

City Council Special Meeting

July 29, 2024

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



E-Comment / Public Comment Packet

ITEM(S)

(ID 24-1032) Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

Contents of Supplement: E-comments and public comment emails

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

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2024 JUL 29 A 10:14
CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Susan Mac

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 6:46 PM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Dan Waterhouse submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: Absolutely farcical. I am opposed to this nonsense. I noted that during the news conference Councilmember Bredefeld made threats towards the needle exchange program. I suggest he do some research into state law and the legality of needle exchange programs statewide. Fresno's exchange is a legal operation that can not be touched by him or the rest of the Board of Supervisors.

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Susan Mac

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 11:22 PM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Taylor Heine submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: This should not be a thing that exists ever. We should protect our community members not actively spend money arresting them and making it harder for them. Fining a homeless person makes zero sense. Obviously they won't be able to pay it. Our tax dollars should not pay for this. The police should not be paid to tear up people's tents. At this point it probably costs more money to do this than to do something about the housing crisis. Do something about the landlords. Do something to help our community not make their lives worse. This ordinance is disgraceful.

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Susan Mac

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 3:54 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Sabrina H submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: This ordinance should absolutely not be passed. It does nothing to keep our communities safe. Punishing the unhoused during a massive is cruel and city officials should know better than to go through with this. Absolutely disgusting! Shame on any city official working to sign off on this!

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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 7:56 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

James Cardoza submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: This ordinance is a Band-Aid for treatment of symptom. A key element of solving the homeless encampment issue is addressing drug addiction. One possible way to help the City and County of Fresno (and surrounding Fresno County communities) finance drug treatment and construction of additional shelter space for drug-addicted homeless residents is by filing suit against leading opioid manufacturer Teva Pharmaceutical, which manufactures both oxycodone and tablet-form fentanyl, as other cities and counties have done in other areas. It is my understanding that either a City Attorney or District Attorney can initiate this type of action (obviously City Attorney would need to confirm). A major bottleneck to Fresno County taking the lead on this type of suit is that per her FPPC Form 700, Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp has in the past owned over \$1 million of investments in Teva Pharmaceutical, making her "conflicted out" of filing such action. I would like to propose City of Fresno investigate this conflict of interest as a possible basis for a complaint against Smittcamp to Fresno County Grand Jury to investigate and possibly initiate removal of Smittcamp from office so that someone else who is not conflicted out can step up as District Attorney and file this much needed lawsuit against Teva Pharmaceutical, that way the drug manufacturer, not Fresno taxpayers, will finance drug treatment for the homeless.

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Susan Mac

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 10:04 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Dominic C submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: I cannot fathom how this ordinance could be helpful for our communities. Or maybe it is just a cheaper way to deal with issues that our systems create? Please have some humanity and do not let this pass. There are other more humane ways to keep our community safe and clean.

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Susan Mac

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Kris Kuelper submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: This change will only increase the burden on taxpayers without affecting any positive change for the unhoused or the community at large. The Supreme Court may have ruled that this more aggressive enforcement is legal, but it will not build up our community. Putting steeper penalties on existing just means more money spent incarcerating them than it would cost us to simply house them. When small areas in our city are allowed to block new homes, they foist this issue onto all of us and the only way we are going to fix the issue of people being unhoused is to house them. Please, do not approve this measure and focus on the root of the problem, housing availability.

