

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](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

Name: Maebe A. Girl

Phone Number:

Email: [maebe.a.girl.slnc@gmail.com](mailto:maebe.a.girl.slnc@gmail.com)

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

Date of NC Board Action: 12/01/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 12/29/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-1300-S1

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council strongly opposes CF-21-1300-S1, Councilmember Buscaino and Councilmember Lee's proposal to add a measure to the June 2022 Primary Nominating Election ballot that would prohibit encampments in all public spaces. We believe that Angelenos experiencing homelessness deserve permanent, supportive housing and services, not criminalization for their state of poverty.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Re: Council File 21-1300-S1  
Type of NC Board Action: AGAINST

**The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council strongly opposes CF-21-1300-S1**, Councilmember Buscaino and Councilmember Lee’s proposal to add a measure to the June 2022 Primary Nominating Election ballot that would prohibit encampments in all public spaces. We believe that Angelenos experiencing homelessness deserve permanent, supportive housing and services, not criminalization for their state of poverty. People living in encampments often have nowhere else to go, and already face immense hardships in their daily lives without the worry of being penalized for sleeping in a tent. There are a variety of reasons why someone experiencing homelessness may refuse the offer of temporary, restrictive housing or be labeled “service-resistant” including: concerns about relocating, unmanageable curfew hours that interfere with employment, not being allowed to have pets or visitors (including one’s own children), only being allowed to bring two bags of belongings, not receiving a key to their room, searches upon entering the premises, sexual harassment, bedbugs, and lack of autonomy in housing decisions. None of these reasons warrant arrest, citation, or imprisonment, which is exactly what unhoused Angelenos currently face under ordinance 41.18, and would experience more drastically under a full anti-encampment law.

Criminalization and incarceration are inhumane, costly, and short-sighted reactions to a complex issue which requires compassionate, thoughtful and long-term solutions. As stated in the motion, only 15 permanent supportive housing projects have been placed in service, with 95 still in various stages of pre-development, permitting and construction due to the 3-5 year development schedule. The motion also admits that while the most recent count of homeless residents in 2020 identified approximately 41,000 individuals experiencing homelessness, there are only 4,300 new interim housing beds. Most of the unhoused population simply have no place to go. The precious resources we have must be dedicated to creating humane supportive transitional and permanent housing, and not on criminalization.

Further, the motion is fundamentally unlawful. The *Martin v. Boise* decision explicitly states cities cannot enforce anti-camping ordinances if they do not have enough homeless shelter beds available for their homeless population based on the court’s determination that it is both cruel and unusual punishment. This motion aims to bypass the Ninth Circuit’s ruling by pursuing an aggressive and ineffective enforcement strategy with the knowledge that there is not enough housing for these individuals, which is unlawful. Placing a ballot measure to upend the law is politically craven and could make the city liable to millions of dollars in lawsuits, further ravaging our city’s approach to homelessness.

Four unhoused Angelenos die every day on average and homelessness affects Black, brown, and transgender people disproportionately. This is an equity issue and a human rights issue. One in four unhoused people is a veteran. Alleviating homelessness is only possible with a policy shift to create more permanent, supportive housing and services and humane transitional housing, not via criminal prosecution and sweeps which merely force unhoused people to move to a different block.

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council urges the Los Angeles City Councilmembers to vote against this motion.

Sincerely,

**The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council**

Vote Tally: