



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 23, 2017

ENGLANDER JOINS FELLOW COUNCILMEMBERS IN LEGISLATIVE EFFORT TO ADVANCE AND IMPROVE HOW LOS ANGELES ADDRESSES HOMELESSNESS

Councilmember Mitchell Englander joined members of the Los Angeles City Council today in co-presenting four motions designed to transform how the City of Los Angeles addresses the issue of homelessness.

“The voters of Los Angeles have made it clear that they expect more than simply managing the homelessness crisis, they want it fixed.” Councilmember Englander said. “If we are going to find a solution to the primary issue impacting safety and livability in our neighborhoods, we need to make full use of every tool available. This legislative package takes a comprehensive look at current rules and methods so that we can maximize their efficacy and improve quality of life for all of our City’s residents.”

The first motion, co-presented with Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, would formalize the HOPE Team as a permanent function of the LAPD. The HOPE Team, or Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement unit, is often the first and primary point of contact between unsheltered individuals and the City. Their service and experience are an irreplaceable asset as we seek to understand the best methods and means to address the homelessness crisis.

The second motion, co-presented with Councilmember Joe Buscaino, asks for current HOPE team members to report to Council on their experiences regarding the application and enforcement of LAMC 56.11 which regulates the placement of personal belongings in the public right of way.

The third motion, co-presented with Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, asks for current HOPE team members to report to Council on their experiences regarding the application and enforcement of LAMC 85.02 which regulates dwelling in personal vehicles on public streets.

The fourth motion, co-presented with Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, asks LADOT and the City Attorney to report back on the adoption of rules and regulations concerning the use of Recreational Vehicles (RVs) on public streets. Specifically, the motion seeks a report on processes for permitting, restricting, or banning their use on public streets based on ordinances adopted by neighboring municipalities.

Homelessness in the City of Los Angeles has been at crisis proportions for years. To address the issue in CD12, Councilmember Englander launched the Neighborhoods FIRST initiative. This two-pronged effort leads with compassion to remove barriers to housing and employment for people currently experiencing homelessness while working to prevent those on the edges from slipping into the homeless population. The second prong aims to improve the tools available to communities to alleviate the impacts of homelessness on neighborhoods. This legislation is based on information gathered during the development of the Neighborhoods FIRST initiative.

Copies of today’s motions are attached.

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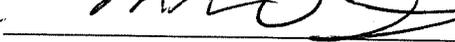
MOTION

The homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles has reached proportions that none of us have previously seen in our lifetimes. Solving this issue will involve commitment from all possible partners working on many fronts, in coordination. Neighborhoods FIRST is a two-pronged effort that leads with compassion to remove barriers to housing and employment for people currently experiencing homelessness while working to prevent those on the edges from slipping into the homeless population. The second prong aims to improve the tools available to communities to alleviate the impacts of homelessness on neighborhoods.

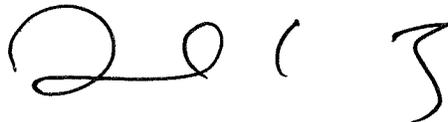
In May 2016, the LAPD launched as a pilot project its first Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) team in the San Fernando Valley. The program was rolled out Citywide soon after and consists of 10 officers and 1 Sergeant in each of the four LAPD Bureaus. The team pairs specially trained LAPD officers with outreach workers to proactively identify homeless encampments and connect those residents to services in real time. The teams also work hand in hand with the City's Bureau of Sanitation to enforce the City's ordinances pertaining to public spaces and to ensure those spaces are kept sanitary and in order. The HOPE teams have been responsible for initiating outreach with thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the City of Los Angeles. In addition to the outreach efforts, HOPE teams alongside LASAN have been responsible for thousands of tons of trash, and thousands of pounds of hazardous materials being removed from City streets. Given the homelessness crisis that the City of Los Angeles is facing, the LAPD HOPE teams are an essential tool in the City's mission to end homelessness. Currently, HOPE teams are categorized as a special detail and not a regular unit of the Department like Detectives or Patrol. The benefits the HOPE teams have provided the communities of Los Angeles are immeasurable and should be a permanent fixture of the department.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department report back to the Public Safety Committee with the steps necessary to regularize the HOPE teams as a permanent unit within the LAPD.

PRESENTED BY 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

CO-PRESENTED BY: 
SECONDED BY: 

August 23, 2017



MOTION

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LAMC Section 56.11 regulates the storage of personal property in the public right of way. The ordinance was enacted to create a balance of the needs of the public to access clean and sanitary public areas consistent with their intended uses and those of individuals, who have no other alternatives for the storage of personal property, to retain access to a limited amount of personal property in public areas. Enforcement for Section 56.11 falls under the jurisdiction of the LAPD as well as the Bureau of Sanitation.

