
From: Clerk
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 8:10 AM
To:
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Strongly oppose the ordinance adding adding Article 21 and Article 22 to the Fresno Municipal Code
Attachments: HNHA-2017-LOCAL.pdf

From: Janine Nkosi
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 10:04 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Strongly oppose the ordinance adding adding Article 21 and Article 22 to the Fresno Municipal Code

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear City Council, Mayor, City Attorney and City Manager:

I submit this email to **strongly oppose the ordinance adding Article 21 and Article 22 to the Fresno Municipal Code.**

Fresno's growing affordable housing crisis has left thousands of residents homeless or at-risk of eviction and homelessness. Meanwhile, Fresno has fewer emergency shelter beds than people who need shelter.

Despite the lack of affordable housing and shelter space, Fresno is choosing to criminally and civilly punish people living on the street for doing what any human being must do to survive – sit, sleep, rest, and eat – activities we all do every day and take for granted.

Criminalization is the most inhumane, expensive and least effective way of addressing homelessness. We all agree that it doesn't make sense to arrest people for being homeless. And we can also agree that we don't want to see people sleeping on the sidewalks.

But instead of solving homelessness, we have expensive policies that make it worse. Please don't ignore common sense and use handcuffs rather than housing to address homelessness.

When anyone experiencing homelessness faces criminal punishment for simply trying to survive on the streets, these criminal records only make it more difficult to hold a job and regain housing. Not only do these policies make homelessness harder to solve, they also cost more taxpayer dollars than the policies that actually work.

Example: In Charlotte, NC, the city saved \$2.4 million in a year after creating a Housing First facility. Tenants spent 1,050 fewer nights in jail and 292 fewer days in the hospital and had 648 fewer visits to emergency rooms.

Investing in affordable housing (e.g., preservation and development) and housing stabilization policies (e.g., rent control, just cause, etc.) and programs (e.g., emergency rent and relocation assistance, rent account escrow, etc.) is the most dignified and cost effective approach to combating the housing crisis.

People are experiencing homelessness due to systemic failures and because they have no other alternative. Rather than criminalize the most vulnerable people in our community and wasting already scarce resources, consider the Housing Not Handcuffs approach.

I urge you to decriminalize homelessness by instead adding the following clause to Chapter 10 of Fresno's Municipal Code:

Until sufficient affordable, safe, and decent housing is available to meet the need of homeless individuals and families, the laws, policies, and practices that prohibit or limit the use of public space by homeless people for life-sustaining activities shall be repealed, and will not be enforced or funded.

- No person shall be subject to, or threatened with, civil or criminal sanctions or harassment by law enforcement, other state actors, and/or private security personnel for moving, resting, sitting, standing, lying down, sleeping, protecting oneself from the elements, or conducting other life sustaining activities on public property or in a legally parked car.

See model ordinance attached.

Sincerely,
Dr. Janine Nkosi
Director of Housing Justice Initiatives
Faith in the Valley

From: Clerk
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 11:53 AM
To:
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Comments on 1-MM

From: Karla Martinez
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Cc: Ivanka Saunders
Subject: Comments on 1-MM

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Good Morning,

During today's City Council meeting I had my hand raised and was not called to make public comments. I am sending my comments to this email for the record.

My name is Karla Martinez with Leadership Counsel on opposition for item 1-MM because we will not solve our housing crisis by criminalizing our houseless neighbors. The City Council needs to implement comprehensive housing solutions that address our housing crisis. As some other housing advocates have have stated, we need to implement rent control with tenant protections to prevent homelessness, safe lots, and tiny homes. We need to protect our most vulnerable populations now. Work with the community to create innovative housing solutions. We want to thank some council members who have heard directly from the community on their lived experiences but we need action now.

--
Karla Martinez (she/her/ella)
Policy Advocate
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability



From: Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 3:12 PM
To:
Cc: Clerk
Subject: FW: Contact City Clerk Form submitted on City Clerk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Michaela Bennett
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:24 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>
Subject: Contact City Clerk Form submitted on City Clerk

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

First Name	Michaela
Last Name	Bennett
Email	
Subject	For Fresno City Council Members: Please consider buying Bullard near 1st St church property/develop
Message	<p>Dear Fresno City Council Members:</p> <p>I'm a former San Francisco Bay Area paralegal, A's college, worked for Ivy League attys at well-known law firms, who moved to Fresno six yrs ago for another college degree and the cheaper cost of living. My "to do" list was derailed by life-long epilepsy (diagnosed 1968/age 6/Stanford). I became homeless in a 3-20 yr fight for Social Security disability. I don't smoke, drink, use drugs, or have a criminal history. I changed CA law for high-risk crime victims more than 20 yrs ago. I got the Safe at Home Program (admin by CA Sec of State) passed into CA law after 4+ yrs hard work, testifying before a Calif State Senate Comm. in Sacramento.</p> <p>I've been through Fresno's horrifying homeless shelters. They don't address the needs of most people, including the 74% of homeless people who are NOT substance users and who've had a major destabilizing event (medical problem, loss of affordable housing, waitlisted for affordable housing, fighting for disability income, domestic violence and the like). I'd give all of the shelters F's. They were that bad. An eye-opening journey.</p>

I emailed Mayor Dyer today. I'd like Fresno to seriously consider purchasing a large church property on Bullard near First St. that could be developed for housing, other needs. It is near schools, grocery stores, the Politi Library, medical offices, St. Agnes Hospital, buses, pharmacies, and other essentials.

I think this could be an ideal property for our community's needs. I'm on yr 5 of being homeless in my car, no housing in sight, in Fresno, age 61, due only to epilepsy problems. I continue to use my paralegal/law ofc skills to better the lives of those in our community. I continue to research "best practices".

<https://www.colliers.com/en/properties/existing-church-with-excess-land/usa-1284-e-bullard-ave-fresno-ca-93710-usa/usa1117806>

Thank you.

Regards,

Ms. Michaela Bennett
c/o Hope Lutheran Church
corner of Fresno and Barstow Sts.

IP Address

User-Agent Google Chrome 113.0.0.0 / Windows
(Browser/OS)

Referrer <https://www.fresno.gov/cityclerk/contact-clerk/>

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Clerk Agendas
Subject: New eComment for City Council on 2023-05-25 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

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

New eComment for City Council on 2023-05-25 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Dan Waterhouse submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2023-05-25 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting

Item: 1.-MM. ID 23-833 Bill - (For introduction) Adding Article 21 and Article 22 to Chapter 10 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Prohibiting Impeding on Sidewalks Within 500 Feet from Sensitive Areas Including Schools, Childcare Facilities, Public Parks, Public Libraries, Warming and Cooling Centers, and City-Permitted Shelters for the Unhoused.

eComment: I am opposed to this proposal. This is another example of why the citizens of Fresno might be better served by eliminating the city council and not the homeless.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://fresno.granicusideas.com>

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