

LAW AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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Law and Legislation Committee

City Hall-Council Chamber

915 I Street, 1st Floor

Published by the Office of the City Clerk

(916) 808-5163

FINAL CORRESPONDENCE

Description of Attached: Correspondence received after Agenda was published.

For the Meeting of: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item: Discussion Item 6

6. Ordinance Amending Chapter 12.24 of the Sacramento City Code Relating to Sidewalk Obstructions and Pedestrian Interference

File ID: 2022-01224

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: 1) Review an Ordinance amending Chapter 12.24 of the Sacramento City Code relating to Sidewalk Obstructions and Pedestrian Interference; and 2) pass a **Motion** forwarding the Ordinance to City Council for consideration.

Contact: Susana Alcala Wood, City Attorney, (916) 808-5346,

sawood@cityofsacramento.org; Michael J. Benner, Senior Deputy City Attorney,

(916) 808-5346, mbenner@cityofsacramento.org, Office of the City Attorney

From: [amsquared](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: City code amendment
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:27:48 PM

Hello, my name is Ann Murphy. I'm a member of MESA. I support the city code amendment of sidewalk obstruction and pedestrian interference.

I strongly believe having a safe path to walk on a sidewalk is important for both the homeless community and local residents. However, there also needs to be a safe environment on our streets without crime and biohazard everywhere. This city has gone downhill and needs to be cleaned up.

Sincerely,
Ann Murphy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Lorraine Garrison](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Clear streets/ #6
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:11:03 PM

I am a resident and parent of Midtown Sacramento and I strongly support any ordinance to get our streets and sidewalks, bike lanes, walkways clear for our children to be able to walk to school safely as well as ride bikes safely. Our rights to a safe and healthy quality of life has diminished greatly. Please create safe routes for Sacramento residents. Thank you- LG
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Angela Schrimp de la Vergne](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comment for Agenda Item No. 6
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 11:32:35 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to voice my support of the proposed amendment to the Sacramento City Code addressing sidewalk obstructions and pedestrian interference. I am a resident of midtown where I have lived with my family for over 20 years. We have three children two of whom will be attending Sutter Middle School in the fall. I would very much like them to be able to walk or bike to school, but I am very concerned that the blocked sidewalks under the freeway will prevent them from being able to do so safely. The lands of traffic under the overpasses extend all the way to the sidewalk – there are no bike lanes or other buffers. At the present time, the unhoused population living in that area is taking up the entire sidewalk, which forces pedestrians into the lane of traffic. I know this well because I run under the freeway multiple times each week and have to leave the sidewalk when I go under the freeway. I am very concerned about my 12-year-old twins having to do this during times of heavy traffic in the afternoon or in the early mornings when drivers are focused on getting to work and are not expecting to find pedestrians in the street. I strongly believe that we have to both create safe spaces for our unhoused population while not jeopardizing the safety of our entire population. The proposed amendment is a good step towards doing so.

Sincerely,
Angela de la Vergne
916-806-3414

From: [Jamie Jun](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: In Regards to Agenda Item #6 on June 21st, 2022
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:47:15 PM

Dear Law and Legislation Committee,

My name is Jamie Jun and I am a resident of Sacramento. I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Item #6, the ordinance amending Chapter 12.24 of Sacramento City Code. I am very concerned how this ordinance will further criminalize and punish our unhoused community members without addressing the root problem of our ongoing homelessness crisis: the lack of affordable housing or safe shelters.

This ordinance will neither improve the “quality of life” for city residents or businesses nor provide any meaningful relief for our unhoused neighbors. Under current city code, sidewalks and entrances are already protected and require unhoused people to shift their belongings to allow free passage. Adding the threat of criminal punishment as a misdemeanor will not only fail to deter camping in these areas, but it will worsen the homelessness crisis by exacerbating unhoused people’s economic instability and making it harder to qualify for available housing. Where are the city and county services that will help folks blocking our sidewalks and entrances? How is putting them in deeper debt or an overcrowded jail cell doing anything to address homelessness?

Being homeless is not a crime, but this ordinance will further criminalize the unhoused population – who are disproportionately comprised of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color – and expose them to violence from its enforcement. When the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors declared racism as a public health crisis in November 2020, it called on all its 7 cities to acknowledge how surveillance, over-policing, and mass incarceration have disproportionately impacted the health and well-being of Black communities and other communities of color and take steps to reverse it. As noted in the recent report from California’s Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations for African Americans, Sacramento also has a moral obligation – as both the state capitol and the county’s largest city – to reverse the written and unwritten policies that created the deep-seated racial and economic inequities that have left Black people (13% of the county population) comprising 40% of the state and county’s unhoused population and 40% of its jail population.

This ordinance will not heal our city and it certainly does not keep us safe. Please vote NO on this ordinance and focus your efforts to tackle the root problem in homelessness.

Sincerely,

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Jamie Jun (she/her)

From: [Palmer, Claire](#)
To: [Jay Schenirer](#); [Eric Guerra](#); [Jeff S. Harris](#); [Katie Valenzuela \(City\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Item six comment for law and leg 6/21
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 1:07:08 PM

Homelessness is not a problem located in individual failures, but rather a consequence of limited tenants rights and a rampant housing crisis in this city. Criminalizing homeless people for using public spaces does not bring anyone closer to housing. Your discomfort in seeing poverty pales in comparison to the discomfort of people living on the street. If you are interested in ending homelessness you must address the root causes, not blame individual. If you are interested in criminalizing homelessness, ask yourself why you wish you criminalize being poor in public.

