



Councilmember Jose Huizar
Council District 14
200 N. Spring Street, Room 465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

March 17, 2016

Re: Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) 56.11

Dear Councilmember Huizar,

On behalf of the Building Owners and Managers of Greater L.A., I would like to express our support for the Public Works and Gang Reduction (PWGR) Committee's Alternative B which, as amended, provides greater flexibility regarding the deconstruction of tents during business hours.

BOMA/GLA has worked hard during the last several years to play a constructive role in the dialogue regarding the humane treatment of the homeless. We have worked closely with LAPD, the Sheriff's Department, the Downtown Center BID, Central City Association and Shelter Partnership to develop an information sheet for owners and tenants regarding the rights of the homeless. This flyer also includes information on homeless services and volunteer opportunities to improve the lives of this part of our community.

BOMA believes it is important that the ordinance encourage as much voluntary compliance as possible from homeless individuals to deconstruct their tents daily between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The City has limited resources in both the Los Angeles Police Department and the Bureau of Sanitation Environmental Compliance Officers (ECOs) and they need to be used effectively.

The ordinance the City Attorney transmitted to the PWGR committee only leads to a violation if a person refuses to remove a tent and obstructs removal. This would require the continued involvement of LAPD, which is not practical or the best use of resources. It also does not meet the City's goal of decriminalizing homelessness.

The ordinance as amended by the PWGR committee issues a violation if a person refuses to deconstruct a tent or obstructs removal. This version of the ordinance is more likely to be enforced and allows ECOs to conduct spot- checks across the City and ask for tents to be deconstructed, if necessary. This will encourage voluntary compliance with daily tent deconstruction, which should be the City's goal.

With this amended ordinance, the City has the ability to promote healthy and clean communities and effectively balance the interests of property owners and homeless individuals. We urge your support of this important amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Cox-Nitikman".

Martha Cox-Nitikman
Vice President, Public Policy