

Regular Council Meeting
February 10, 2022



FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Email / eComment Report

The Following item(s) were commented on:

File ID 22-247, 1-C

***BILL No. 2 (Intro'd 1/27/2022) (For Adoption) - Amending Administrative Abatement, FMC section 10-616, to clarify limits on access to restricted areas where abatements are taking place (Subject to Mayor's Veto).

Total number of emails / eComments: 3

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.

Amanda Martin

From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 5:31 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Public comment 1-C

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear council,

I ask you to consider the potential risks of 1-C and oppose this ordinance amendment addition. I have written and spoken on this and I hope you have read these. Regardless of the intention of creating or supporting this ordinance amendment, the change adds that those who cross an abatement area can be fined and/ or be charged with a misdemeanor. This is a new penalty that could be applied to someone helping. I understand that there might be people who cause harm, and there should be a way to address this without this blanket change that provides no guarantee that those helping the unhoused can access them, especially since the authorization in the language states that access can be granted BEFORE an abatement, but in most cases, the unhoused are on the abatement site DURING an abatement.

When we come during an abatement when the heavy machinery is there, the unhoused occupants are still there. We need to access them as long as they are present at the site, even after abatement starts and especially when it starts because that is often the time when we need to mediate, assist, etc. To say we can come earlier to help them is unrealistic, as we know that the city will start bringing in the crushers and machinery while the unhoused remain on site.

The penalties pose a potential undue hardship and burden on those providing an important service. While you may not intend for this to be used to prohibit others, that HART, code enforcement, and law enforcement have this penalty as a potential means to remove an advocate in the middle of assistance is not a risk that should be taken.

Thank you

Amanda Martin

From: Alexandros R. Acedo-Papadopoulos [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Public Comment - 1-C

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

Please do not support the abatement ordinance 1-C the way it is written because it allows a person of authority to arbitrarily allow (and prevent) advocates for homeless people as they see fit, and fine them if they do not abide, to boot. This is not a way dignify people who are already downtrodden and suffering.

I think it is the democratic and humane thing to do, to allow the homeless to decide who they want advocating for them, and with them. So please support legislation that does just that: let the homeless choose the advocates of their choice during abatement.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alexandros R. Acedo
[REDACTED]

"The truth must not be only the truth--it must also be told."

Amanda Martin

From: Ginny Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 7:45 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Public comment: Oppose item 1-C

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Council President Chavez and Council members,

My name is Ginny Barnes, and I am resident from district 3. I am writing in opposition to item 1-C.

Advocates in the community are a crucial part of how we work to solve the homeless crisis in our city. Advocates build trust, empower, and offer compassion to our unhoused community through the sad and stressful reality of abatement. Unhoused people need support and access to resources to say the least. It is immoral to punish and criminalize those attempting to provide this help to them.

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Ginny Barnes

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Ginny Barnes
they/she