

Batch 22

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 6:43 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

Instead of entrenching vulnerable people in an expensive criminal system that will do nothing to address why they are homeless, we need to create more affordable housing and provide safety for those experiencing homelessness. The proposed measures will just entrench poverty and move it to surrounding suburbs. Homeless individuals will be exposed to greater danger and it's likely individuals experiencing homelessness could be killed as a result, like what recently happened in Footscray. Melbourne city council should continue its usually sensitive approach to people experiencing disadvantage and abandon this harmful proposal.

Yours sincerely, Footscray, Victoria, 3011, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 6:44 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

It is punishing people who are already among the most vulnerable in our community, who need our support not further torment and trauma.

We should be looking for long term state funded solutions to the issue of homelessness (ie providing more social housing) rather than trying to keep up appearances and ‘tidy’ homeless people away further from the city where they are less visible and more unsafe.

Not everyone is born with the same opportunities so it is up to those with more money and privilege to use it wisely and unselfishly.

Please do let this abhorrent ban pass.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Abbotsford, Victoria, 3067, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 6:46 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely, Oak Park, Victoria, 3046, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 6:52 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely, Harmers Haven, Victoria, 3995, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 6:56 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

This is yet another attack on the most vulnerable in our society. Please do not consider passing.

Yours sincerely, Preston, Victoria, 3072, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 6:59 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely, Princes Hill, Victoria, 3054, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 7:01 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

It will be the Olympics all over again, where aboriginals were deported from the cities and all efforts investing in helping the group will be in vain. To get them off the streets, investing is necessary! And it pays off.

Yours sincerely, Box hill, Melbourne

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 7:08 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council. Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

And it is outrageous to make sleeping out a crime. I love being outdoors and sleeping outside is a natural and pleasure able thing to do. It's also a repeat of colonialist ideals. Conform or else!

Yours sincerely, Derrimut, Victoria, 3030, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 7:23 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place. Instead of adding to the anguish that these people are already suffering from, Council should be actively working to find suitable housing for these human beings. How nice is it to have a well paid government position your own house and all the privileges that go with it. Show some compassion and understanding for the plight of these people

Yours sincerely, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 7:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place. R

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****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely, Williamstown North, Victoria, 3016, Australia

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This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

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this action is abhorrent, and should not go ahead

Yours sincerely, Thirroul, New South Wales, 2515, Australia

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From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 7:50 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

The proposal is ineffective, inhumane and will only criminalise and punish marginalised people. Address causes of homelessness and fund support services and housing options, don't make it effectively illegal to be homeless.

Yours sincerely, Brunswick East, Victoria, 3057, Australia

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To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

Pushing people out to the fringes only isolates them more from support, services and amenities. If homelessness is a concern for the council surely finding a solution that will put people in homes would be better for our society.

If this is too big an issue for the City's Council to solve on their own, members of Council need to request support from the State and Federal Government.

These laws essentially make it illegal to be homeless if not make it extremely hard for people facing homelessness. As a Council, in the past you have maintained that being homeless is not a crime. Why pass Local Law that will essentially go against this word?

Criminalising people for their oppression and lack of choice is absurd. People do not just decide to be homeless. It is important to me that the City of Melbourne stand up and work toward equity in our city, and enabling homeless people to have the opportunity of living a life off the streets by supporting them.

Yours sincerely, Carlton, Victoria, 3053, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
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To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

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I found it very telling, no representatives from the police or the council, very cowedly.

Yours sincerely,

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To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

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Yours sincerely, Northcote, Victoria, 3070, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 8:03 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place. People are not sleeping on the streets out of choice. To suggest otherwise is to ignore all the evidence otherwise, and also to rob people of their dignity – to suggest they are liars and opportunists.

This proposed ban will violate vulnerable people's human rights, isolate them further from society and from support services, push them into dark and unsafe spaces in the city, and rob them of the few personal possessions they can still call their own.

It is a terrible and dangerous idea, and it will result in great suffering down the track. There will be deaths because of this.

Discomfort has been stirred up by tabloid commentators, police and city traders. It's all about making the city look nice – it's ab

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 8:12 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Hi, my name is _____, and I have been a resident of the CBD for 10 years and slept rough for that time. There is also about 20 other people that you see sleeping on the side of the road at night. We have been together for a long time. We est together, sleep, make sure people are taking their meds, and make sure that we are ok. We have become a family, and I think that it would be a bad idea to split us up. So we need to find somewhere for us to go and sleep at night so we are safe and our things are safe and don't get hurt or robbed. Which happens all the time. So I am asking can you have some faith in us, and find it in your hearts to keep us together and not split us up. Thank you for your time.

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 8:14 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely,

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 8:29 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

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Yours sincerely, Richmond, Victoria, 3121, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 8:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

Let's not hurt those already struggling, take a moment to imagine life in their shoes. A little bit of compassion goes a long way! Let's live the truth.

Please find it in your heart to do the right thing.

Yours sincerely, Seddon, Victoria, 3011, Australia

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 8:42 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

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Yours sincerely,

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To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

As a housing worker in the inner city I believe the intended law changes only move the problem and do nothing to address it. It only further criminalises already marginalised people.

I believe more long term options, more supporter options and more affordable options are what's needed to help those in a housing crisis.

Thanks.

