



February 2, 2018

Council File 18-0002-S11

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring St. Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members,

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) hereby submits this letter as a Community Impact Statement to be added to Council File 18-0002-S11 with additional comments concerning the mental health and safety crisis overtaking many of our stakeholders experiencing homelessness.

As noted in the Resolution preceding Council File 18-0002-S11 “issues of mental illness and mental healthcare are closely intertwined with the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles and there are individuals in such dire need of health and/or mental health care that their lives are in jeopardy”. A multitude of observed dangerous behaviors in Downtown Los Angeles - such as walking into ongoing traffic, or verbal escalations – have place all stakeholder’s lives in jeopardy. No one understands the severity of this like our stakeholders.

DLANC is in support of the proposal to change the definition of “gravely disabled” as “a condition in which a person, as result of a mental health disorder, is unable to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment where the lack of or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or death” and the sponsoring of appropriate legislation that would amend this definition while maintaining protections for an individual’s rights.

While the County is the primary jurisdiction responsible for the delivery of mental health services, we strongly implore the City to keep this issue tightly within its interest so that the delivery of such services will be effective, sustainable, and more expansive to treat those in most dire need and most present danger.

In fact, the community urges the City to further expand its interests and revisit issues of conservatorship and involuntary commitment to ensure we are considering both individual and collective rights to humane quality of life.

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