The LAPD H.O.P.E. teams and the Bureau of Sanitation have been primarily responsible for the enforcement of Section 56.11. It is important to hear directly from the H.O.P.E. teams as well as the Bureau of Sanitation as to the successes or failures of Section 56.11. An overall understanding of the net effects of the ordinance is crucial for our communities and for future enforcement efforts as it pertains to public spaces. Additionally, it is critical to hear from the departments themselves as to any possible suggestions that may improve the ordinance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department, specifically the LAPD H.O.P.E. teams and the Bureau of Sanitation be directed to report to the Public Safety Committee on the net effect that LAMC Section 56.11 has had on Los Angeles City communities including an overview of which aspects of the ordinance have worked, which aspects have not worked as well as suggestions the LAPD H.O.P.E. teams or the Bureau of Sanitation may have in improving the ordinance, going forward.

CO-PRESENTED BY



MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

CO-PRESENTED BY



JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY



August 23, 2017

MOTION

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The provisions of the new LAMC Section 85.02 became effective on Saturday, January 7, 2017 and will expire on July 1, 2018 unless extended by ordinance. Section 85.02 states that No person shall use a vehicle for dwelling between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. on any residential street or at any time within a one block radius of any edge of a lot containing a park or a licensed school, pre-school or daycare facility. The LAPD has been primarily responsible for enforcement of LAMC Section 85.02.

LAMC Section 85.02 has been enforceable for over six months now and the LAPD in general and the LAPD H.O.P.E. teams specifically, have been primarily responsible for the enforcement of Section 85.02. Given the sunset of this ordinance, it is important to hear directly from the LAPD and the H.O.P.E. teams as to the effects of Section 85.02 including successes, failures or possible changes that may be required. An overall understanding of the net effects of the ordinance to date is crucial for future enforcement. Additionally, it is important to hear possible suggestions that may improve section 85.02.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department, specifically the LAPD H.O.P.E. teams, be directed to report to the Public Safety Committee on the net effect that LAMC Section 85.02 has had on Los Angeles City communities, an overview of which aspects of the ordinance have worked and which aspects have not worked as well as suggestions the LAPD may have for improving the ordinance, going forward.

CO-PRESENTED BY


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

CO-PRESENTED BY


MÓNICA RODRÍGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY



August 23, 2017

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

The homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles has reached proportions that none of us have previously seen in our lifetimes. Solving this issue will involve commitment from all possible partners working on many fronts, in coordination. Neighborhoods FIRST is a two-pronged effort that leads with compassion to remove barriers to housing and employment for people currently experiencing homelessness while working to prevent those on the edges from slipping into the homeless population. The second prong aims to improve the tools available to communities to alleviate the impacts of homelessness on neighborhoods.

As a result of the rise in homelessness, there is also an increase of people living in oversized/recreational vehicles (RVs). The presence of oversized/recreational vehicles (RVs) is a recurring issue among resident parking complaints due to the issues of reduced roadway space for motorists (especially on narrow streets), oversized vehicles occupying multiple parking spaces, and safety concerns regarding line of sight of approaching traffic at intersections and driveways.

To address these concerns, on June 29, 2010, the Council approved an ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 80.69.4 to revise the definition of oversize vehicles and to establish a procedure to investigate and determine whether the parking of such vehicles between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on designated City streets is prohibited (C.F. 09-3036). The procedure authorizes the Council, by resolution, to designate the streets upon which the parking of oversize vehicles shall be restricted between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Since 2010, countless resolutions have been approved to restrict the parking of oversize vehicles on streets throughout the City. When oversize parking restriction signs are installed, however, the vehicles often move to nearby streets until they are also posted. Communities continue to experience a proliferation of these vehicles and the current program has provided a piece-meal approach to the problem. Over the past several years, neighboring cities such as Long Beach, Calabasas and Santa Clarita have restricted the parking of oversized vehicles on City streets without proper permits. It is important for the City of Los Angeles explore other local programs to address this important quality of life issue.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Council instruct the Department of Transportation, in coordination with the City Attorney, to report with an analysis of the best practices and ordinances of other local municipalities regarding the permitting, restricting, and/or banning RV parking on public streets.

MST

CO-PRESENTED BY: 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

CO-PRESENTED BY: 
BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: 