

April 25, 2018

To: Roberto Uranga - Long Beach City Council Member 7th District

Cc: Mayor Robert Garcia

All Members of The Long Beach City Council

Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services

Patrick West, City Manager

Councilmember Uranga, we are taxpaying residents of Long Beach residing along the 2600 block of Oregon Ave. We have alleyways behind our houses which have increasingly become overnight (or longer) encampments for the homeless and/or other individuals.

These encampments have increased considerably this year and continue to be an escalating and unacceptable condition for the residents and businesses of the area. Many of us have the phone numbers provided for the Health Dept., Homeless Outreach Program, Non Emergency Police, and your office within the Council. While these agencies and your staff are understanding and relatively responsive, the problem continues and is growing in numbers and frequency. This is a major concern to your constituents located in this area, and most likely many others along the river corridor, if not the entirety of Long Beach.

Many of us have lived here for 15-30 years or more. The County efforts to rid the L.A. River corridor of this growing problem creates local problems such as quality of life issues for residents and businesses in this area, diminished property values, and personal and property security. In addition to volumes of trash, the growing problems have included urination and defecation directly on our properties and in the alleyways creating health hazards, including discarded drug paraphernalia such as needles and syringes.

We are aware of the Long Beach City written strategy titled ' Addressing Homelessness and Community Quality of Life' dated December 18, 2017 which is a comprehensive program of addressing the homeless issue. However, the issue persists and is, in fact, increasing at an alarming rate. We recognize this is a community issue and as such look to our elected officials for long term and permanent problem solving beyond providing phone numbers for calls on the issues identified above, which continue.

We are a small microcosm of this City but we are aware that there are many more homeowners, renters, and businesses throughout the city that are affected as we are, and are expecting our city leaders to resolve these chronic issues in an effective and timely manner.

Page 2 and 3 of the original document provided to Councilman Uranga are signatures of residents in the area of the 2600 and 2700 block of Oregon Ave.

It is significant to point out that there were 34 signatures from like-minded and similarly affected residents of the neighborhood – and that is 34 out of the 34 (100%) who were contacted in a brief door to door inquiry as to their willingness to sign the document if they were in agreement.

All were provided with city phone numbers for outreach, move along requests, health department issues created by the homeless, and non-emergency police.

The current City Strategy for Addressing Homelessness and Quality of Life seems to be marginally effective at most, and the rate of incidents are increasing, which means the program is behind the curve.