

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jiyoung Carolyn Park  
**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 12:53 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** The proposed amendments to LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11 41.18 will only cost LA taxpayers millions in litigation costs over violations of the settlement costs. Shuffling the houseless from street to street, district to district in a dystopian game of musical chairs is cruel and ineffective. Gaining brownie points with big donors will not guarantee any public official reelection in today's political climate. The houseless and the city need permanent, humane solutions. We need services, not sweeps. As Judge Carter said, "Where are the beds?" At this inflection point, we are in dire need of bold initiatives to build affordable housing and transitional housing, and fund substance abuse and mental health services. Studies show the services are more cost effective than incarceration. You, our leaders, shoulder the tremendous responsibility of ushering this City into a new era of healing and hope or conspiring in its downfall. This motion would be a huge draconian step backwards. Do better, council members.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 03:33 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly oppose this motion. It is completely inhumane to criminalize homelessness--especially during a pandemic--when the root causes of homelessness are systemic and can start to be addressed by reallocating funds. This motion does nothing to help homeless individuals. This city has plenty of money to fund its police department but refuses to house its own people. Criminalizing homelessness instead of providing housing is disgusting and shows that this city does not care about individuals without access to permanent housing.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anastacia

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 04:43 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am so sorry for these homeless people. However they are frequently dangerous, drugged out and / or drunk. My neighbor was walking her dog and was punched in the face by a large homeless man. I no longer walk in my neighborhood. I have had 2 occasions when I had a homeless person beat my car trying to get inside. I also regularly see people shooting heroin under the coldwater overpass. I also regularly see people defecating and on 2 occasions having sex in public. This has to stop. Our lovely neighborhood is no longer safe and it's filthy.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anne Freiermuth

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 05:01 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. It is not scheduled for a vote today but I don't expect this to be the end of it. Given the city's near total inability to put Proposition HHH funds to their intended use to help our unhoused neighbors (according to the City Controller), this motion is simply cruel. People who have nothing do not deserve to be turned into criminals simply for trying to survive. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer. Signed, Anne Freiermuth

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Eve

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 06:45 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Criminalizing homelessness will not cure homelessness. It will make it worse including the pandemic. What cures homelessness? Learn from Europe, affordable housing, livable wages, Medicare 4 all, and affordable education. Police are WAY TOO MUCH overfunded, that is tax payer money that belongs to the community. If you don't put our taxes back into the community, then you must refund it all back to us so we can actually put it back into the community where it belongs.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ian Hudson

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 08:15 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge you to consider the dignity of both the people upon which this law will be imposed and the law enforcement officers asked to enact it. The crime is our treatment of the unhoused, the dispossessed, the mentally ill, and the addicted. No on 41.18.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bonnie  
**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 08:30 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This proposal is the very definition of inhumane. I never knew how terrible the homelessness crisis was in the US until I moved to LA from a small town. It astonished me in the worst possible way to be in a city that had the money for massive skyscrapers & countless kitschy experimental restaurants, but seemingly none to get the thousands of homeless people living in the city into safe, affordable, and caring housing. This amendment continues LA's long legacy of not caring an ounce about their homeless population. You don't see them as people, you see them as bad set decoration. Rather than invest in their safety you'd prefer to hide them behind prison walls where they can provide the slave labor for your gentrified economy & risk their lives fighting wildfires for pennies. Do you know why people experience homelessness? Job loss. Fleeing domestic abuse. Mental illness. Drug addiction. Discrimination. Disability. These are solvable human problems; if you want to decrease the homeless population, you need to invest in job creation & outreach programs, domestic violence prevention & protection services, affordable & accessible mental healthcare, free addiction rehab, protections for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals, and accessibility across the board for physically disabled people. And in the meantime, there are more empty hotel rooms and apartments in LA than there are people experiencing homelessness (by a LOT). Even if you don't want to (though you could) invest in new housing or refurbishing abandoned buildings into free housing for the homeless (there's some more free ideas for you), you can use existing empty living spaces to shelter these people in safe places where social workers could reach them and help them begin finding pathways to treatment, long-term safety, and employment. And while we're at it, LOWER THE GOD DAMN RENT! There are plenty of homeless people in LA who are employed and still on the streets because they can't afford your overpriced apartments (of which there are almost twice as many as there are homeless people, so using some empty apartments as safe housing after a rent decrease would still be feasible)! The homelessness crisis only exists because you allow it to, and you can solve it at literally any time. This amendment is not the way. It is racist, classist, and downright evil to say that the people in your community who are suffering the most, often through no fault of their own, deserve to

be locked up. If your first reaction to 60,000 homeless people in your city just trying to survive in a harsh environment of your own making is "let's throw them in jail," you are not fit to hold public office. Bob Blumenfield, Joe Buscaino, Paul Krekorian, Monica Rodriguez, Gilbert A. Cedillo, John S. Lee, Curren D. Price Jr., we will remember your names during the next election. Until then, you have a chance to make this right by withdrawing this amendment or modifying it to an empathetic plan to end the homelessness crisis.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sandra Kim

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 08:48 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amendmending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. It is currently scheduled for a full Council vote on November 24th. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amara Leipzig

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 09:24 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This motion does not provide any services to our growing homeless population but instead polices them more harshly with policies proven to exacerbate our homelessness crisis. I strongly oppose this motion and I demand you to oppose it as well. Vote with integrity for the needs of our growing homeless population due to Covid-19. They need housing, compassion, and services, not to be uprooted, fined, and incarcerated. Please do everything in your power to help our homeless neighbors and bring forth an alternative motion that does this. CF 20-1376 will be a failure.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Blair C Beeken

