



FIVE MAIN SLOGANS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF THE HOMELESS

"HOMELESS NOT HELPLESS!"
We, the poor and homeless, can and must lead our own struggle to end poverty!

"YOU ARE ONLY ONE PAYCHECK AWAY FROM HOMELESSNESS!"
Homelessness is a class issue. We are homeless because we do not have enough money for a home.

"NO HOUSING, NO PEACE!"
There can be no peace in America while people go without...

"YOU ONLY GET WHAT YOU ARE ORGANIZED TO TAKE!"
Power in America comes from one place... ORGANIZATION!

"UP AND OUT OF POVERTY, NOW!"
People mobilize in their self-interest. It is in our self-interest alone to end poverty. We know when our pain is over. Therefore, WE must lead the struggle to end poverty. And we must end it NOW!

NATIONAL UNION OF THE HOMELESS

Collected and introduced by Annie Powers, Historian and Organizer with the Los Angeles Tenants Union (LATU)

The National Union of the Homeless (NUH) was an organized, national group of unhoused people who fought for their rights and took over empty homes together in the 1980s and 1990s; it included over 35,000 members across 25 cities. The union demanded and WON land from the federal government. These are their five main slogans, which show the NUH's beliefs and strategy. Do these slogans resonate with you today? What activities does your community already do together? How can you and your community fight for the housing you deserve?

REMEMBRANCE



JESSE SAMUEL



ANGIE EBERHART & PETE DIOCSONI



DOUBLE O

By: Danica Tsuchida
Although Double O was taken from this world too soon, his legacy of generosity and hospitality will live on. Double O was larger than life. Many of us will remember him as a cultural leader and pillar of the community. From speaking at rallies to distributing supplies to cooking breakfast for the block to throwing parties, Double O was always in good spirits and ready to lift others up. On his block in Hollywood, he kept a place to crash for any of his many nephews and nieces that came through looking for a meal or a place to lay their head. For a man who could have just as easily been closed off and hardened by life, he chose to embrace its challenges and see the beauty in humanity. Double O was admired and respected by all who knew him, and the ripple effect of his life will continue on for generations. Rest in Power, Double O.

JUSTICEVILLE: A COMMUNITY'S FIGHT FOR DIGNITY AND SURVIVAL

By Andrew Boland

In March 1985, 63 individuals experiencing homelessness united to challenge the unbearable living conditions in overcrowded Los Angeles County shelters. Facing apathy among public agencies and realizing that their best chance of survival was to help themselves, they formed the remarkable community which they named Justiceville in the heart of Skid Row.

Under the visionary leadership of Ted Hayes, Justiceville became a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of community. Hayes and his founding comrades constructed a self-sustaining village on a vacant plot of land they agreed to rent for \$1 per month; it sought to provide not just physical shelter, but also care and a pathway to integrate residents into society. Justiceville provided sanitation facilities including toilets and showers, employment opportunities, and a community safety program. Moving into Justiceville required community buy-in: residents possessed a collective

determination to improve their lives, take care of their neighbors, and create a revolutionary and sustainable model for building power among unhoused neighbors.

Justiceville nurtured a renewed sense of hope and belonging among its residents. Rodger Farr of the Skid Row Mental Health Program recognized these accomplishments, noting that Justiceville "gave people hope that society hasn't abandoned them." This sense of unity engendered feelings of safety and belonging, forging a surrogate family through the community's embrace.

Under pressure from city authorities citing sanitation and safety violations, the owner of the site eventually forced Justiceville residents to abandon their village. LAPD cleared the community and destroyed their facilities and infrastructure. Within a day, a thriving community became little more than a pile of dust and debris. Justiceville's residents were sent back to the streets.

Justiceville stands as a shining testament to the strength and resilience of collective care. People fueled by compassion and determination brought about profound change. May the legacy of Justiceville continue to inspire us in approaching homelessness with empathy and dignity, lighting the path towards a more compassionate future for all.

SUBVERSIVE ETHNOGRAPHIES ZONE



**THIS PROJECT INCORPORATES THE STORYTELLING
OF UNHOUSED COMMUNITIES, IN THE CONTEXT OF
41.18, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS WORKING TO
DISMANTLE SUCH UNJUST SYSTEMS AND TOWARDS
THE ABOLISHMENT OF 41.18.**

**THOSE BEING DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY 41.18
ARE THE HISTORIANS AND IT'S IMPORTANT
THEIR VOICES AND EXPERIENCES ARE HIGHLIGHTED.**

Share your experience living in, organizing in, struggling in, building community in and/or resisting in a 41.18 zone using the QR code above.

A CALL FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL OVER:

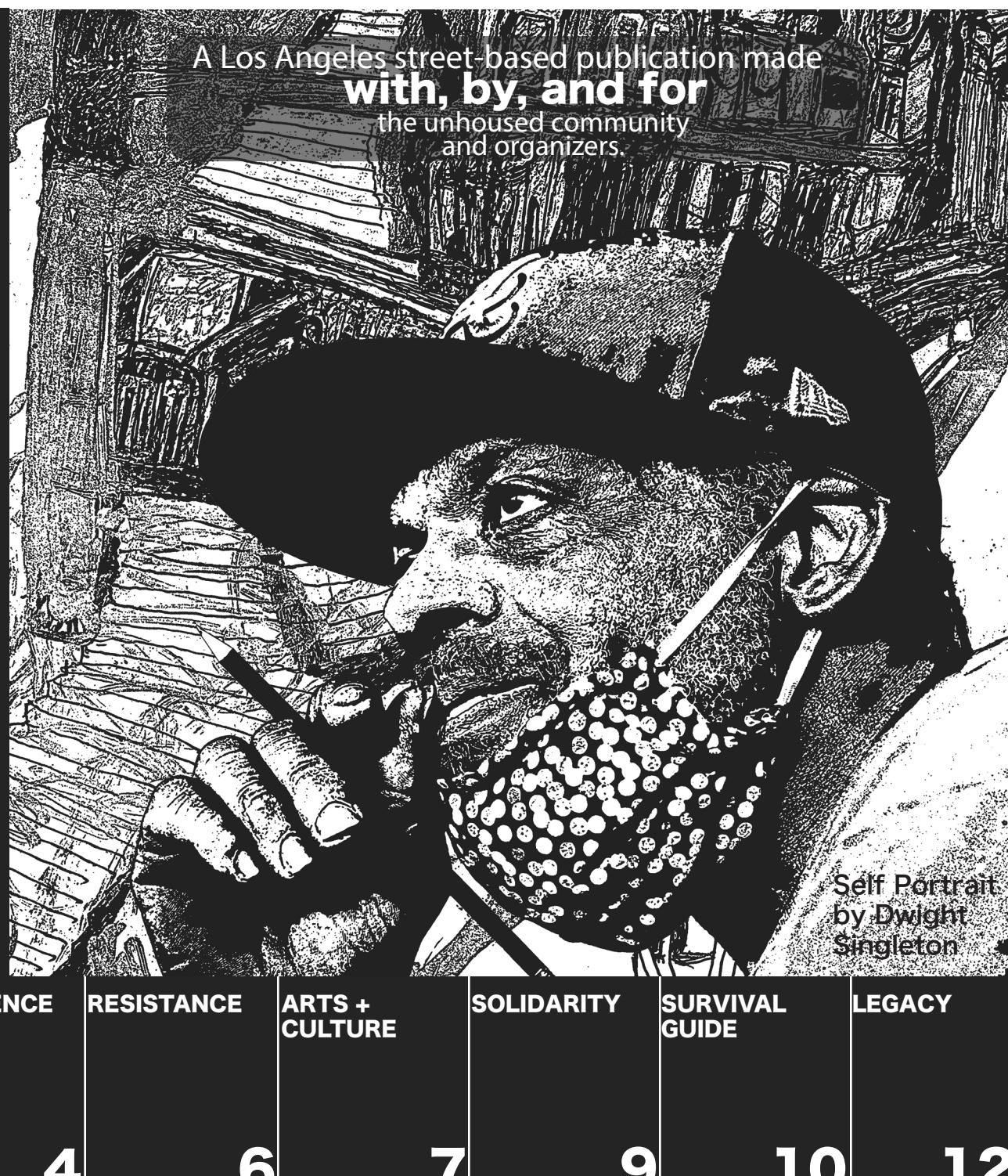


ABOLISH L.A.M.C. SECTIONS 41.18; 56.11

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE NEWSPAPER ONLINE AT: beyond4118.com/street-views.pdf

street views

A Los Angeles street-based publication made with, by, and for the unhoused community and organizers.



