Hi Patricia,

Thank you for your email. I apologize in advance for the length of this email - your point is one that touches on a complicated issue and I wanted to make sure to be clear in my response to you and the VNC board whom you CCed. As Councilmember Bonin's Venice-area Field Deputy, I see and experience the issues facing our community every day and I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to write me about LAMC 41.18, the city law that seeks to prohibit sitting, lying and sleeping in public areas. I assure you that Councilmember Bonin and every member of his staff shares your goal of a safe and clean Venice, and I understand how frustrating it can be to know that there are technically laws on the books that could help clean up the area, only to know that those laws are not being enforced.

As I am sure you are well aware, homeless encampments are growing throughout Los Angeles, and the situation is particularly acute in Venice, where encampments tend to be close to residences. The VSA has called for greater enforcement of several laws to address the situation, but as VSA leadership is well aware, the courts have restricted (and in some cases prohibited) the city’s enforcement of those ordinances.  In a variety of cases regarding a series of City ordinances, the courts have said the City cannot enforce certain laws regarding homeless encampments unless and until the city provides significantly more housing, shelter, resources and services.

The situation with LAMC 41.18 is the most clear. In 2006, in the case of Jones v City of Los Angeles, a federal court ruled that it was “cruel and unusual” punishment to prohibit people from sleeping on public sidewalks if the city did not have sufficient housing and shelter. As a result, the City entered into an agreement with the court, making it legal to sleep on a public sidewalk between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. You can read the full ruling yourself [here](http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-9th-circuit/1490887.html) and the resulting settlement [here](http://wetnostril.homestead.com/JonesSettlement.html).

Similarly, the City has lost cases regarding how it deals with personal belongings on the sidewalks. In order to comply with judicial rulings, the City recently rewrote its ordinance regarding cleaning up sidewalks and public rights of way.  The new ordinance, which you can read [here](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2014/14-1656-S1_misc_1_01-22-2016.pdf), recently went into effect and new multi-jurisdictional team, composed of LAPD, Bureau of Sanitation, and social service agencies will begin enforcing it in early August.

Even with the new ordinance and the new task force, the problem of encampments will continue – unless and until the City of Los Angeles does what the courts have repeatedly said it must do – provide more housing, shelters, and resources to people who are homeless. Those who call for greater enforcement of existing laws while opposing efforts to provide more housing and resources cause the problem to continue, and cause the problem to get worse. That continued approach is a direct threat to our neighborhoods.

Councilman Bonin is determined to help us resolve these problems by offering a comprehensive plan to address homelessness by recognizing that we can’t tell people they cannot sleep on sidewalks unless we provide housing as an alternative; we cannot easily remove personal belongings from our sidewalks unless we provide free and easily accessible storage, and we cannot prohibit vehicular living on our streets unless we provide alternative places for people to park.

Councilman Bonin is the architect of a series of thoughtful and solution-oriented proposals, both citywide and specific to Venice. VSA has opposed almost all of them.  You can read the entire citywide strategy, which the councilman helped craft,[here](http://homeforgoodla.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/City-Comprehensive-Plan_2016.pdf).  You can read his Venice-specific proposals [here](http://www.11thdistrict.com/venice_homelessness_plan).  You can read his proposal for vehicular living (which prohibits living in a vehicle in front of homes and schools, while creating safe parking zones) [here](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2014/14-1057_rpt_hp_06-22-16.pdf).  And you can read the LA Times endorsements of the councilman’s proposals [here](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-0421-venice-homeless-plans-20160421-story.html) and [here](http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-lopez-encampments-20160521-snap-story.html), as well as the Argonaut’s endorsement [here](http://argonautnews.com/venice-forward-moves-in-the-right-direction/).  These kind of proposals will genuinely address homelessness, and begin to restore the city's legal authority to enforce its laws.  If you want to see a cleaner and safer Venice, [I ask that you sign up today to support Councilmember Bonin's plan as it navigates the legislative process](http://www.11thdistrict.com/support_the_venice_plan), and that you reach out to your friends and neighbors to encourage them to do the same.

Thank you again for taking the time to write me about this incredibly important issue. I sincerely appreciate your partnership in our shared work to put neighborhoods first in Venice and to make the community the best it can be.

I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Regards,
Taylor

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **P Larsen** <larsen1070@yahoo.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 23, 2016 at 2:14 PM
Subject: LAMC41.18(d)
To: "board@venicenc.org" <board@venicenc.org>, "venicestakeholders@ca.rr.com" <venicestakeholders@ca.rr.com>, Mike Bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>, "tricia.keane@lacity.org" <tricia.keane@lacity.org>

    As a long-time Venice homeowner, I support immediate enforcement of the law.  I support the VSA resolution to reinstate LAMC 41.18.

Please act on this immediately.

Patricia Larsen  larsen1070@yahoo.com

310-396-9826

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| ogo5-web.png | **Taylor Bazley***Field Deputy: Venice, OFW, Silver Strand, Marina Peninsula*Councilmember Mike BoninCity of Los Angeles310-575-8461 | [www.11thdistrict.com](http://www.11thdistrict.com/)acebook Button.pngwitter button.png [**Sign Up for Mike's Email Updates**](http://www.11thdistrict.com/sign_up) |