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 10:47 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmember, On October 21 2020, LA City Councilmembers Blumenfield, Buscaino, Rodriguez, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, and Lee presented a motion (Council File 20-1376) to drastically expand the criminalization and banishment of unhoused Angelenos across the city by amending LA Municipal Codes 41.18 and 56.11. It is currently scheduled for a full Council vote on November 24th. This motion does not provide any new housing resources, wrap-around services for those experiencing homelessness, or any solutions to decrease the unhoused population in LA. Instead of focusing on actual, proven solutions to a crisis that continues to grow during this pandemic, City Council members have decided to once again spend time and city resources on another attempt to expand harmful criminalization policies which have only proven to fail and exacerbate homelessness. I demand that City Council and the Mayor's office instead invest their time and legislative power into programs that actually help us move forward in providing a healthy and safe living environments for our unhoused communities while they are on the streets, and take concrete action steps in providing transitional/permanent housing opportunities that meet a higher standard of living than current shelter and ABH facilities offer. Signed, Blair Beeken

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Manolo

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 02:22 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** In a time of a global pandemic and economic downturn, the choice to criminalize homelessness is nothing but inhumane. The city of Los Angeles has over ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND empty hotel rooms when we have 60,000 unhoused and 15k shelter beds. If we want to solve the homelessness crisis, we have the means to do so. Banning sitting and lying down in public is no way to treat people in our society. Criminalizing homelessness in light of a global pandemic by putting vulnerable people into overcrowded prisons isn't just cruel: it's a death sentence. I strongly oppose this measure.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jasmine Flores

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 02:55 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** This amendment will effectively criminalize homelessness and is not the way to address these issues. It's somewhat offensive, even, to use the Americans with Disabilities Act as a justification for this. We aren't seeing any bans of those Lime scooters that litter the sidewalks all over the city and actually cause obstructions for people with disabilities. Many of the unhoused in our city are disabled. These people need services. Criminalizing encampments is only going to worsen the problem, cause more backlogs in the courts (during a pandemic!), and waste more city funds that could instead be used to house and provide services people; as is evidenced in the last few months, we spend far too much on policing and not enough on the meaningful work that needs to be done to solve the underlying conditions of crime, homelessness, and poverty. Nobody likes the encampments but just sweeping them away does not solve the root problem. There has to be a better solution for temporary housing than this; and as City Council you should be getting creative and working on that actual problem instead of this wasteful nonsense.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sara Jewell

**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 03:12 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1376

**Comments for Public Posting:** Bob's 41.18 criminalization motion doesn't offer any solutions. Housing ends homelessness, not making it illegal to exist while homeless. City of LA has made incredibly little progress on housing. There is no housing, no shelters, no place for people to go. Enforcement and criminalization isn't a tool that should be used to address the crisis of homelessness-- no matter what stage of the crisis. We need holistic, community-engaged tools that focus on building relationships and providing resources. With the cold and rain approaching, it's especially cruel to make it a crime to seek refuge under a freeway, especially when there are no shelter beds available. In LA County there are 15,000 shelter beds and 60,000 unhoused. Where will people go?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anthony Dedousis  
**Date Submitted:** 11/21/2020 03:13 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-1376  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, Please see attached for Abundant Housing LA's letter OPPOSING the proposed amendment to Municipal Code Section 41.18. Thank you, Anthony Dedousis



November 23, 2020

Council President Nury Martinez  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Martinez,

Abundant Housing LA is a pro-housing education and advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. We again write in opposition to the [recently introduced motion](#) that would amend Municipal Code Section 41.18 to prohibit sitting, sleeping, or lying within 500 feet of a recently opened shelter facility or transportation infrastructure ([Council File 20-1376](#)). We oppose laws that criminalize homelessness and impose a heavy burden on Angelenos experiencing homeless, as this one would.

Los Angeles is experiencing a severe homelessness crisis, exacerbated by the high cost of housing and the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are homeless need safe, clean shelters and permanent supportive housing in order to escape homelessness and rebuild their lives. Resuming sweeps near shelters and freeway overpasses is cruel and counterproductive.

The proposed amendments to Municipal Code Section 41.18 will do little to encourage people to seek shelter, while making it harder for outreach workers and homeless services providers to move people into permanent housing. This will also further destroy trust in public authorities, a lack of which discourages people experiencing homelessness from seeking shelter or assistance in the first place. Moving homelessness does not solve homelessness. For these reasons, we have [signed a coalition letter, together with dozens of other community organizations](#), to express our united opposition to this ill-advised policy.

As the COVID-19 pandemic reaches its most severe stage yet, we again reiterate the need to provide sufficient emergency resources and assistance for our most vulnerable neighbors. Solving homelessness in Los Angeles requires us to provide enough housing for all of its residents who are experiencing homelessness. It is discouraging that [Project Roomkey has provided less than a quarter](#) of the 15,000 hotel and motel rooms that were initially promised, and that vocal neighborhood opposition has been used as an excuse for failing to provide enough new shelter space in all of Los Angeles' neighborhoods.

With COVID-19 cases reaching daily record highs in Los Angeles County, there is no more time left to delay. We urge you to remove this motion from consideration, and to devote the resources, attention, and political will necessary to make Project Roomkey, A Bridge Home, and

other similar programs successful. NIMBYism cannot be used as an excuse to block housing for people experiencing homelessness any longer.

Sincerely,

Leonora Camner  
Executive Director  
Abundant Housing LA

Anthony Dedousis  
Director of Policy and Research  
Abundant Housing LA