



January 13, 2015

Council File 14-1062

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

Dear Honorable Members,

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 14-1062, regarding prohibition on camping and use of tents in City parks.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) supports the proposed amendment to Subdivision 4 of Subsection D of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (which clarifies the prohibition on camping and the use of tents within all City parks), on the condition that the proposed amendment be further revised to expressly exclude application of the ordinance to inhibit the Right to Assemble, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The proposed amendment to Subdivision 4 of Subsection D of the Los Angeles Municipal Code restricts the use of tents and other camping activities within City parks. Unregulated camping and tents in City parks may create unnecessary, excessive and blighted activity which is detrimental to public health, welfare and safety, and contrary to public interest. In addition, it may harm nearby residents and diminishes the public’s enjoyment and use of City parks for recreational purposes. The proposed ordinance as currently drafted, however, may be broadly interpreted and applied to inhibit the Right to Assemble because there is no exception for such activity. Accordingly, DLANC requests that the proposed ordinance be further revised to expressly exclude application of the ordinance to inhibit the Right to Assemble (so long as it does not fall within the definition of “camping,” as defined in the proposed amendment), as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the action taken at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on October 14, 2014, when the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion by a vote of ___ yes, ___ no, ___ abstaining and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

Motion: “The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council supports the proposed amendment to Subdivision 4 of Subsection D of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (which clarifies the prohibition on camping and the use of tents within all City parks), on the

condition that the proposed amendment be further revised to expressly exclude application of the ordinance to inhibit the Right to Assemble, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.”

Sincerely,

Patricia Berman
DLANC President

Sincerely,

Eric R. Garcia
DLANC Community Impact Committee Chair