ABOUT STREET VIEWS

Street Views is a mutual aid newspaper published by UCLA urban planning graduate students, unhoused community members, and mutual aid organizers. Our goal in creating Street Views was to build power and community by uplifting strategies of community design and planning that unhoused communities are engaging in as forms of self-governance and by creating new lines of communication among encampments and organizers across the City. Street Views is a platform for communities to plan, design, and build together through dialogue and collective visioning.

We are looking for support in leading and sustaining this paper, if you are interested, please contact us at @aetnastreetsolidarity on Instagram.

ISSUE 1 | JUNE 7, 2023

CURRENT EVENTS	EXPOSÉ	EXPERIENCE	RESISTANCE	ARTS + CULTURE	SOLIDARITY	SURVIVAL GUIDE	LEGACY
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AETNAPALOOZA A CELEBRATION OF RESISTANCE



Above Aetna. Photo by Anthony

On a hot spring morning in late April, dozens of community members gathered on Aetna Street in Van Nuys to celebrate art, culture, and community. The second annual Aetnapalooza street festival celebrated resistance on Aetna Street. The day-long event reclaimed public space and brought together community members, artists, mutual aid organizations, musicians, builders, makers, students, and friends. As described by organizer Carla Orendorff, Aetnapalooza is an "event rooted in love and abolition and we invite you to join us for a joyful celebration of our communities who are fighting for the right to remain, the right to housing and the right to stay."

Aetnapalooza centered art with simultaneous mural painting, candle collaging, performances, and crafts. As people listened to poetry by Lupita and calls to action from organizers like LaDonna, attendees sipped ice-cold waters and sodas and enjoyed fresh tacos from Mayra from Community Power Collective. The chefs hand-pressed the masa into fresh corn tortillas on-site. Folks got haircuts and new clothes. There were resources and community organizers. People leaving the orange line, passing by on the street, traveling from across the City came together to eat, dance, laugh, and build together.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Aetna is a longstanding encampment of tents and hand-built structures at Aetna Street and Van Nuys Boulevard, often called the "Skid Row of the Valley." Aetna Street has been a site of resistance for decades, but the City's imposition of a 41.18 zone has brought renewed attention to the importance of strong and organized community power.

A collaborative of current and former Aetna residents, UCLA graduate students,



PHOTOS OF AETNAPALOOZA BY COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE



"WE KEEP US SAFE"

ident, expressed, "I think Aetnapalooza was a building block event that gave life to our project [Street Views] as a whole."

Group facilitators had an open conversation with community members who expressed their feelings about topics ranged from life experiences to how inefficient current housing programs are. The group captured these moments through a recording device and have included select quotes below. Quotes and names have been published with consent.

C: "When I think about an encampment, what's happening at Aetna, it's community. I really do see a way of living. A lot of us are on survival mode, a lot of us operate out of fear... When you first walk into an encampment, you might be afraid, but once you really tap into community, you see people really operate out of love. You see people that are housed, that might not have a lot of monetary means, but are cooking for the community, that are sharing, feeding each other... Even that is a radical thought, right? Just like, community coming together and sharing food, you it's really see that in other communities."

TANYA: "Fellow unhoused people have no right to say if you can stay or go. Only the businesses around you can tell you that."

RESISTANCE IN THE VALLEY

In spite of the City's policies of forced displacement, Aetna continues to be a small place of safety on the streets. Nothing showed this more than Aetnapalooza. Everyone was welcomed with open arms, warm food, cold drinks, vibrant art, and a chance to continue building the world they want to see.



Above Aetna

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AETNARRATIVES: AMBER

Sitting next to an old friend, Amber laughed recalling good and bad memories from living on the street and moving into temporary and permanent housing. Amber is a self-declared "open book," and she spoke with our UCLA Community Collaborative group about how difficult moments have led her to where she is today: sober, about to graduate with an education in counseling and addiction, and reconnecting with multiple generations of her family.

In July 2020, months into the global COVID-19 pandemic, Amber was living on the street in North Hollywood when her boyfriend overdosed. He was brought back to life with medical attention, and the experience confirmed that the time had come to get sober. Amber credits friend and organizer, Carla Orendorff, with the encouragement she needed to change her life. A week later, LA Family Housing offered her a spot in Project Roomkey, a program run by the State and local governments to move unsheltered folks to hotel rooms during the raging pandemic.

Amber had heard this pitch before. She said she had been on the list for months. But this time, things were moving quickly. Amber couldn't take the opportunity without ensuring her friends also got into Project Roomkey. She told organizers that unless a friend from Lankershim could join, she wouldn't go. They made Amber a deal: if she could get 90% of her overpass encampment to go to Project Roomkey, they could also find a room for her friend at Lankershim. Done. By the end, everyone from both encampments was offered a room in Project Roomkey.

While the offer of a room was good, it wasn't perfect. Amber and her friends were assigned rooms in Lancaster, 60 miles from where they were in North Hollywood. Amber and her boyfriend were a two and a half hour train ride from his kids and family in Ontario, California. When she asked if they could be moved closer to family, the program warned her that if she didn't take housing in Lancaster, she would go to the bottom of the list for housing. "You aren't going to get housed."

These systems are rigid, and they don't take into account the full humanity of people: their life experiences, wants, and needs.

Amber believes that she was able to get sober because of Project Roomkey, but the program doesn't set you up for success. When she left, she was given a Section 8 voucher, which provides government funds to cover private market rent. However, Amber says, "Section 8 is set up for failure" - few landlords take vouchers even though in California it is illegal to deny someone housing because they use a voucher (a later article explains "source of income discrimination"). Amber spent 9 months searching for an apartment that would take her section 8 voucher to no avail. A voucher that would ultimately expire when she moved across county-lines to stay with her family, despite continuing to pay rent on her subsidized apartment.

Amber plans to be a part of changing this cycle of hardship. She wants to do outreach to people on the street who want help and need immediate places to go, not just another waitlist or set of eligibility criteria. Currently, Amber is going to school for drug and alcohol counseling, and for the first time, she is a straight-A student. "I'm addicted to learning about addiction," Amber said. Her passion is working with unsheltered people because she had wanted to get sober, but said "it was too hard on the streets. It's easier to use on the street." She wants to be a link she sees missing from the current housing and homeless system. With so much money allocated, Amber questions where it is all going? It's not going to house people. "Everyone deserves a safe place to rest their head. No matter if they are high or drunk, everyone deserves to have a roof over their head!" Amber said.

She said her family and daughters are proud of her. But she also sounded proud of herself. "Life is great, but I wouldn't have gotten there without getting housed. It's too hard on the street."

