

## SARAH BELL

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**From:** Voices For LAPD <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 4:10 PM  
**To:** Police Commission  
**Subject:** BOPC 08/13/24 public comment

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BOPC, Mayor Bass, Chief Choi, the LAPD and All Citizens,

First, I'd like to welcome Mayor Bass back to Los Angeles. How did Paris look Mayor Bass? Did you see the entrenched encampments and sidewalks blocked by tents and transients?

While you were in Paris I was surveying the LA scene on the MTA bus system and I can tell you LA streets and sidewalks have never looked worse as I witnessed entrenched encampments where I have never seen them before.

Shouldn't citizens be able to walk the sidewalks of the city without having to go into the street to avoid transients in tents? Could you walk the streets of Paris without having to dodge transients in tents? Where has all the money gone that has been allocated to alleviate the plague of entrenched encampments on our sidewalks?

Entrenched encampments of transients in tents is not good for anyone. The transients are suffering from a myriad of problems including illicit drug and alcohol addiction and mental illness. Are there no services for them? Services and housing must be provided for humanitarian reasons. Transients in tents taking over sidewalks and streets is not acceptable in a civilized city that maintains public safety and the rule of law. Common sense will tell you that the presence of entrenched encampments leads to increased violent criminal behavior fueled by drug and alcohol abuse and exacerbated by mental illness.

The public is deprived of pedestrian sidewalk access, especially those who are wheelchair bound, and a sense of public safety as they are confronted by transients in tents and their entrenched encampments especially in the vicinity of parks and schools.

What is to be done? Do we, the people, have to wait until 2028 when LA hosts the Olympics before our local government addresses this ongoing and long standing problem? Is that the value you put on the quality of life our our LA residents? Don't our residents deserve safe and clean streets? Is this the environment we want our children to grow up in?

Nobody is suggesting we "criminalize homelessness" as I have heard you

and LA County Supervisor Horvath say. Quite the contrary, huge amounts of money have been dedicated for providing services for the so called homeless population. Where has that money gone? It seems like the homeless industrial complex continues to thrive on a problem they have no intention of solving because they believe they would be out of a job. This looks like a racket and I call upon our local government to actually start doing something to solve or greatly reduce the problem.

For those transients in tents that are recalcitrant and refuse services or relocation from entrenched encampments blocking sidewalks, streets, and public areas, there is the option of enforcement of the law through arrest as a last resort. Let the police clean up our streets and sidewalks of entrenched encampments with service providers so that the transients have the option of accepting services and relocation or being arrested for blocking the sidewalk.

Yes, Mayor Bass and Supervisor Horvath, "homelessness is not a crime" but refusing to use all resources to keep our streets, sidewalks, parks and public spaces clear of entrenched encampments is!

Respectfully,  
Steve Reilly