The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

11/16/20

Re: Council File: 20-1376: LA Alliance v City and County of Los Angeles / Martin v City of Boise / Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment

Position: Opposed unless Substituted

Dear Councilmembers,

The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council (EHNC) is strongly oppose any legislation that allows the city to ban sitting, sleeping, and lying: within 500 feet of freeways, ramps, and tunnels; within 500 feet of any facility opened after January 2018 that provides housing, shelter, services, safe parking, or storage to unhoused people; or that criminalizes storage of property in the areas listed above. We also request that you oppose legislation criminalizing the refusal of offers of shelter by city employees.

Our city is currently in a housing crisis. This has been made all too clear with the LAHSA report from earlier this year. Despite an increase in supportive housing, LA is experiencing an increase in people experiencing homelessness within the city. By passing the original motion or the amending motion (Blumenfield - Cedillo), the city is criminalizing being homeless, which will not only lead to an increase in sentencing, but an increase in violence against unhoused persons on the city's dime. This is unacceptable

We have seen first hand the damage done by the policies proposed in the revisions to 41.18 and 56.11. These changes, if implemented, will only exacerbate the suffering of people experiencing homelessness and slow the housing process. The loss of important documents and medications are inevitable when unhoused individuals are displaced, and this complicates and delays the progress towards placement in housing.

People experiencing homelessness already have a distrust of the system and the city, we cannot further this rift in our community by criminalizing their circumstances.

Therefore EHNC supports the substitute motion (Bonin - Ryu) that is attempting to address the housing and homelessness crisis by looking for solutions for our unhoused citizens rather than attempting to criminalize being unhoused. We strongly believe that we as a city and a community should be compassionately and creatively solving the housing and homelessness crisis.

Sincerely,

East Hollywood Neighborhood Council

CC:

Hon. Mitch O'Farrell Councilmember,
13th District Los Angeles
City Hall 200 N. Spring Street, Rm 480
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Hon. Nury Martinez City Council President
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Mayor Eric Garcetti
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