



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

June 5, 2024

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Paul Krekorian, President, Los Angeles City Council
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President Pro Tempore and President-elect, Los Angeles City Council;
Member, Council Housing & Homelessness Committee (HHC)
Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Assistant President Pro Tempore, Los Angeles City Council and Vice-Chair, HHC
Hon. Nithya Raman, Councilmember, CD 4 and Chair, HHC
Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman, CD 5
Hon. Heather Hutt, Councilwoman, CD 10

Via email to all addressees and submission to relevant council file

Re: CF # 21-0329-S4; support retention and continued application and enforcement of LAMC Sec. 41.18

Dear Mayor Bass, Council President Krekorian and Councilmembers Harris-Dawson, Blumenfield, Raman, Park, Yaroslavsky and Hutt:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, in Council Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Council Districts 4 and 10. Our Alliance represents over 500,000 housed and unhoused Angelenos.

Since January 2022, WRAC has taken multiple positions in support of the use of Sec. 41.18 (with offers of housing and services) to address encampments which threaten public health and safety in numerous public right of way (PROW) areas in our Westside neighborhoods. Specifically, we support 41.18 designation of PROW areas by our Councilmembers, in coordination with WRAC member councils; 41.18 designation of PROW areas near schools and libraries; and even extension of 41.18 to restrict vehicle dwelling in PROW areas near sensitive uses.¹

As explained in our letter of January 16, 2022 (linked in footnote 1 below):

“What is clear is that patience is running thin among our member Councils and stakeholders. While many of our Councils support proactive and logical solutions that have been long championed, the obvious crisis on our streets points to the need to balance compassion with the basic rule of law that should apply equally to all our stakeholders, housed and unhoused. The motions set forth below, calling for cooperation in designating sites under LAMC sec. 41.81, focusing on keeping areas around our schools clear of encampments, and a third supporting enforcement of ‘chop shops’ are common sense actions that can help keep our neighborhoods clean and safe and will allow neighbors to support more earnestly the long term solutions we all agree are needed.”

WRAC member councils appreciate that 41.18 has now been used effectively in several Westside areas to ease unsafe and unhealthy conditions and to assist our unhoused neighbors.

¹ See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WRAC-Homeless-Motions-Jan-2022.pdf>
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WRAC-letter-re-41.18-libraries.pdf>
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WRAC-Letter-Amend-41.18.pdf>

Page Two
June 5, 2024
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
To: Mayor Bass and Councilmembers

While WRAC’s member councils have not taken positions specific to the above Council File, based on our past positions in strong support of the use of LAMC Sec. 41.18 (with offers of housing and services), we respectfully urge that the City Council support retention of the ordinance and its continued application and enforcement, in the interest of public health and safety – at least until “long term solutions that we all agree are needed” are successfully implemented.²

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz

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

² WRAC continues to seek constructive dialogue towards achieving lasting solutions to the crisis. At this writing, members of the WRAC Homelessness Committee are scheduled to hold a special meeting on June 10 with key City and County officials (including CWs Park and Yaroslavsky, Deputy Mayor of Homelessness & Community Health Dr. Agonafer, LAHSA CEO Dr. Adams Kellum, and Supervisor Horvath’s Sr. Homelessness Deputy) to discuss the state of homelessness in Los Angeles, to obtain information and to support our public officials as they work in good faith to develop a logical, substantive and permanent solution.