FOLLOW THE MONEY IN THE LOS ANGELES HOUSING BUDGET

We've seen the numbers - the more than one billion dollars allocated to "homelessness." On Thursday, May 18th, the Los Angeles City Council voted 13-1 to approve Mayor Karen Bass's proposed \$13 billion budget, which includes \$1.3 billion allocated to "ending homelessness." As the Mayor wrote in her letter to City Council:

"The budget commits nearly \$1.3 billion - more money than ever before - to move people indoors and confront the crisis of homelessness. This investment includes scaling up the Inside Safe pilot that we launched to bring people inside from tents and encampments, and to prevent encampments from returning."

The budget breaks new ground by investing in City purchases of motels and hotels, in the acquisition of mental health and substance abuse treatment beds that will be dedicated to the City's homelessness strategy, and in strategic planning and accountability through Mayor Bass' new Office of Housing and Homelessness Solutions.³

Councilwoman Eunis Hernandez was the lone "no" vote citing the lack of support for LA's diverse communities and nearly 25% of the budget (\$3.2 billion) going to LAPD. On Friday, May 26th, Mayor Karen Bass signed her budget into law.

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING OVERALL?

So where is the \$1.3 billion dedicated to homelessness slotted to go? Let's follow the money!

In the total \$1.3 billion budget, there is a specific allocation for \$9.4 million dedicated to "Police Department Homeless Services." The largest allocation is \$250 million for ramping up the Mayor's Inside Safe operation. The breakdown of funds is below: \$250 million: Allocated for Inside Safe, which is designed to move unsheltered residents from street encampments indoors. According to an ABC7 piece pub-

Edited Excerpts from: NEW LA COUNTY DATA SHOWS THAT HOMELESS 'SWEEPS' RARELY LEAD TO PERMANENT HOUSING

By Lexis-Olivier Ray
Published in LA Taco | 12.01.2022

On average, less than 10% of people engaged by outreach workers through the CARE program were moved into temporary shelter. And only 63 people out of more than 30,000 enrollees found "permanent" housing.

■ Returned to streets ■ Sheltered or housed



*2019 includes roughly three months of data || **CARE outreach was put on pause due to the pandemic from March 2020 through September 2021, according to LAHSA || 2022 YTD includes data through early October.

Chart: Lexis-Olivier Ray (LA.TACO) • Source: The Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) • Created with Datawrapper

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) data and the experiences of unsheltered residents inter-

viewed for this story, calls into question the success of a program that has cost taxpayers more than \$150 million in sal-

Rather than move people indoors, more than 15 unsheltered residents and advocates interviewed for this story over the past nine months, said that CARE cleanings push people with nowhere to go from one block to another. They've triggered medical emergencies and left people with serious chronic health conditions on the streets to fend for themselves. Plus they separate unsheltered people from import-ant belongings and resources.

"I don't know how many times that they've came and taken down my information," said LaDonna, an un-

sheltered woman living near

the bottom of the list for housing. "You aren't going to get housed."

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FOLLOW THE MONEY IN THE LOS ANGELES HOUSING BUDGET

lished on May 18, an initial \$65.7 million has been released for spending and then the remaining \$184.3 million will be released as needed. The spending is budgeted as follows:

\$110 million for interim housing costs, like motel rooms
\$47 million to buy hotels and motels
\$62 million for services like case management, food, and staff

\$21 million for developing and building transitional and permanent housing and a new 12-month rental assistance program.

AND LAHSA

In the approved budget, Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) receives \$38.4 million for administration, operations, and street outreach, an increase from 2022-2023. Shelter services, which include interim housing strategies, total \$14.6 million. In this bucket of funding are all the emergency, short term housing options like Bridge Housing, Safe Parking, and Coordinated Entry System Interim Housing.

The numbers are included below:

\$10.9 million: Coordinated Entry System Interim Housing for Families, Singles, and Youth
\$1.6 million: Shelter Program
\$1.1 million: Safe Parking
\$1 million: Housing Navigation

Interestingly, the largest chunk of the LAHSA budget is not for shelter services but for "Street Strategies" at \$16.8 million. Funding from this bucket goes toward Homeless Engagement Teams (HETs) that conduct direct outreach to people living on the streets "who typically do not seek shelter or service programs of their own initiative." Line items in the \$16.8 million allocation include:

\$4.6 million: General Homeless Engagement Teams (HETs)
\$4.3 million: Operation Healthy Streets
\$1 million: Involuntary Storage
\$3 million: Voluntary Storage

aries and expenses. "Sweeps" are supposed to keep our city sidewalks clean and help move people living on the streets indoors. However, according to new data obtained by L.A. TACO from LAHSA, few unsheltered people have been sheltered as a result of outreach associated with the encampment clearings seen regularly across the city (also known as "CARE cleanings") And almost nobody has been moved into permanent supportive housing.

an electrical substation in an industrial part of the San Fernando Valley, during an interview last month. "And nothing has come from it." Since 2019 more than 30,000 unsheltered residents, like LaDonna, have been "enrolled" in the CARE outreach program according to LAHSA's data. That's roughly ten thousand fewer people than the total number of unsheltered residents currently living in the City of Los Angeles. Less than 10 percent of those 30,000 "enrollees" moved into a temporary housing facility. And fewer than one percent (or 63 people) moved into a place categorized as "permanent supportive housing," according to LAHSA's data.

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LaDonna laughs at the idea of being "enrolled" in the CARE program, or "CARE-sus" as she and her unsheltered neighbors call it (rather than CARE+). "I don't know what kind of database that they're putting [my information] in. But it's not for me to get any resources. It's not for anybody to contact me," said LaDonna. "That's for f*cking sure."

Some people's homes were saved; two Cobb buildings live on to house two women.

Over the years Cobb on Wood not only collected supplies but raised funds for projects.

In late April, the last of those funds were used to move the remaining Cobb structures (with the same skilled residents we paid to operate the machinery back in October) and move residents to new government-funded cabin village that many from the Commons neighborhood moved into. It is not ideal, but volunteers still watch the city's moves carefully to make sure these people are treated

with dignity and humanity.

Yet still, despite everything the homeless have to endure,

there are unsympathetic neighbors bent on getting a "clear view" of Wood Street. All we have left to say to people who would rather punch down than punch up at the people who perpetuated these issues ...

Whether you are houseless and fighting for your right to be seen as human, or maybe you have a home or support and you are advocating for the right for houseless people to receive help from the government... the homeless crisis WILL end when people care deeply enough to see it as a humanitarian issue, not a sanitation one.

from the Detail of Department Programs (Blue Book), which can be found at the City Administrative Officer's website: caco.lacity.org/budget/index.htm. They were also verified against recent amendments described in the LA City Clerk's Council File: 23-0600. Other figures were pulled from recent media coverage including from ABC7 titled "LA council approves amended version of Mayor Bass' proposed \$13 billion city budget."

SO WHAT?

It is important to know these numbers and ask where else could nearly \$1.3 billion dollars go? What else could be supported? By recognizing how the City spends and talks about money, advocates can argue for better usage of critical housing dollars.

These figures were pulled

between students and residents to discuss current community assets and needs. A few conversations reveal opinions and realities. "Theater here? We have our own theater here every night!" "Green open space... humm maybe?" "Child care would be great!" "Community garden, we can farm." Among the pictures on the wall, those which depict a community garden seem to gain the most support, along with pictures of healing centers, community kitchens, and studio spaces to store and use tools and instruments.

stations. "We need a water fountain and a public restroom," and "Medics need to be available with mental health technicians" another resident states. Self sufficiency and sustainability are envisioned through the transformation of the Van Nuys Orange line parking lot into an array of solar panels. "Photovoltaic panels, 110 maybe 220-watts, we could charge our phones and have a compressor on stand-by to pump up tires." Another resident says something which captured the energy in the air tonight. "We have the skills and the know-how, we just need the power and the bucks." Once all thoughts have been shared and heard, and the laughter, music, and light fades, we are left to reflect upon the importance of what has been said and felt. Aetna street sits strongly after sharing its knowledge, survival, and political power with us.