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Susan Mac

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Laura Newberry submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: I do not want my tax dollars going to this. Instead put in place rent control and cold/heat centers

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Susan Mac

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[City of Fresno](#)

New eComment for City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Arieana Castellanos submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-07-29 11:00 AM - Special Meeting

Item: ID 24-1032 Bill - (for Introduction) - Amending Sections 10-1703(a), 10-1707, 10-2101, 10-2204, 10-2205 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Relating to the Prohibition of Encampments in Public Places

eComment: I was born and raised in fresno. My mom and cousins are home owners there and my mom rents our house out for affordable prices because this market is insane. We support families and live in the house we own in the Bay Area. I go to fresno 10 days a month to take care of my grandma with dimensia as I am one of the POAs. She almost lost her housing due to forgetting to pay rent until we stepped in. Growing up my dad was often homeless and couch surfing. Low wages trapped him in a cycle of poverty and fines for essentially debt jail. When he had custody of me some weekends we would have to stay in motels. It never allowed him to get back on his feet or get his immigration papers together. We were estranged because he continued to stay in a cycle of violence and perpetuating harm as his life was always destabilized. He was eventually deported. This ordinance is fiscally irresponsible to push without more public input and unethical for its total disregard for a true commitment to public safety. Instead of showing up for people like me and others you are telling us you don't care.

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Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:06 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Christa Wiens [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

As the director of the Central Valley Justice Coalition, and as a long-time resident of Fresno, I implore Fresno City Council members to reject the proposed ordinance prohibiting encampments and punishing our unhoused community members.

Human trafficking is the exploitation of one person's vulnerabilities for another person's profit. Homelessness and trafficking very often go hand-in-hand and has resulted in the Justice Coalition supporting many individuals with housing insecurity and a history of homelessness. Even when individuals have been free from their trafficker for some time, have completed a program and are moving forward with hope, the barriers they face to permanent housing are tremendous and always threaten to send someone back to exploitative situations.

The City Council proposal to fine and criminalize our unhoused neighbors will increase vulnerabilities and ensure that it is nearly impossible for them to move towards healing and flourishing. Trafficking survivors often already face barriers to employment, custody of their children, and housing because of unjust criminal charges and fines incurred during their trafficking. The trauma compounds and the hopelessness increases. This ordinance builds more barriers for people already struggling.

We can all agree that homelessness is a challenging issue without easy solutions. To quote author Kevin Nye, "The question at stake is whether we will allow our frustration and confusion to push us further into injustice. Will we become so overwhelmed with the issue of homelessness that we take it out on the people experiencing it rather than the issue itself? Will we tolerate cruelty or promote compassion? Will be like the oppressors described in Isaiah 3 who 'grind the faces of the poor' or like the followers of the way, who, according to Matthew 25, will learn to see Jesus in the face of the poor?"

Surely we have more creativity available to us and more humanity within us than this ordinance demonstrates.

Christa Wiens
Executive Director, Central Valley Justice Coalition
Resident of District 6

--

Christa Wiens
Executive Director
she/her/hers

I will respond as quickly as possible. Please contact our Resource Line at 559.725.1865 if your needs are time sensitive. For urgent matters, please contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "help" to 233733



764 P. St., Suite 020, Fresno, CA 93721 - o: 559.725.1865 c: 559.473.9942

justiceco.org

[Schedule a meeting](#)

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:06 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Chelsea Lalancette <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Criminalizing and fining people for existing outside is unthinkable cruel. People have nowhere else to go. Throwing away peoples' few belongings, assessing fines they cannot afford, and throwing them in jail for simply existing is a horrible way to treat other human beings and a bad use of public resources.

You can say that Fresno has resources to offer unhoused people which justify this policy but we don't buy that for one second. There is practically no affordable housing available in Fresno for very low income people. There is very little shelter space and it is hard to get into and easy to be kicked out of. Even heating and cooling centers are extremely limited. You would know that if you spent any time at all listening to unhoused people who have to navigate these systems. Or maybe you already do know this and just don't care.

Even if there were sufficient housing and other resources for everyone, it would still be unthinkable to prosecute and fine a person for being outside. Please don't pass this disastrous and cruel measure.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Lalancette

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:09 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Anna Felipe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 9:06 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I oppose the ordinance, as it will directly harm homeless communities and community events. No one should be displaced when they do not have a home, and there are simply not enough shelter beds available. What is the end goal? Homeless people will end up with nowhere to go, but they cannot simply cease to exist. This ordinance is unfair and cruel, targeting people who are already suffering.

