



To:  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fw: municipal code amendments proposed by occupy long beach

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To: "cityclerk@longbeach.gov" <cityclerk@longbeach.gov>  
From: jon davidson <jonodavidson87@yahoo.com>  
Date: 11/10/2011 05:10AM  
Subject: municipal code amendments proposed by occupy long beach  
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Please provide a copy of the following to each council member prior to the next council meeting.

To the city  
council members of Long Beach:

Occupy Long  
Beach's proposed amendments to city municipal code (MC) 16.14.010 section K and  
MC 9.42.110 section A both seek to establish special privileges and  
considerations by the city council above and beyond what the people enjoy as  
their right alone. With words like  
occupation site and political speech, they seek to define themselves by their  
tactics and aims as the people who should enjoy the rights of the people. They seek to enjoy a special  
privilege that  
the homeless population will not be able to enjoy unless they participate in  
the "political speech" of the general assembly.

As a  
supporter of occupy Long Beach, I have never understood the "people's microphone." They  
claim that everyone repeats what a  
speaker says in their general assemblies in order for the speaker to be heard  
by everyone. I don't go to the general  
assemblies because of that. The last  
city council meeting was disrupted when the speaker stopped using the  
microphones at the podium where she stood, turned toward the audience still  
speaking, and the occupiers in the audience began repeating her words  
verbatim. After she was escorted away, they  
started in with the chanting. They  
formed themselves into a mob and became emotional and unreasoning. They were not peaceably assembled as  
they  
disrupted the meeting in an effort to bully the city council into granting them  
special privileges for their class of people that they do not need or deserve.

The right of the people peaceably to assemble is a distinct right not dependent on any intention to petition. There may be ten to fifteen occupy Long Beach protesters (a bus load of protesters came from occupy LA to the city council meeting giving the movement the illusion of numbers in Long Beach that it lacks) who intend to petition for redress of grievances. They account for only a fraction of the people who are assembling at Lincoln Park, and they only began assembling October 15. Homeless people have been assembling at Lincoln Park for decades. They have had no advocate to stand up for their right to peaceably assemble in the parks, and they have made little or no effort to join together and complain. That is likely because they have little hope in changing their plight. 1 in 6 Americans are living in poverty, and homeless people are the poorest of the poor. They are united in destitution and assemble in the parks for lack of anywhere else to go. They are poor and miserable having hit rock bottom. Their right to assemble is being abridged by municipal code 16.16.010 sections b, d, e, and k which prohibit them from camping in Lincoln Park. They are kicked to the curb every night and forced to sleep on the cold hard ground and yet peaceably they continue to assemble.

The city must acknowledge the peaceable assembly of homeless people throughout the city as a constitutional right and eliminate the deterrents to living with some kind of quality of life they face. I lived in a tent for five months during the Gulf War (1990-1991), and the shelter they provide makes a huge impact on your quality of life. Many of my fellow veterans who were sent to fight in wars overseas have returned to America unable to adapt to society and are homeless. They lived in tents while doing something to support the government, but they can't live in tents now that they are finished. The homeless assemble in the parks and on the streets, because they have no place else to go. The city needs to amend the codes that regulate camping in the parks to allow it where homeless people already peaceably assemble because their right peaceably to assemble is being abridged in the guise of regulation. We can eliminate the homeless population entirely from Long Beach in one fell swoop by letting them pitch tents. A tent is a home, and they will become the tent dwelling population instead. That is a significant improvement upon their quality of life.

You can designate Lincoln Park as a place where the homeless are allowed to camp and peaceably assemble by public decree without changing the municipal codes for the whole city. This will appease the occupy Long Beach protesters, because they will be able to pitch their tents in the park. You don't want to give occupy Long Beach protesters special privileges to camp at their occupation sites; that the homeless will not enjoy unless they join the protesters in their political agenda. That would fuel the power of the movement with homeless people who do not support their agenda but will pretend to in order to enjoy the special camping privileges.

Using Lincoln Park as a model, you will be given an opportunity to see the effects that camping in parks has on the community as a whole before codifying the entire city. You will need to identify and define an assembly first, so you can impose time, place, and manner restrictions in the interests of all upon the assemblies that you recognize. That way the indigent population can exercise their right to freely assemble while limiting the disruption on the community, and the occupy Long Beach protesters can camp out with the indigent population.

Thank You,

Jonathan  
Davidson