Aetna is a community of builders and place makers. One resident notes that the library close by is a community asset which offers space to find peace, read books, use the internet, and bathrooms to wash their hands. "Something about books makes people calm."

Other residents share their imaginations of what life on Aetna could be in the future, including better lighting and power up charging

At the night goes on, these pictures become vibrant with pink and green post-it notes hosting Aetna residents' thoughts, reflections, and ideas. The concrete sidewalk turns into a layering of persian rugs, upon which sits a circle of chairs and an open microphone. Promptly at 7pm, PLUP2 and Aetna's Community Visioning Circle begins. The circle opened with a few initial remarks, a call for the return of land to its original indigenous inhabitants, a message of solidarity in support of self-governance without police interference, and initial ideas to spark conversation. The circle then breaks into more personal conversations

HOW MUCH ARE THEY SPENDING ON SWEEPS?

The total amount of money spent on Sweeps is likely undercounted because of the many safety, and carceral implications of forced displacement. However, in the specific budget, funding is mostly categorized under Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement Program (CARE) teams and CARE + teams.

CARE teams used to be called Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement Teams (HOPE) and are what folks on the ground call "spot cleans."

CARE + teams used to be called Clean Street Los Angeles Teams and are what many folks on the ground call "Sweeps."

In adding up budget items explicitly marked for CARE/CARE + under the Homeless Budget and the Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation allocation, the total is around \$70 million.

Of this, \$44.7 million is allocated to staffing CARE/CARE + teams: 303

positions to staff five CARE teams and 22 CARE+ teams. Other expenses include: hazardous waste removal and disposal, vehicle rentals, administrative costs, and data collection and reporting.

LAHSA's budget for the year is \$1.3 billion, and the CARE/CARE + teams account for approximately \$44.7 million, or about 3.4% of the total budget.

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I GOT EVICTED FROM MY OFFICE PARKING LOT

By Paisley Mares

The gentle croon and melodic guitar of Townes Van Zandt pipe from a speaker and I rest atop a mound of my worldly possessions. Tucked at the back end of the 1987 Chevy Malibu Sprinter Class-C RV, I warm myself in the red glow of a portable propane heater and push beyond the quiet worry that I may be inadvertently carbon monoxide poisoning myself. Puffing my joint, petting my dog, and reflecting on the wild new chapter of life that I have just leapt into. A newly minted mobile homeowner, I now lie in the parking lot at my job. I am unhoused.

In 2020, the world slowed as close to a stop as I've ever felt, and I went on rent strike. Escaping the hamster wheel of capitalist hustle long enough to think clear, I saw with open eyes how nonsensical were the inequities I had accepted as fact. Unchangeable reality became a moldable fate and doing things the same way didn't make sense. Why should I pay rent I could barely afford, working for most of my waking hours in order to meet the fee of living? Meanwhile, more empty apartment buildings sprout up like taunting weeds casting shadows upon the thousands who sleep on the sidewalk. So, while the city of LA afforded some eviction protections, I joined the LA Tenants Union and stopped paying rent.

"Living on the road, my friend, was gonna keep you free and clean. Now you wear your skin like iron and your breath as hard as kerosene."

HOMELESSNESS IN LA

By Josephine

Los Angeles: a city of dreams, glittering Hollywood lights, and seemingly boundless opportunities. Yet, beneath the surface lies a stark reality that plagues thousands of individuals: homelessness. Having experienced the depths of this crisis firsthand, I can attest to the struggles, resilience, and untold stories that define the lives of those without a home in the City of Angels.

My journey into homelessness was not one of choice, but rather a result of a series of unfortunate events that spiraled beyond my control. It started with losing my job due to corporate downsizing, followed by mounting financial pressures and unsuccessful attempts to secure stable housing. As my savings dwindled, the once unfathomable possibility of homelessness became an impending reality. Waking up on the streets of Los Angeles, I faced a daily battle against despair, uncertainty, and survival. Basic necessities such as food, water, and shelter became elusive dreams. The constant struggle for a warm meal and a safe place to sleep overshadowed any semblance of normalcy. In a city teeming with wealth and opulence, the stark contrast of destitution was a painful reminder of the gaping inequalities that persist.

Behind the statistics and headlines, there is an invisible community of individuals experiencing homelessness, each with their own unique story. I encountered people from diverse backgrounds, all united by the common thread



Photo Credits to Si Pues, Van Nuys, CA, July 29, 2022

STORY OF THE UNHOUSED

By Cindy

As the sun began to set over the bustling streets of Los Angeles, I found myself navigating through a different world—one where the shadows whispered stories of struggle and despair. My journey into the heart of homelessness was a humbling experience that would forever change my perspective on the city I thought I knew. It all started when I volunteered at a local shelter, hoping to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Little did I know that my encounters would expose me to the harsh realities of homelessness that plagued the streets of LA.

of vulnerability. The elderly, veterans, families with young children, and those struggling with mental health issues, all trapped within a system that failed to adequately address their needs. Their voices, silenced by society's indifference, echoed in the alleyways and shelters, each one

came vital lifelines in a city struggling to provide for its most vulnerable citizens. However, the limited capacity, long waiting lists, and stringent eligibility criteria created additional barriers to accessing support. The system, designed to help, often left us feeling dehumanized and trapped in a cycle of dependence.

Having experienced homelessness in Los Angeles, I have gained firsthand insights into the challenges and complexities that define this crisis. The daily struggle for survival, the isolation, and the resilience of the homeless community have left an indelible mark.

walks, filled with people who society forgot. The sights and smells were overwhelming—a patchwork of tattered blankets, discarded belongings, and the pungent scent of despair. But amidst the despair there were glimmers of hope. I met Lisa, a woman who had managed to escape the cycle of homelessness with the help of a local outreach program. Her determination and resilience inspired me as she shared her journey of overcoming addiction and rebuilding her life from scratch. Lisa's story reminded me that there is strength and resilience within every person regardless of their situation. The true measure of a city's greatness lies not in its glittering skyline or thriving economy

health services were just a few of the barriers that trapped individuals in a cycle of homelessness. It became clear that addressing this issue required a multi-faceted approach that involved not just shelters and food banks but policy changes and community engagement. Homelessness is not an isolated problem but a symptom of broader societal issues. My experiences forced me to question the values and priorities of our society, urging me to advocate for change and a more compassionate approach toward those who fall through the cracks. The true measure of a city's greatness lies not in its glittering skyline or thriving economy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 >

All I knew was that I couldn't go back to paying to live in the way that I had before. I used the money I had saved in rent towards financing an RV that made up for charm what she lacked in safety features and moved into the rig on December 1.

I will never forget walking around downtown LA that first day feeling truly free. Capitalizing on my position as a facility manager of an office where most were working from home, I parked in the office lot for as long as I could get away with it. There were bathrooms, a shower, WIFI, electricity, and all the Cheez-It and La Croix one could desire. The freedom I now felt sheltered me from fear of judgment or being fired and looking back I recount a level of brazenness that reflected this. Bringing friends who I'd defend unhoused encampments with by day, over at night to watch movies in this mid-century modern facility, drinking liquor leftover from bougie client parties. My existence became a direct reappropriation of wealth. I had offered the facility to others living in their vehicles if they needed showers or power—though none ever ended up taking me up on that.

