

Community Impact Statement Recommendation

To: Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Board

From: Government Liaison Committee

Date Approved by Committee: 28 October 2021

For Board Consideration on: 9 November 2021

Re: Council File 21-0773 - Wire Basket Trash Receptacles/Homeless Encampments/Sanitation Crisis/Public Spaces

Motion or Recommendation of the committee:

The Government Liaison Committee recommends a **For** vote on CF 21-0773.

For	X	Against unless amended	
For if amended		No Position	
Against		Neutral Position	

Committee Vote Count: Five (5) Yes; Zero (0) No; Zero (0) Abstain

Summary:

The Council File directs the Bureau of Sanitation to report back within 60 days laying out the resources—including, but not limited to, personnel, equipment, and materials—that would be required to place wire basket trash receptacles at all homeless encampments in the City of Los Angeles made up of three or more tents and to regularly service those receptacles every three to four days. The report should also include recommendations for the implementation of a homeless encampment trash receptacle program that will accomplish these goals.

MOTION

Along with an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles, a corresponding sanitation crisis has unfolded in public spaces across our city—a direct result of insufficient sanitation services available to people experiencing homelessness.

Many individuals experiencing homelessness, including at some large encampments, do not have access to nearby trash receptacles where waste can be thrown away. Informal trash piles are created for lack of other options—sometimes attracting illegal dumping from outside an encampment, which further worsen sanitation issues.

A lack of regularly-serviced receptacles creates dangerous, unsanitary conditions for pedestrians, neighbors, and especially for residents of encampments, who are put at risk of fires and disease due to the presence of large quantities of refuse and hazardous waste nearby.

Currently, there are approximately 400 regularly serviced, wire-bin trash receptacles dedicated to homeless encampments around the City. The coming fiscal year’s budget has allocated funding to the Bureau of Sanitation to place 1000 additional standalone trash receptacles on our streets, but it is unclear how many of these will be wire bins specifically installed for the benefit of persons experiencing homelessness.

Prioritizing trash disposal resources at as many encampments as possible will make our public spaces healthier, safer, and cleaner for all—and it will help facilitate the building of trust between unhoused residents and City workers, which is essential for helping navigate people into safe and stable housing options.

Public spaces all across Los Angeles will benefit from the presence of adequate trash receptacles easily accessible by persons experiencing homelessness. As our City develops sufficient housing and treatment resources to bring people into stability and care, we have an obligation to provide regular services that will improve the conditions for all.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Bureau of Sanitation to report back within 60 days laying out the resources—including, but not limited to, personnel, equipment, and materials—that would be required to place wire basket trash receptacles at all homeless encampments in the City of Los Angeles made up of three or more tents and to regularly service those receptacles every three to four days. The report should also include recommendations for the implementation of a homeless encampment trash receptacle program that will accomplish these goals.

PRESENTED BY:


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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