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:13 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: shossain4@fresno.gov
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 5:59 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

Housing is a human right! Right now, so much of our community is living paycheck to paycheck, anxious about the rising cost of living, uncertain about paying for groceries, and worried about having stable housing.

Instead of meeting our community needs, this ordinance targets our most vulnerable communities by imposing harsh penalties, fines, and jail time. It disproportionately impacts people of color and low-income community members.

It can have devastating impacts on the mental and physical health of our unhoused community — destroying hope for a better future. The vast majority of them are Fresno natives, born and raised, and instead of supporting them, the council will turn its back on them with this ordinance!

This ordinance is out of touch with the needs of working families and the struggles we face.

It’s time for the City of Fresno to enact solutions that care for our community, not criminalize it. I strongly urge the council not to pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Hossain

[Redacted Signature]

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:07 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Janelle Bujulian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 11:26 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello, my name is Janelle Bujulian and I am a resident in the Tower District in Fresno.

I see many of the people that would be affected by this ordinance, and implore you to not impose this on people who need actual help. Housing should be a basic human right just like healthcare and education, but it's not provided to us. We just have to be lucky enough to have the right circumstances to have all three, and in some cases only one or two. I am fortunate enough to have a roof over my head because my partner is fortunate enough to have a good job, but even with our status, we still feel how tough it is to pay for everything just to provide the basis for our family. How do you expect people who have been housing insecure, or unhoused for years to deal with the status of the economy now? It's absurd to think this problem will just fix itself.

Instead of funding HART teams and more police who tear down, throw away, harass and assault the unhoused and their few belongings, why not actually put that money into healthcare and housing facilities? Throwing people in jail for being unhoused is abhorrent and vile and you should all be ashamed of yourselves for even proposing this ordinance.

Please DO NOT pass this and instead focus your efforts on making our communities stronger by creating more opportunities for people to be housed and fed and have healthcare. Then people can be healthy enough to work and make meaningful contributions to our society, instead of just trying to survive this violent system.

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:13 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public comment ID 24-1032

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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-----Original Message-----

From: Katie Dyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 5:49 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public comment ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern,

While I can understand the want and need for a city that is safe and clean, criminalizing the movement of the unhoused, without a plan to give them space to be, is disgusting.

Criminalizing non violent offenders, who have to move with all of their things, for both living and having things is an awful move in not building community with our neighbors.

What we should be doing, is finding a way to keep our unhoused neighbors safe along with those of us who are homeowners.

What happened to the old freeway off-ramp camp sight that was by the Poverello house for years? Why is allowing space on vacant land not an option to meet the need?

I wholeheartedly object to this ordinance and am very ashamed of the council members who are in support of it.

I ask that this be reconsidered, and a better way to foster care for those who are without be considered.

Katie Dyer
Sent from my iPhone

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public comment, item ID 24-1032

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: X. Nym [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public comment, item ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I'm writing to speak out against the criminalization of homelessness, and that is precisely what is happening here. Times are hard, and it's become so much harder on those who lose their homes. Why? Because you're not listening to us, and we have been shouting to be heard. Why would you take away their right to rest? Why won't you listen to the unhoused population of Fresno? What gives you the right to take their voices away like this? No one in this country is unhoused purely because they want to be. Unhoused people do not know peace or privacy in their daily lives. Everything they do is out in the open, and more than half the time they are being policed and having their things taken away for existing in public. More than half the time they are stigmatized for doing the things they can to survive to the end of the day. You may never know what that is like. You are financially and emotionally capable of so much compassion and support, so why don't we see it being doled out to those who need it, who deserve it the most? If you think unhoused people do not belong in public, then you shouldn't be holding a public position. If you want to be known as people on the right side of history, it's time to look for solutions that don't involve the brute force you are proposing. Many of us are one or two missed paychecks away from homelessness. So many of us are teetering on the edge of being much worse off than we already are. You're giving us something to be more scared of, you're giving unhoused people an abusive living space, and you're showing us you really don't care about poor people. STOP FIGHTING AGAINST THE PROBLEM, and START FIGHTING FOR A SOLUTION.

