



westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

March 19, 2024

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman, CD 5
Hon. Heather Hutt, Councilwoman, CD 10
Hon. Nithya Raman, Councilmember, CD 4

Via email to all addressees

Re: **Request amendment of LAMC Sec. 41.18 to include restriction on dwelling in vehicles of all sizes and all forms of camping within 500 ft. of sensitive uses**

Dear Mayor Bass and Councilmembers Park, Yaroslavsky, Hutt and Raman:

As you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition, founded in 2009, of all fourteen neighborhood and community councils in CDs 5 and 11 and parts of CDS 10 and 4 in Los Angeles.

WRAC Member Council neighborhoods and other neighborhoods throughout the city have been impacted by increased dwelling in vehicles of all sizes near sensitive uses that are frequented by children and families, including libraries, parks, schools and day-care centers. These impacts and the ongoing efforts to address them have been widely publicized.

A prior citywide ban on vehicle dwelling (LAMC 85.02) expired in January 2020 and has not been extended. In 2022, WRAC adopted a position in support of prior Council File 14-1057-S9 (now expired), which called for amendment of LAMC 85.02 to provide for a ban on vehicle dwelling with some exceptions. WRAC's 2022 position letter in that CF explained:

"In recent years, a complete abdication of responsibility for basic vehicle dwelling regulations has led to a proliferation of RVs and other vehicles permanently parked in areas that have existing parking restrictions. Past ordinances that had reasonable and legal restrictions on locations and times vehicles used for dwelling could park have been left to lapse and in doing so the situation on our residential streets, in our protected wetlands, and in other areas with existing parking restrictions has deteriorated and neither those living in vehicles nor those living, working and recreating in these same areas wins. It is long past time the city revisit basic ordinances that apply equitably to all citizens." See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WRAC-CF-14-1057-S9.pdf>.

In January 2022, WRAC adopted its position supporting the use of LAMC Sec. 41.18 to designate sites near sensitive uses where camping in the public right of way is restricted, if individuals are first offered shelter and have refused the offer; we also adopted a specific position to apply 41.18 to restrict camping within 500 ft. of schools. See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WRAC-Homeless-Motions-Jan-2022.pdf>.

Although LAMC Sec. 41.18 was passed in 2022, WRAC has been advised that currently, City Council interprets the 41.18 restrictions to apply only to *camping / encampments* in the public right of way near sensitive uses, not to

vehicle dwelling. As such, there is effectively no protection in or near sensitive use areas from negative impacts of vehicle dwelling in the public right of way.

In light of these conditions and WRAC's prior adopted positions, a majority (8) of WRAC's Member Councils have now adopted the following motion (or taken a modified position in keeping with its spirit), which is accordingly the official position of WRAC:

“WRAC requests that the restriction in LAMC Sec. 41.18 on camping near sensitive uses be extended to expressly restrict dwelling in vehicles of all sizes as well as all forms of camping within 500 feet of sensitive uses, including libraries, parks, schools and day-care centers, and that Councilmembers representing WRAC Member Councils (CMs Park, Yaroslavsky, Raman and/or Hutt) bring a motion in City Council to amend LAMC 41.18 for this purpose.”

The following WRAC Member Councils have advised that they have adopted the above motion: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, Brentwood Community Council, Mar Vista Community Council, Neighborhood Council Westchester/Playa, Pacific Palisades Community Council* (**modified version*), West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council, Westside Neighborhood Council and Westwood Neighborhood Council.¹

WRAC therefore respectfully requests that at the earliest opportunity, Councilmembers representing WRAC Member Councils (Park, Yaroslavsky, Hutt and/or Raman) bring a motion in Council to amend LAMC Sec. 41.18 as requested above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz

Robin Greenberg, Chair, and Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

¹ Minority report: North Westwood Neighborhood Council has advised that it is opposed to the LAMC 41.18 policy and on March 6, 2024, voted (16-1-0) to oppose the above WRAC motion. No other WRAC Member Council has opposed this motion.