This nirvanic state lasted about a month until more people began returning to work onsite, including one week where the entire HR department were in and well, RVs aren't in-



Lavi, me, and Mr. Heater Buddy laid in the back of our rig.

conspicuous. They told my boss who told me I couldn't park there overnight. I thought about working around them, move the rig back after folks left for the night. But ultimately, I realized that the chapter was over, and I had to move on. Leaving the parking lot, illuminated how privileged and unique that experience was compared to living in the city parked on the street. With no access to power, my house battery dies quickly. If I weren't for access to my fiancée's family home, I'd be spending much of my time planning where and when to use the bathroom. I've encountered a sliver of anti-unhoused sentiment: being told my presence lowers property value, being harassed for missing the street-cleaning time by five minutes, but ultimately, I know that I've barely gotten a taste of what others experience. 5 people die on the streets of Los Angeles every day and the public's fear and hatred for someone living outdoors is a pillar upholding the racial capitalism that is polluting our society and killing our planet.

RV and van-life mean much more than weekend trips to Yosemite and drinking coffee by the Grand Canyon. For many, it is survival. None of us are free until all of us are. What role will you play in our liberation?



Lavi in that Heater Buddy glow.

EXPERIENCES



Shayne speaking at the #InsideStarving Press Conference, Photo by Anthony

MS. ITALY'S DREAM

INSIDE SAFE

By Shayne Smith

I will never forget the evening that my friend MAC came to my makeshift bedroom in an abandoned building on Beverly Blvd. He said that he had been to an encampment on 6th and Fairfax (directly behind the LACMA museum and the location of the soon to be televised Oscars). Without notice, a new outreach group called Inside Safe was offering everyone a hotel room in exchange for their tents and personal belongings if they agreed to leave that day. He said that they were loaded on buses taken away to a hotel in Silverlake four miles away. I was astonished, excited, jealous, remorseful, and DEVASTATED.

It immediately brought back memories of the times I had called, walked, talked to workers and become angry and disillusioned as I countless times begged, pleaded, and eventually broke down hysterically asking for help while I was repeatedly told that they were overcrowded, lists were closed, or that I was not an appropriate fit. Then I remembered the many times I had been falsely arrested, physically and sexually assaulted with absolutely no help from police or hospitals although I filed reports. Thankfully, he told me that they had not finished emptying the encampment and that if I showed up the following morning at 8:00AM, I stood a chance of getting on the bus.

I packed my bag and the three of us arrived there at 5:00am. It worked! I was taken to hotel Silver lake where I was again (for the 11th time over a seven year period) enrolled in the program The People Concern (TPC). It was as if GOD reached down from the Heavens and picked me out of the thousands of other people and gave me a second chance at life.

We were given many promises: We would not have to worry about being bullied or threatened by the police to move again. Once we got to the hotel, we would not have to move again until we entered permanent housing. We would not have to abide by strict constitutional rules that treated so many of us like criminals in other programs. I was sharing a tent with my significant other and was promised my own room within a week of checking in. The Mayor's office also promised to have full wraparound services for all individuals in the program. This included an assigned social worker, drug counseling,

mental health services, physicians and prescriptions, food provision or vouchers, assistance in obtaining all documentation needed for citizenship, transportation to and from doctors/dental appts, and metro cards, free phones, clothing, cal fresh and general relief assistance, job training, possible enrollment to further our education, family reunification, and legal advice or representation, and women's services (domestic violence and rape counseling, child care and reunification, etc.) and finally, permanent housing for life. I was elated and very thankful. It has been 3 months now since I arrived at the hotel. I can tell you being inside has made a tremendous difference in my mental state and my physical appearance. However, the wrapped-around services have not been delivered. We are supposed to be taken by our social workers to DMV for an ID or license, DPSS for Cal fresh and general relief and to apply for Medi-cal and Denti-Cal, Social Security office to receive a copy of our SS cards and apply for SSI, and to apply for a copy of our birth certificates. I was not taken by my social worker to any of these. I called and tried numerous times to set up a time and date with her to no avail. She was either too busy with her 15 other clients or the van was not available. Finally, I decided to do it on my own.

I was promised I visit per month with a psychiatrist and mental health counselor and a family counselor. While I have seen a physician and a psychiatrist, I have yet to have a counselor set up for myself or my family. I still have not gotten any of my prescriptions. For the past month, I have been dealing with the Department of Social Services to sort out my health insurance. I packed my bag and the three of us arrived there at 5:00am. It worked! I was taken to hotel Silver lake where I was again (for the 11th time over a seven year period) enrolled in the program The People Concern (TPC). It was as if GOD reached down from the Heavens and picked me out of the thousands of other people and gave me a second chance at life.

After being here one month and after many phone calls and in-person requests; I was given permission to get my own room. The very next day, I was told our whole encampment was being moved to the Grand Hotel without reason. I asked the assistant director of TPC and was told that because the district councilman for district 15 was upset with the Mayor's office because they brought people from district 5 into his area. He had promised during his campaign to remove all homeless from Echo Park (apparently without all the council members' votes) He made a call to the mayor that same Friday morning and the decision was made to turn the Silverlake hotel over to PATH and his office and to move the homeless from the park into our rooms. The mayor already promised to keep

us in our district (which she did not), and not to move us at all until we moved into our permanent housing, and yet they were doing it. Of course, all of those told to move were concerned and decided they wanted me to discuss this with TPC. Only half of us were even told on Saturday. I had already started moving my things to my new room but decided to wait until Monday. Monday when the buses and the TPC workers arrived I was verbally attacked by the Head of the outreach program in the lobby in front of all the TPC workers and others. She accused me of lying about wanting a room of my own and that I was letting other homeless visitors stay there that we were not in the program. She stood up and got in my face and threatened me and accused me of being a problem and when I stepped forward in her direction four of the TPC workers got in my face as well, as if to jump on me. I was so upset by the entire situation, I began to cry. I never had any intentions to do any of the things she accused me of. This is not the first time that person had threatened me. I told her the people who were refusing to go and went to my room. She had a worker come to my room after I spoke to reporters, and the worker called her on the phone. That same case worker told me that I was starting trouble and that if I spoke to anyone else or had any more of my homeless friends come to the hotel to ask for help or housing that she would have me expelled from the program. She told me that I could not have my own room anymore and that they were now implementing a no visitor policy because I had a visitor to the hotel.

After the incident that day, several people came to me and said they heard the TPC workers talking out loud about me in a negative manner many times. I tried to call and make a complaint but no one was allowed to help me and the assistant director of TPC simply directed me to speak with the new director of Safe Inside, who, of course, was the worker that verbally attacked and threatened me. I was then told that my room in particular was to have no visitors. My worker quit helping me and I was given a newly hired worker with no experience who had 15 other clients and I was told I was too proactive. I was also told that housing would now probably take me longer to get because no one there liked me.

When I text my workers to ask questions about housing or rides to doctor's appointments, I am usually ignored. My hous-

ing worker came to meet me and said she would come weekly with housing options for me to look at with her, but she has only come twice. That was a month and a half ago.

Needless to say, this is certainly not a program that is organized professionally. They have been incredibly disrespectful and rude and don't seem to have a set way of doing anything nor a unified system to get people documentation. They are having meetings for housing and various events at the Grand Hotel, but they have not had housing events, job fairs, or mental health counseling. We are not updated on our housing status nor given a time frame of when to expect it.

I am quite disappointed and yet I feel ungrateful for complaining. I don't know where the homeless monies have gone, but it certainly has not gone to making sure we receive adequate wraparound services.

ing worker came to meet me and said she

opportunities and accessing essential services.

As I transitioned from the streets into a home of my own, a profound sense of gratitude washed over me. I understood firsthand the significance of having a place to call home and the immense impact it has on one's well-being.

My personal journey through homelessness in Los Angeles taught me invaluable lessons about the intricate web of circumstances that can lead to such vulnerability. It revealed the urgent need for systemic changes to address the root causes of homelessness and provide sustainable solutions. Each person experiencing homelessness has a unique story deserving of empathy and support. It is incumbent upon our society to foster compassion, advocate for affordable housing, increase access to mental health services, and create meaningful employment opportunities.