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:14 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: lorena.munguia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 3:58 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

Housing is a human right! Right now, so much of our community is living paycheck to paycheck, anxious about the rising cost of living, uncertain about paying for groceries, and worried about having stable housing.

Instead of meeting our community needs, this ordinance targets our most vulnerable communities by imposing harsh penalties, fines, and jail time. It disproportionately impacts people of color and low-income community members.

It can have devastating impacts on the mental and physical health of our unhoused community — destroying hope for a better future. The vast majority of them are Fresno natives, born and raised, and instead of supporting them, the council will turn its back on them with this ordinance!

This ordinance is out of touch with the needs of working families and the struggles we face.

It’s time for the City of Fresno to enact solutions that care for our community, not criminalize it. I strongly urge the council not to pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Lorena Munguia-Cortez

[REDACTED]

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:15 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: aroupet [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 3:23 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

This ordinance is cruel. Instead of meeting our community needs, this ordinance targets our most vulnerable communities by imposing harsh penalties, fines, and jail time. It disproportionately impacts people of color and low-income community members.

It will have devastating impacts on the mental and physical health of our unhoused community. The vast majority of them are Fresno natives, born and raised, and instead of supporting them, the council will condemn them to greater suffering with this ordinance!

This ordinance would undoubtedly result in an increase in our taxpayer dollars being funneled to police activity to target unhoused Fresno community members. As a taxpayer, I would rather my money be funneled to programs that aim to help these vulnerable people rather than criminalize them.

This ordinance is out of touch with the needs of working families and the struggles we face.

It's time for the City of Fresno to enact solutions that care for our community, not criminalize it. I strongly urge the council not to pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Alaina Petlewski

[REDACTED]

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:15 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: RAYATOVAR559@fresno.gov
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

Housing is a human right! Right now, so much of our community is living paycheck to paycheck, anxious about the rising cost of living, uncertain about paying for groceries, and worried about having stable housing.

Instead of meeting our community needs, this ordinance targets our most vulnerable communities by imposing harsh penalties, fines, and jail time. It disproportionately impacts people of color and low-income community members.

It can have devastating impacts on the mental and physical health of our unhoused community — destroying hope for a better future. The vast majority of them are Fresno natives, born and raised, and instead of supporting them, the council will turn its back on them with this ordinance!

This ordinance is out of touch with the needs of working families and the struggles we face.

It’s time for the City of Fresno to enact solutions that care for our community, not criminalize it. I strongly urge the council not to pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Raymond Tovar

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:16 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: ricejamila [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 2:44 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

Housing is a human right! Right now, so much of our community is living paycheck to paycheck, anxious about the rising cost of living, uncertain about paying for groceries, and worried about having stable housing.

Instead of meeting our community needs, this ordinance targets our most vulnerable communities by imposing harsh penalties, fines, and jail time. It disproportionately impacts people of color and low-income community members.

It can have devastating impacts on the mental and physical health of our unhoused community — destroying hope for a better future. The vast majority of them are Fresno natives, born and raised, and instead of supporting them, the council will turn its back on them with this ordinance!

This ordinance is out of touch with the needs of working families and the struggles we face.

It's time for the City of Fresno to enact solutions that care for our community, not criminalize it. I strongly urge the council not to pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Jamila Rice

[REDACTED]

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:16 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: SCHOPEN [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 2:41 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

The cost of living in Fresno has been increasing faster than it has anywhere, and getting work while being homeless is extremely difficult. Forcing people who already have to live on the street into the heat is monstrous, and every person involved in this decision should resign as you are all acting against your duties as “public servants”.

Housing is a human right! Right now, so much of our community is living paycheck to paycheck, anxious about the rising cost of living, uncertain about paying for groceries, and worried about having stable housing.