Measures like this roll back the rights of the people to enjoy the commons by either a.) eliminating the commons or b) only allowing property owners to enjoy the commons. There is increasingly nowhere people are allowed to be poor in public in this city. This measure reckons back to universally condemned measures like the "ugly laws" of the late 19th and 20th century. Stop criminalizing people who have little control over their material conditions and actually do your job to solve the housing crisis and build tenants' rights in this city.

Claire Palmer

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Courtney Poole](#)
To: [Jay Schenirer](#); [Eric Guerra](#); [Jeff S. Harris](#); [Katie Valenzuela \(City\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Law & Legislation Committee Public Comment on Agenda Item 6
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 11:58:58 AM

Dear Law and Legislation Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on Item #6, the ordinance amending Chapter 12.24 of Sacramento City Code. I am very concerned how this ordinance will further criminalize and punish our unhoused community members without addressing the root problem of our ongoing homelessness crisis: the lack of affordable housing or safe shelters.

This ordinance will neither improve the “quality of life” for city residents or businesses nor provide any meaningful relief for our unhoused neighbors. Under current city code, sidewalks and entrances are already protected and require unhoused people to shift their belongings to allow free passage. Adding the threat of criminal punishment as a misdemeanor will not only fail to deter camping in these areas, but it will worsen the homelessness crisis by exacerbating unhoused people’s economic instability and making it harder to qualify for available housing. Where are the city and county services that will help folks blocking our sidewalks and entrances? How is putting them in deeper debt or an overcrowded jail cell doing anything to address homelessness?

Being homeless is not a crime, but this ordinance will further criminalize the unhoused population – who are disproportionately comprised of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color – and expose them to violence from its enforcement. When the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors declared racism as a public health crisis in November 2020, it called on all its 7 cities to acknowledge how surveillance, over-policing, and mass incarceration have disproportionately impacted the health and well-being of Black communities and other communities of color and take steps to reverse it. As noted in the recent report from California’s Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations for African Americans, Sacramento also has a moral obligation – as both the state capitol and the county’s largest city – to reverse the written and unwritten policies that created the deep-seated racial and economic inequities that have left Black people (13% of the county population) comprising 40% of the state and county’s unhoused population and 40% of its jail population.

This ordinance will not heal our city and it certainly does not keep us safe. Please vote NO on this ordinance and focus your efforts to tackle the root problem in homelessness.

Sincerely,

Courtney Poole
818-620-5125

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Linda Keating](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Keeping sidewalks clear
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 10:00:01 AM

I strongly support the efforts to keep sidewalks clear so they are open for people to safely walk, bike, push a stroller and or use a wheelchair. I commend you on the recent cleanup of the under passes between Mid-town and East Sac. Hopefully, they will remain clear. I did need to use the H street underpass on Thur 6/16. While there were no people present, there was bedding obstructing clear passage.

While those walking can easily bypass, remember those with strollers or wheel chairs cannot.

Thank you for your concerns.

Linda Keating
East Sac

From: [Ritz Harley Tolentino](#)
To: [Jay Schenirer](#)
Subject: Please VOTE NO on Item #6
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 9:18:36 AM

Dear Law and Legislation Committee,

I am writing to urge you to **vote NO on Item #6, the ordinance amending Chapter 12.24 of Sacramento City Code**. I am very concerned about how this ordinance will further criminalize and punish our unhoused community members without addressing the root problem of our ongoing homelessness crisis: the lack of affordable housing or safe shelters. I work at the Willow Clinic in Sacramento, where we provide free medical services to the homeless population. I see first hand the devastating harms that homelessness inflicts on people not only in their health, but also in other aspects of their life.

This ordinance will neither improve the “quality of life” for city residents or businesses nor provide any meaningful relief for our unhoused neighbors. Under current city code, sidewalks and entrances are already protected and require unhoused people to shift their belongings to allow free passage. Adding the threat of criminal punishment as a misdemeanor will not only fail to deter camping in these areas, but it will worsen the homelessness crisis by exacerbating unhoused people’s economic instability and making it harder to qualify for available housing. Where are the city and county services that will help folks blocking our sidewalks and entrances? How is putting them in deeper debt or an overcrowded jail cell doing anything to address homelessness?

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This ordinance will not heal our city and it certainly does not keep us safe. Please vote NO on this ordinance and focus your efforts to tackle the root problem in homelessness.

Sincerely,

Ritz Tolentino

Student Volunteer
Health Education and Advocacy Committee Co-Head
Mind and Wellness Committee Co-Head
Willow Clinic in Sacramento
1200 N B St, Sacramento, CA 95814
<https://www.willowclinic.org/>

From: patbaron@comcast.net
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Sidewalk ordinance
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 11:16:40 AM

I support the City Code amendment of sidewalk obstructions and pedestrian interference.

Patricia Baron
322 35th Street
Sacramento 95816

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Christopher Murphy](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Sidewalk
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:27:45 PM

I strongly support the sidewalk ordinance. After years of inaction, this small step hopefully is the beginning of a larger effort to remove homeless people from public property.

Thank you
Chris
East Sacramento

Sent from my iPhone