My journey through homelessness in Los Angeles was not without its struggles, yet it also revealed to me the strength of the human spirit and the transformative power of community. It is my hope that by sharing my story, we can challenge societal perceptions, inspire empathy, and ignite meaningful action. Together, we can build a future where every individual has the opportunity to find stability, reclaim their dignity, and rediscover the meaning of home.

Photo by Ashley Balderrama



OVERSIZE VEHICLE ORDINANCES NEED TO GO

By Bitta Sharma

For unhoused folks across Los Angeles, parking restrictions are just another weapon in the city's arsenal for criminalizing and displacing poor people. In the public imagination, parking restrictions fall squarely within the realm of traffic and transportation. The vast majority of Angelenos drive around the city and get parking tickets, so we don't think of these rules in the context of deep social issues like poverty and homelessness. As a result, our labyrinth of parking bans escapes the level of scrutiny applied to laws like LAMC 41.18, which clearly target unhoused people.

And yet, many L.A. parking restrictions are written and enforced with the goal of banishing unhoused people from public spaces. They are wolves in sheep's clothing, and that's what makes them so insidious. A prime example is LAMC 80.69.4, which went into effect in 2006. The ordinance prohibits parking "oversize" vehicles on designated street segments between 2:00am and 6:00am. Of course, banning RVs in the middle of the night does little to reduce traffic hazards; it simply makes life harder for people living in their vehicles.

Like LAMC 41.18, the oversize vehicle ordinance allows City Councilmembers to construct a patchwork of banned street segments throughout Los Angeles, one motion at a time. Once a City Councilmember introduces an 80.69.4 motion, it sails through committee and full Council with zero oversight. After all, we live in a city where each Councilmember is granted absolute deference on matters arising within their district, especially when it comes

to disappearing poor people. Interestingly, these motions previously passed through the Housing and Homelessness Committee but were recently re-routed through Transportation, making it even easier for elected officials to hold their nose and rubber-stamp each new ban. Once City Council approves a new ban, the LA Department of Transportation is instructed to put up signage. Incredibly, LADOT is not required to track their work, and they have no map or record of where oversize vehicle bans exist. None of this is inevitable. Parking restrictions that allow city officials to discriminate against poor people have been successfully challenged in the past. For example, in 2014 the 9th Circuit struck down LAMC 85.02 as unconstitutional.

It's particularly vague, in part because it promoted arbitrary enforcement targeting unhoused people. LAMC 80.69.4 is just the latest iteration of anti-poor laws posing as parking restrictions, and it's high time we gave this ordinance the attention it deserves. First, we need to do LADOT's work for them, by building a database and map of banned street segments. Next, we need to make it painful for the Transportation Committee to rubber stamp these motions. The Committee is composed of Councilmembers Hutt, Park, Hernandez, Raman and Yaroslavsky. It's imperative that the "progressive" majority on Transportation start blocking (or at least scrutinizing) LAMC 80.69.4 motions before they advance to City Council. Finally, we need to understand and document how this ordinance is affecting people on the ground and exacerbating the homelessness crisis.

HILLSIDE VILLA: THE FIGHT TO KEEP PEOPLE HOUSED IN LA

Below is an open letter to Angelenos from a tenants association fighting to stay housed in Chinatown. Over the past five years, they have organized and won huge victories in housing justice history, and yet have not secured affordable housing for themselves. Evictions have now begun, but the fight is not over. Reprinted with permission from Hillside Villa Tenants Association.



April 15, 2023

Dear Neighbors:

We are the Hillside Villa Tenants Association from Chinatown, and we're here today because we are desperate for Mayor Bass's support.

Many of us are single moms, many are elders fixed on incomes, and all of us are in danger of losing our homes now that the eviction moratorium has expired. We began organizing together in 2018, when our landlord Tom Botz announced massive rent increases of up to 300% after the affordability covenant on our building expired. Five years later, we are still facing the same rent increase.

By organizing and making our voices heard, we got the City Council to vote unanimously to begin the process of acquiring our building to keep it permanently affordable. That was in May, 2022. Since then, no progress has been made toward buying the building. The City, including the Housing Department and City Attorney, have been dragging their feet. Mayor Bass is the only one who has the power to change this.

Meanwhile, our slumlord Botz has been

trying to evict tenants, including a disabled veteran and a family that lost their mother to Covid on Christmas and received an additional rent increase the next month.

The Mayor has declared a State of Emergency around homelessness and has said "We are going to be just as bold when it comes to preserving housing as we are about building housing," but we haven't seen any urgency on her part about keeping 124 families at Hillside Villa "inside safe" in our homes. There are thousands of units in buildings like ours with expiring covenants in the city. If landlords see that they can get away with throwing people onto the street by jacking up rents, many of them will.

That's why our Tenants Association has the support of 50 housing advocates, nonprofits and elected officials. For more information, please visit hillsidevillata.org. We hope you'll join us in demanding that the Mayor lock arms with us and do what she needs to do to save our homes. If you have any questions or concerns, come talk to us!

Thank you for your understanding.

Hillside Villa Tenants Association



RECLAIMING A HOME

By Martha A. Escudero

As California shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic shelter at home order, many people began to panic as so many Californians were unhoused or housing insecure. I, with my 2 daughters, reclaimed a two bedroom home in El Sereno as part of Reclaiming Our Homes, a movement of unhoused and housing insecure families and individuals taking vacant, publicly-owned housing back for our community. We, the Reclaimers, are calling on the city and state to immediately use all vacant proper-

ties to house people. We need all levels of government to make a massive investment in public and social housing so that everyone has a home during the housing and public health crisis. With the help of a coalition of six organizations working to secure affordable housing, members of Reclaiming Our Homes were able to move into 12 homes that are owned by CalTrans, the California Department of Transportation, and had been sitting vacant. Having our own space kept us safe throughout the height of the pandemic. Like many people, we were afraid to be out

in the streets during the pandemic, and in order to avoid this, we signed a 2 year contract under duress with a city program called PATH. They promised to provide us with permanent housing options. I was offered some options but none of them met my needs. The housing options offered to me were either outside my income range, subject to lotteries, or outside my preferred geographic area. These programs are built with cookie cutter bureaucracy that I believe to be inhumane. As a single mother of 2, it is essential I stay in my community because it is here where

A STAND AGAINST CARCERALITY By Will Sems

When adversity strikes a community, conscientious people quickly band together and begin to form solutions. But, what happens to a community when the adversary comes from an ultra-powerful entity like the state of California or the City of Los Angeles? In the spring of 2020 a group of about 20 unhoused and housed activists from all parts of LA convened at Pershing Square in Downtown for an urgent meeting. Months prior, the state funded a massive program to pull people off the streets and place them in vacant hotel rooms called Project Roomkey or PRK. This program provided people who live on the streets a place to stay for the duration of the pandemic with the goal of placing program 'participants' (A name that implies the veiled threat that residents

We fight against conditions that are



Police violence disrupting community.

must 'participate' appropriately or be 'exited' from the program and sent back to the street with potentially nothing) into permanent housing under a government subsidized voucher. The hope was that PRK would protect some of the most vulnerable on the street and prevent the spread of COVID-19 by providing sanitary shelter, free vaccines, and regular free testing. unsafe, unjust, and lead to further hardship, like job loss and malnutrition. Carcerality in PRK was experienced as not having control over who is allowed to enter occupied rooms. People's tools and belongings were confiscated. Impoverished people were being charged for using facility parking and threatened with the loss of their vehicle. These cruel acts that criminalized the poor became the focus of change for UTACH. We were able to have the curfew time pushed back, we called press conferences and got former Mayor Eric Garcetti attention on the issues of lack of Emergency Vouchers. We helped people find placement with the voiceless? 50,000 Unhoused children in the LAUSD school system. The injustices roll on and the indifference is matching pace. We are on the precipice of returning to a time in our society where the Civil War is going to look like a tea party. As I inform some of the jaded that we must refortify our efforts to speak out against the darkness slowly looming ahead. We must be equally invested in changing the world for the better as those committed to changing it for the worst.

providing humane housing for the people who needed it. In fact, more people died in the confines of Project Roomkey sites than died on the streets for the duration of the program. Insiders saw PRK providers, like the Salvation Army, clearly prioritizing maintaining image over life.

