

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: (213) 978-1551

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|
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| Public Safety | TBD |

September 21, 2019

Mayor Eric Garcetti & the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CIS OPPOSING CF 19-0602-S1 LAMC 41.18

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) represents over 60,000 Los Angeles Stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in the neighborhood of Highland Park. We OPPOSE council file 19-0602-S1 the proposed amendment to Los Angeles Municipal Code section 41.18.

This ordinance does nothing to address the needs of our homeless neighbors. Instead, it further criminalizes and stigmatizes the homeless for simply resting in public space. We have numerous unhoused neighbors who have disabilities and have difficulty standing and walking. Many homeless people are unable to secure housing because of criminal backgrounds and this ordinance will make that the case for many more. Criminalization of people who are experiencing homelessness further burdens them and makes it exponentially more difficult to climb out of their current situation. This ordinance is not a viable solution. Our unhoused neighbors are part of our community and they deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion. Many homeless community members are vulnerable and have mental health complexities, are former foster youth and/or have been victims of abuse. This amendment goes against the mission of the City of Los Angeles which is to house the vulnerable and makes it more difficult for outreach workers to build rapport with those currently experiencing homelessness. Additionally, adopting more restrictions that are unenforceable is impractical and unnecessary.

We encourage the council to focus on supporting our homeless neighbors with resources such as job training/development, accessible pit stops, safe sleeping spaces and mobile medical services. As well as taking additional measures to prevent homelessness such as stronger protections for all tenants.

Sincerely,

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council