Instead of meeting our community needs, this ordinance targets our most vulnerable communities by imposing harsh penalties, fines, and jail time. It disproportionately impacts people of color and low-income community members.

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Sincerely,
Damon Schopen

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:24 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: gallegos_yenifer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 2:32 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

Housing is a human right! Right now, so much of our community is living paycheck to paycheck, anxious about the rising cost of living, uncertain about paying for groceries, and worried about having stable housing.

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Sincerely,
Yenifer Gallegos Mejia

[REDACTED]

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:26 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: teyaloooney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:24 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

Many of our neighbors are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling with rising costs and uncertain housing. This ordinance targets vulnerable populations with penalties, disproportionately affecting people of color and low-income community members.

Despite an existing encampment ban from 2017, the City’s HART team has been displacing individuals without offering required shelter beds. This ordinance extends the ban on sitting, lying, or sleeping in “sensitive locations” citywide, allowing immediate removal and confiscation of possessions, affecting both the unhoused and the general public.

The ordinance impacts the mental and physical health of our unhoused community members. With insufficient shelter beds and a lack of permanent housing options, this measure removes hope instead of offering support.

This ordinance is out of touch with the needs of working families and the struggles we face.

It’s time for the City of Fresno to enact solutions that care for our community, not criminalize it. I strongly urge the council not to pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Teya Looney

[REDACTED]

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:28 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: girlwiththeglass [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:27 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

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It's time for the City of Fresno to enact solutions that care for our community, not criminalize it. I strongly urge the council not to pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Virginia Barnes

Susan Mac

From: Clerk
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:55 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Teya Looney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:50 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

As a local educator and working with houseless students, I am deeply concerned that the proposed ordinance will severely impact these vulnerable children. By expanding the ban on sitting, lying, or sleeping in public spaces, the ordinance could lead to the immediate displacement of families, causing further instability in the lives of students who are already facing significant challenges. These children, many of whom rely on consistency and support to thrive academically and emotionally, may lose access to critical resources and safe spaces. The ordinance fails to address the root causes of homelessness and instead perpetuates a cycle of hardship, making it even harder for these young students to find the stability and support they need to succeed.

Our community is already grappling with a severe shortage of shelter beds and permanent housing options, leaving many to struggle on the streets. This ordinance silences the voices of those most in need, including our local families and children, disregarding their pleas for help. The assertion that this measure will push people to accept help ignores the harsh reality: many have no other safe support option available.

We must pursue humane and effective solutions: increasing housing availability, providing adequate shelters, and ensuring access to supportive services before individuals leave shelters. This ordinance will not reduce homelessness nor address the concerns of other constituents. Instead, it will entrench the suffering of our neighbors, children, and families already struggling and perpetuate the status quo.

I implore the council to reject this ordinance and commit to compassionate, impactful measures to address our housing crisis.

Susan Mac

From: lliddle [REDACTED] on behalf of Lee Liddle
[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 7/29 Meeting: Support our Most Vulnerable Community

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Fresno City Council Members,

As a resident of Fresno, I know the housing crisis has only worsened, and the cost of living has dramatically increased, impacting me and so many in our community. This is the moment to make big, bold investments in housing and tenant protections — not criminalize community members who are in a tough moment with the “Sit, Lie, and Sleep” ordinance.

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This ordinance is out of touch with the needs of working families and the struggles we face.

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Sincerely,
Lee Liddle

Susan Mac

From: Bob McCloskey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Proposed Authoritarianism Anti-Camping Ordinance Comment

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Mayor and Council

The comprehensive and well documented 2023 study and report on homelessness in California by UCSF found that poverty is the main cause of homelessness. It also found that over 50 % of the unhoused in California are over 50 years old. The study also found that minority populations are disproportionately over represented in the unhoused population.

