

BRIDGE BEYOND OPPOSES LOS ANGELES CODE 41.18

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On Wednesday July 28th, 2021, the Los Angeles (LA) City Council voted 13-2 in favor of passing Ordinance 41.18 which prevents individuals from camping or leaving personal belongings in public areas throughout the city such as, "overpasses, underpasses, freeway ramps, tunnels, bridges, pedestrian bridges, subways, washes, spreading grounds, or active railways."

Bridge Beyond firmly opposes this decision by the LA City Council as it infringes on the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness. Although the LA City has "dedicated" \$955 million dollars to help displaced individuals, they have enacted an ordinance that would effectively make homelessness illegal in the city. The LA City Council has also failed to provide adequate support for the projected displacement of individuals throughout LA, a city that can only shelter 39% of its houseless population, leaving the other 61% without a place to go. Supporters of this ordinance have quoted that it will, "help to establish passable sidewalks." Those supporters have chosen the well being of a city's infrastructure and making "passable sidewalks," over basic human rights.

Public Health researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) have created a map showing how ordinance 41.18 will make over 40% of areas that houseless individuals could be using, off limits. When cities choose to enact draconian laws that target houseless individuals to "beautify" its city, they forget that they were the ones to place these individuals in this situation in the first place. Rising housing costs, gentrification, and a lack of supportive programs for houseless individuals shows that cities like LA are not willing to divert the proper resources or power to helping these individuals.

With the end of the eviction moratorium, cities across the U.S. will see a large increase in displaced individuals. Should other cities adopt ordinances similar to the LA City Council, houseless individuals will become more at risk to incarceration, exposure to the Delta Variant, vulnerability to rises in heat waves, and more. Cities across the U.S. need to take steps and work with local organizers to better support individuals experiencing homelessness.

We as members of Bridge Beyond recognize that we are not affecting change in LA communities at this time. However, we encourage those who support us to consider donating to organizations located in LA working to help those experiencing homelessness listed below:

[Street Watch LA](#)

[KTown For All](#)

[MutualAidLA](#)

[Los Angeles Community Action Network \(LA CAN\)](#)

[People's City Council- Los Angeles](#)

[Polo's Pantry in L.A.](#)

[Miss Rodgers' Neighborhood](#)