We are unhoused because unjust

processes removed us from our housing. Renters and tenants, who may not own property but occupy it through laws rooted in colonialism, have rights, and should know and enforce them. We are against carceral structures and ideas. Much of our environment is leveraged and weaponized to maintain a status quo. Unhoused Tenants Against Carceral Housing (UTACH), discovered that when we speak, in a large group, in unison, our demands can create a real change in the world.

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Health Tips from Your Friends & the All Power Free Clinic: DIY WOUND CARE

We all find ourselves nursing wounds one day or another. Because of our racist, capitalist, fractured healthcare system, though, we are **not** all able to get the care we need when we need it, nor with the respect + dignity we deserve. Here's some basic information on **wound care** that we hope will help all of us keep each other safer and healthier! ❤️

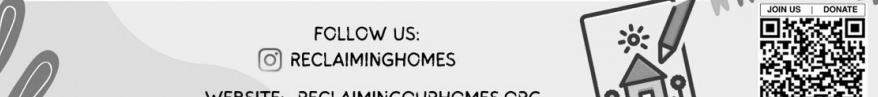
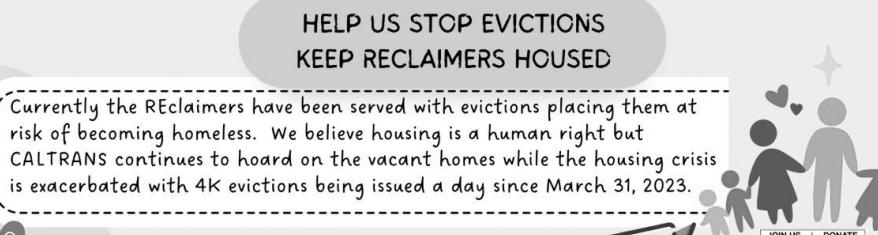
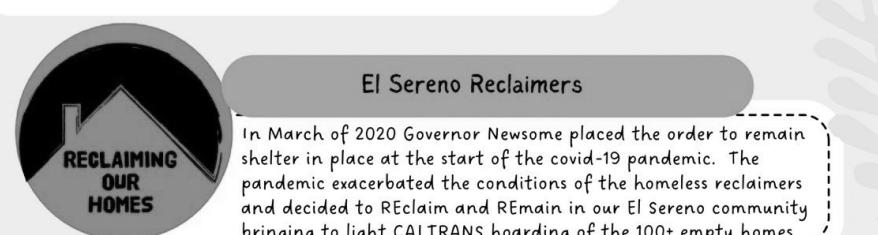
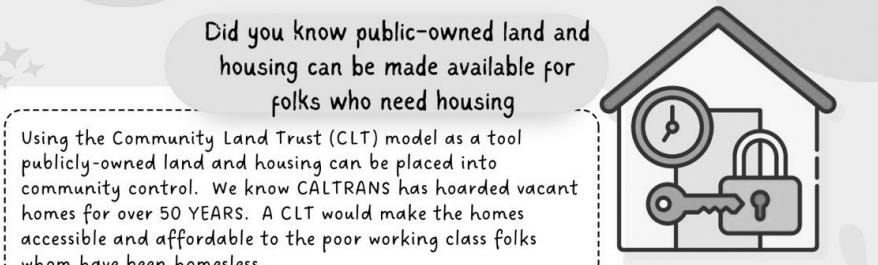
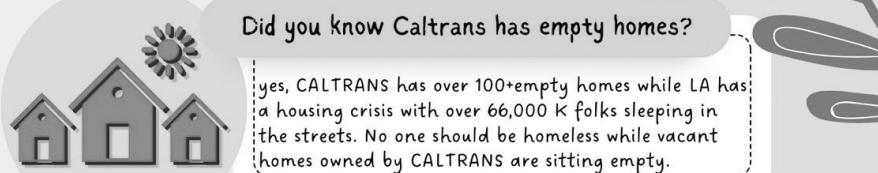
The Basics

Most wounds can be treated with the same simple algorithm: **clean, irrigate, and dress.**

- ★ **Before** taking care of your wound, it is important to make sure that your hands are clean. Wash with soap and water if possible, or use hand sanitizer. Now you're ready to clean the wound!
- ★ **Clean** the area by removing any debris (dirt, dead skin, small objects) in the wound — this can be done with sterile saline or water.
- ★ **Irrigate** by pouring the saline or water on the wound and then taking a clean gauze pad to try to gently clean it up as much as possible.
- ★ **Dress** the wound with a Bandaid, or gauze and tape — depending on the size and location. Generally, smaller and more surface level wounds should be fine with just a Bandaid, larger areas may work better with gauze and tape.

It may also help to apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment (i.e. Neosporin, Bacitracin) **prior** to dressing the wound to help kill any germs that are present. This reduces the risk of infection!

RECLAIMING OUR HOMES



FINALLY, AN ID!

By Dwight Singleton
What is the value in having an identification card (ID)? Having lived in the state of California for over 20 years and never possessing a California ID, the importance of having one never bore its mark on me, but circumstances have made me acknowledge that there is value in having one. Because I never truly realized the value of having an ID, I did not try to get one nor did I really want one. Dealing with the basic things in life, like getting human service benefits from the department of social services, being able to travel, and going into

business establishments, made me see the necessity of having a physical California ID. Of course, there is the matter of being identified by the police in case of being stopped by one for whatever reason(s). Then, there is the need to be known in case you have to go to hospital for an emergency and a whole host of other things where an identified card is required. Finally, having a real California ID has hit home for me; the reality of seeing how people have responded to me in positive ways tells me that it does matter to have an ID, if for no other reason than being able to be identified.

TANYA'S TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME HOMELESSNESS

By Tanya

1. A tent with a working door is exactly like a house or apartment.
2. No one can enter your tent home without permission from the owner.
3. You can and should protect your tent home and belongings from others.
4. Keep your trash in one place away from where you live in order to keep rodents away and stop sanitation from harassing you.
5. Always record interactions with police, and any other organizations that promise you things.
6. Get everything in writing! Never go with an organization until you have written confirmation, rules, and contacts in your hand first.
7. Treat people with the same respect as you would expect from others.

SURVIVAL GUIDE

What you need to know about Xylazine AKA Tranq

Xylazine is a **non-opioid sedative** used to tranquilize animals. It's being added to Fentanyl to give it longer legs

Xylazine increases the risk of overdose. Administer Narcan and do rescue breathing as usual. The person may still remain sedated even after they start breathing again.

What to do if you think there's Tranq in your dope
Tell someone: keep each other safe and tell someone at your local syringe program so they can warn others

Start low and go slow: tranq causes a heavier nod so make sure you're in a safe place

You can get your drugs tested in Los Angeles! It requires a 10 mg sample (about the size of a grain of rice) and you get some results in minutes.

Email checkingla@proton.me for times and locations.