The mayor and council members Arias, Maxwell and Bredefeld are promoting an ordinance that bullies the elderly and the poorest of the poor. It attacks the most vulnerable human beings in Fresno. In addition the ordinance, if implemented will affect minorities more than anyone else.

A 2019 Urban Institute report, Fresno ranks No. 59 of 59 cities in California for economic inclusion and racial inclusion.

Across the United States, Fresno ranks 253rd out of 274 cities on overall inclusion. It ranks 263rd on economic inclusion. Inclusion is defined by looking at income differences in poverty and wages by race and ethnicity, the number of working poor people, disparities in homeownership and the number of families that spend more than 35% of their income on rent.

The 2023 Point in Time Count finds that Indigenous people, Black people and non white "Hispanic" people are over represented on the streets of Fresno. (Indigenous - 3% of national Census, 7 % of the unhoused population; Black's or African Americans - 6%, 16% respectively. Non white Hispanics are 51% of the unhoused population of Fresno, much higher proportionally to the National Census.

The proposed ordinance will criminalize the basic human need to sleep. As Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor recently said in about the recent SCOTUS decision "Where do we put them if every city, every village, every town lacks compassion and passes a law identical to this? Where are they supposed to sleep? Are they supposed to kill themselves, not sleeping?"

What this ordinance does is establish local authoritarianism and resembles what authoritarian states have done.

In 1933, the Nazi Party passed a law "against Habitual and Dangerous Criminals", which allowed for the relocation of beggars, homeless, and the unemployed to concentration camps. The Nazis planned their first big round-up of the homeless almost as soon as they came to power. In July 1933 the recently founded Reich Ministry of Propaganda was urging a nationwide swoop on beggars, informing the welfare

agencies of its intention in August 1933. The raid was preceded by a carefully orchestrated [propaganda campaign. Guidelines' were issued to the press, portraying the forthcoming action quite cynically as an addition to the recently inaugurated Winter Aid Programme (motto: 'No one will freeze or starve').

In conclusion, Arias' statements about the city spending over \$400 million on shelters and services must be corrected. First, it was state and federal money squandered on shelters where shelter providers provided no, or very little help to shelter residents to get into permanent housing. People were and are now being exited back to the streets for, sometimes minor rule violations. Some are being exited after 90 days. No permanent housing has been built. All of the \$400 million went to temporary shelters and various services. Arias claims the city opened warming centers, yes, for 3 days last winter. He brags about opening cooling centers, yes, at 105 degrees.

For your information, a poll being conducted by GVWire shows that 80% of those responding to the survey about the County's similar proposed ordinance are against the ordinance being implemented, believing it will increase homelessness.

I urge the three councilmembers to reconsider their support for this extremely reactionary, authoritarian ordinance. I urge the other council members to refuse to support it. It just doesn't make sense and it is immoral.

Bob McCloskey

Susan Mac

From: Victoria Crow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 10:20 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Public Comment, Item ID 24-1032

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I strongly oppose this ordinance. Criminalizing poverty is a shameful move. Do better.

Regards,
Victoria Crow

Susan Mac

From: Ginny Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 10:24 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Public Comment: Oppose Anti Homelessness Ordinance

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Councilmembers,

I am a Fresno resident of District 7. I am speaking in solidarity with our housing justice advocates and oppose this anti-homelessness ordinance. This is not a solution. Every effort that ignores the root problem, is wasted. Housing is a human right. We need affordable, permanent housing.

Where will our unhoused community go? So many of us are one paycheck away from being unhoused. Where will we go when it happens to us? When having no options left becomes a crime, it only sows distrust, harm, and isolation. It kills community.

I don't know how many of your constituents need to speak up for you to understand that this is not only the wrong action but against the will of the people you represent. Don't dismiss us. If this ordinance passes, our most vulnerable communities will be jailed, fined, and locked into an impossible "justice" system keeping them even farther away from a chance at a life of health, peace, and safety. Let the record show, it wasn't because we didn't try to stop it.

Virginia