of the LAMC to specify the particular times and locations where it shall be unlawful for a person to sit, lie, or sleep on public property. Ultimately giving the City of Los Angeles

authority to make it illegal for people experiencing homelessness to exist near any shelter or homeless services related property, within 500 feet of freeways, or anywhere in the city if they have been “offered shelter.” This motion effectively makes homelessness illegal in Los Angeles and constitutes the largest increase in the criminalization of homelessness in decades.

While Section 41.18 focuses on when and where individuals may lodge, Section 56.11 regulates where and how people may store their personal property in public spaces. If the motion is approved, the draft ordinance would amend LAMC Section 56.11 to align with the new provisions of Section 41.18 by banning the storage of personal property in any area where sitting, lying, and sleeping is banned by Section 41.18.

Pushing people from one public space to another does not end homelessness. In fact, it's a completely ineffective approach – data and research clearly state that an enforcement-led approach is not evidence-based. As outreach workers and homeless service providers work tirelessly to move those most vulnerable to COVID-19 into permanent housing, this proposal also conflicts with their efforts and depends on the misuse of limited housing and financial resources while jeopardizing the health and safety of those most in need of being inside. The guidance and approach of the Departments of Public Health and Health Services has been for everyone to shelter in place and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population.

All people should have the right to access public spaces and no one should be arbitrarily banned from large sections of the city. Therefore, Mid City West Neighborhood Council urges the city councilmembers to vote no on this motion and instead focus on increasing access to immediate housing throughout Los Angeles so that our unhoused neighbors can access shelter.

Thank you for your attention to this vitally important matter to the Mid City West community. Please feel free to contact me via email at sepstein@midcitywest as needed.

Sincerely,

Scott Epstein, Chairperson
Mid City West Community Council