Created with information from The Everywhere Project and SUPHR division DPH Philadelphia



These wounds can occur regardless of method of use (snorting, smoking, or injecting)

These wounds will not heal easily on their own and require medical attention

Use with friends or: **Never Use Alone**

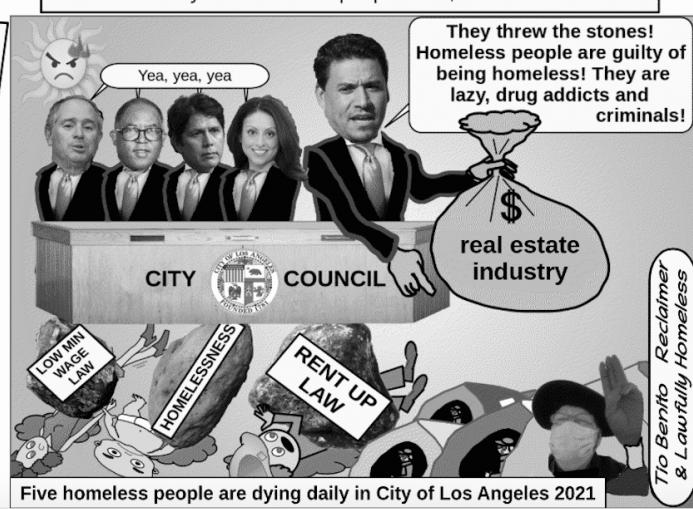
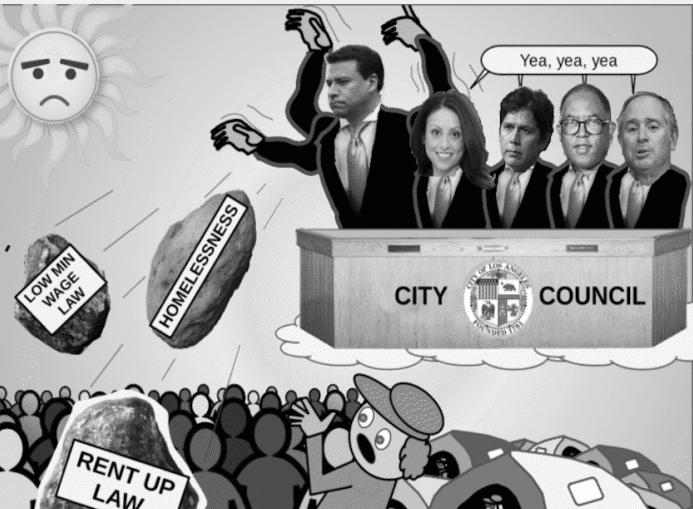
English hotline: 800-484-3731
Spanish hotline: 800-928-5330

The Brave App
download in the app store



WHO CREATED HOMELESSNESS?
It was L.A. City Council who created 2 laws: rent UP AND Minimum Wage LOOOOW.

INDICT CITY COUNCIL
REPLACE CITY COUNCIL



Five homeless people are dying daily in City of Los Angeles 2021

ROOFLESSER'S ART

By Ruth @rooflesser

I live outdoors in the City of L.A., which is something I have done continuously since 2017 after first being displaced in 2003. My partner and I have gotten seven tickets for "quality of life" crimes like possessing an umbrella, having a suitcase & public sleeping in the City of Los Angeles.

I went to court for two of them \$237 each. For two more of them, my significant other told the judge we moved, & those were dismissed. When we were in Court (on alternating days because we can't leave our spot unattended), they did not offer or refer us to ANY resources.

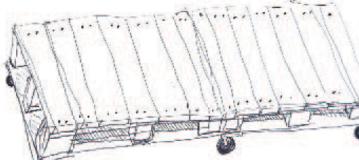
I was offered a "deal": 12 hours of uncompensated "community service" labor clearing other "encampments" for Public Works (as if wage theft didn't contribute to my current situation). I forgot if this "deal" was for one or both tickets, but within another month, we had accumulated three more tickets.

LAMC § 41.18 MADE SITTING IN PUBLIC illegal. [CF20-1376]
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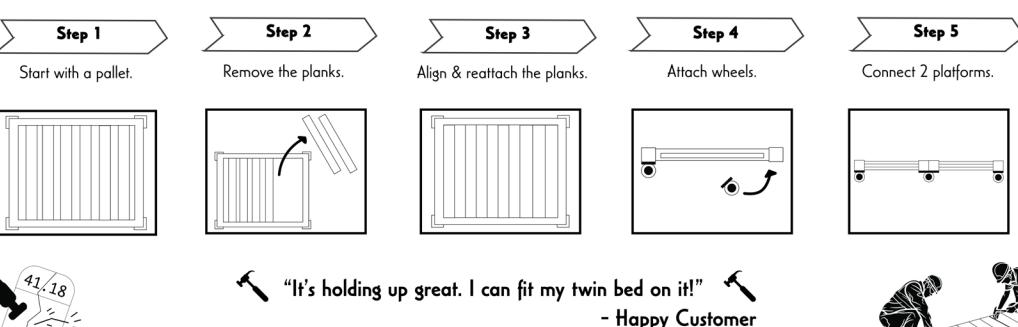
FINE FOR SITTING IN PUBLIC: \$237.
[1st offense, City Atty ACE]

MAKE YOUR OWN DIY PLATFORM ON WHEELS

Resist 41.18 sweeps with a portable vehicle that meets your needs.

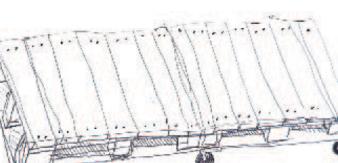


DIY Platforms on Wheels aim to add flexibility and mobility to your life. Using pallets, planks, wheels and other spare materials, you can build your own platform to move and store your belongings on the street. We encourage you to customize the platforms and build together!

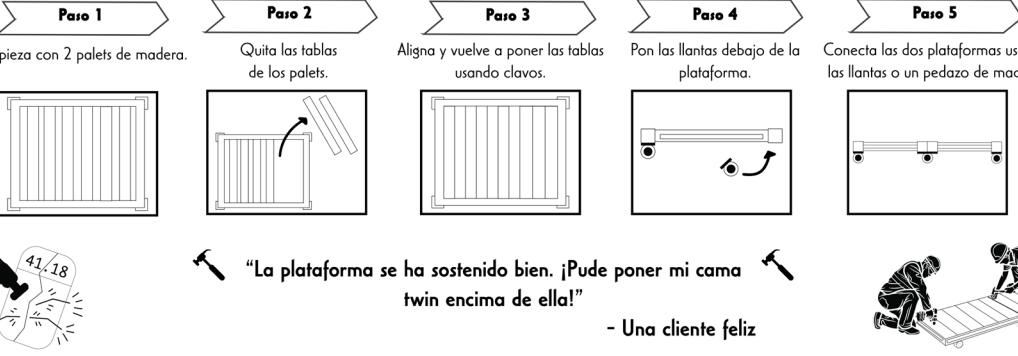


CREA TU PROPIA PLATAFORMA BRICOLAJE CON LLANTAS

Resiste el despojo de los campamentos por orden de la Sección 41.18 del código municipal de Los Ángeles usando este vehículo bricolaje



Estas plataformas con llantas bricolaje ofrecen flexibilidad y movilidad. Usando palets de madera, llantas, y otros materiales, tú puedes construir tu propia plataforma con llantas para que puedas navegar por la calle y tener donde guardar tus cosas. ¡Te animamos a personalizar tu plataforma a tu gusto y construir estas plataformas en colaboración con otras personas!



#REPEAL 41.18

WHERE CAN I GET HARM REDUCTION RESOURCES IN LA?
CLEAN RIGS SAFE INJECTION PIPES SUPPLIES FENTANYL TEST STRIPS HALOXONE AND MORE...
VISIT YOUR LOCAL SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAM TODAY!
MAP



