

Background – Proposed Motion to Oppose CF 21-0329-S5 (WRAC meeting 6/17/24)

See motion by Councilwoman Yaroslavsky in CF 21-0329-S5 (“the Yaroslavsky motion”) regarding LAMC Sec. 41.18 (ordinance regulating encampments in the PROW / public spaces in Los Angeles):

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0329-S5_misc_6-04-24.pdf

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=21-0329-S5>

See the CLA report in a related council file, stating that “LAPD believes that LAMC Sec. 41.18 and its subsections have an overwhelmingly positive impact on public safety” (5/31/24 CLA report, p. 7:

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0329-S4_rpt_CLA_5-31-24.pdf).

See Westside Current article about the Yaroslavsky motion:

<https://www.westsidecurrent.com/> (“Yaroslavsky Seeks Changes to LA Homelessness Ordinance”)

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/yaroslavsky-seeks-changes-to-la-homelessness-ordinance/article_3304f038-2403-11ef-891b-c3f5ef2c249d.html

LAMC Sec. 41.18 is strongly supported by WRAC.¹ Councilwoman Park and other Councilmembers have effectively utilized Sec. 41.18 in their Council Districts, with offers of housing and services, as a tool to allow for the reduction and removal of homeless encampments throughout their Districts, thus improving public health and safety and protecting the use of public spaces – especially spaces near sensitive uses such as schools, parks and libraries – for *all* constituents of the Districts.

In contrast, CW Yaroslavsky (CD 5) has been a vocal critic of Sec. 41.18, has declined to designate 41.18 sites in CD 5, and has voted against such designation requested by Councilmembers in other Council Districts, including in CD 11. A number of Westside community leaders have expressed concern that the Yaroslavsky motion would effectively eviscerate Sec. 41.18. Among the critical issues that have been identified:

- The Yaroslavsky motion fundamentally misconstrues the purpose of LAMC Sec. 41.18, which is *not* an ordinance intended to provide for homeless housing or to solve the issue of homelessness in Los Angeles; it is instead a tool that Councilmembers may use to improve the health and safety of public spaces and to protect the use of these spaces for all constituents.
- Sec. 41.18 provides for safe perimeters around sensitive uses such as schools, parks, day care centers, senior facilities, libraries and the like; it protects hardworking people who need to use public facilities.
- Keeping sidewalks accessible, especially for vulnerable people such as children, seniors using walkers, the disabled, etc., is a matter of basic public safety and common courtesy.
- The Yaroslavsky motion makes implementation of Sec. 41.18 unnecessarily and unreasonably complicated, thus substantially weakening if not eliminating the ordinance’s application and effectiveness.
- The Yaroslavsky motion calls for the needless involvement of county agencies in city policy.

WRAC member council Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has accordingly passed a motion opposing the Yaroslavsky motion and reiterating its support for LAMC Sec. 41.18. Chris Spitz/PPCC now brings this motion to the WRAC Board for consideration (item 7 on the 6/17/24 WRAC agenda). **BCC has also voted to oppose the Yaroslavsky motion:** see the BCC motion here: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/BCC-re-41.18-motion.pdf>.

*Prepared In connection with the 6/17/24 WRAC meeting,
by Chris Spitz*

¹ See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/WRAC-Letter-41.18-2.pdf> (further letter reiterating WRAC’s support for Sec. 41.18, filed in connection with an earlier Council File in which the CLA’s report back was submitted – CF 21-0329-S4/Yaroslavsky).