



October 27, 2020

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers Martinez, Blumenfield, Bonin, Buscaino, Cedillo, De Leon, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, Krekorian, Lee, O'Farrell, Price, Rodriguez, Ryu, and Wesson,

**The NoHo Home Alliance Advocacy Table asks you to oppose the motion in Council file: 20-1376 and to focus on offering services, not location-based prosecution of people who have nowhere else to go.**

NoHo Home Alliance is a local nonprofit organization that advocates for the unhoused and solutions to homelessness. We mobilize residents to provide a community-based response to homelessness by providing a wide range of services for persons experiencing homelessness in the East San Fernando Valley. We offer a mailing address, document storage, meals, clothing, linkages with housing, medical care, mental health care and substance abuse care through our drop-in access centers in the East San Fernando Valley and our volunteer outreach teams.

We see 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 on the streets and slow the progress to housing the homeless. The loss of important documents and medications are inevitable when the homeless are displaced. This complicates and delays the progress towards placement in housing. As advocates, we know that:

- Location-based enforcement is harmful: The NoHo Home Alliance Advocacy Table opposes the criminalization of homelessness and the location-based enforcement as defined in the new draft ordinance language. We oppose provisions limiting where people may sit, lie or sleep and we believe they violate civil rights.
- Invest in services: We believe that enforced sweeps of encampments are ineffective and costly tools for addressing homelessness, and advocate for redirecting funding into increased and targeted service provision, especially residential mental health services, residential substance use treatment and supportive housing.
- Sweeps disrupt progress towards self-sufficiency: We know that enforcement efforts like sweeps that disperse persons experiencing homelessness are counterproductive to addressing homelessness: they disrupt service provision, lead to lost documents and other property that hamper persons experiencing homelessness from moving to greater self-sufficiency.

We know that the solution to homelessness is not enforcement. The solution to homelessness is providing housing and services. We are working on both. Please do not set us back by passing this revised ordinance.

Signed,

Stephanie Jaeger, Executive Director of NoHo Home Alliance ([stephanie@nohohome.org](mailto:stephanie@nohohome.org))

Andrew Silver, President of the Board of Directors of NoHo Home Alliance ([andrew@nohohome.org](mailto:andrew@nohohome.org))

The NoHo Home Alliance Advocacy Table