Yours sincerely, Footscray, Victoria, 3011, Australia

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From: <campaigns@good.do>
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To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

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****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely, Taylors Hill, Victoria, 3037, Australia

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From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 8:53 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

Your proposed laws do not accord with the spirit of the Melbourne that I know and love. I love this city because we support each other, we have a society based on compassion and empathy, and we have systemic structures to assist people who are struggling through no fault of their own.

Your laws fly in the face of that ethos. They punish people for something that they can't control. They make it unlawful for people to lack something. Something that is essential to so many other important outcomes, like health, ability to work, and safety. You are punishing people for lacking a home.

Your council has presumably signed up to a range of initiatives to tackle family violence. How do you then reconcile your position on homelessness with the fact that family violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness in women? How do you justify your punitive approach in terms of the statistics of mental health issues amongst people experiencing homelessness?

Your laws also offend me on an intellectual and utilitarian basis.

I am a lawyer who regularly works in infringements law. I assist people who are experienced homelessness with their fines.

The infringements system has been explicitly set up so that people who are fined because of their homelessness can have their fines waived. There is a systemic recognition that such people do not have the capacity and should not face the strain of paying fines. It is also expensive to enforce fines against people who will never be able to pay.

In light of this, the Victorian Ombudsman has completed a report that recommended that we stop fining people, including those who are homeless, in the first place. Surely your council must defer to the office of the Ombudsman on a topic like this.

I don't believe that your council genuinely wants to punish people experiencing homelessness. I encourage you to stand up against the recent demonisation of people experiencing homelessness in the media and lead the way with a compassionate and intelligent approach to homelessness.

Yours sincerely, Seddon, Victoria, 3011, Australia

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To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

It is also deeply unethical.

Yours sincerely, Fitzroy North, Victoria, 3068, Australia

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Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 9:00 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

This will add more stress to the people who actively seek accommodation on a daily basis, but do not succeed.

Yours sincerely, Spotswood, Victoria, 3015, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 2

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 9:12 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

It normalises the inhumane treatment of people less fortunate.

Please consider other uses of the same police funding that are not so mean-spirited and short-sighted. I have faith in the City of Melbourne and the public sector in general and I hope to see compassionate and long-term solutions in my city.

Yours sincerely, Seddon, Victoria, 3011, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____.

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 9:16 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

....

Your proposed laws do not accord with the spirit of the Melbourne that I know and love. I love this city because we support each other, we have a society based on compassion and empathy, and we have systemic structures to assist people who are struggling through no fault of their own.

Your laws fly in the face of that ethos. They punish people for something that they can't control. They make it unlawful for people to lack something. Something that is essential to so many other important outcomes, like health, ability to work, and safety. You are punishing people for lacking a home.

Your council has presumably signed up to a range of initiatives to tackle family violence. How do you then reconcile your position on homelessness with the fact that family violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness in women? How do you justify your punitive approach in terms of the statistics of mental health issues amongst people experiencing homelessness?

Your laws also offend me on an intellectual and utilitarian basis.

I am a lawyer who regularly works in criminal and infringements law. I assist people who are experienced homelessness with their fines. The infringements system has been explicitly set up so that people who are fined because of their homelessness can have their fines waived. There is a systemic recognition that such people do not have the capacity and should not face the strain of paying fines. It is also expensive to enforce fines against people who will never be able to pay.

Further, as a criminal lawyer, I can see that there are far more serious and pressing issues the court should be resolving than someone being homeless.

In light of this, the Victorian Ombudsman has completed a report that recommended that we stop fining people, including those who are homeless, in the first place. Surely your council must defer to the office of the Ombudsman on a topic like this.

I don't believe that your council genuinely wants to punish people experiencing homelessness. I encourage you to stand up against the recent demonisation of people experiencing homelessness in the media and lead the way with a compassionate and reasoned way.

Yours sincerely, Carlton, Victoria, 3053, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____ .

Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 9:17 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

Criminalizing the use of public space will make Melbourne's streets less safe for all.

The proposed law is cruel, discriminatory and will ultimately be ineffective. Its only outcome will be to direct police resources towards inevitable antagonism with already vulnerable and marginalised people.

Please do not support it.

Yours sincerely, Preston, Victoria, 3072, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____.

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 9:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

How does making it an offence to sleep rough help to solve the problems of the homeless?

Has any Melbourne City Councillor suggested where these people will sleep if they are not permitted to sleep on City of Melbourne streets? Will they simply move to another part of Melbourne?

I have already seen blankets removed from Lygon Street by men in some sort of uniform. Why deprive people, who own nothing but a few blankets and the clothes they are wearing, of their blankets?

Will offenders be fined? Taken to court? Imprisoned for not being able to pay a fine? If I were to leave unattended for, say, ten minutes, a rug on the grass in, say, the Alexandra Gardens would it be confiscated?

Why has the City Council done so little to assist the homeless?

When will further Council decisions regarding the homeless, particularly those who are sleeping rough, be made? Will Council meetings affecting these people be open to the public ?

Yours sincerely, Carlton, Victoria, 3053, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 9:50 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

I work in the city and come into contact with people who are homeless regularly. i have had friends who have become homeless, it does not take much when a person is vulnerable to fall into homelessness. The proposed action does not ask or take into account the voice or needs of the people who are homeless.

I do not support it.

Yours sincerely, Preston, Victoria, 3072, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____ .

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 10:02 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

This action criminalises disadvantage and will cost taxpayers more in the long run.

This action will put intense pressure on neighbouring LGAs.

Rooming house closures and residential tenancy act amendments are set to intensify housing issues in our city.

This 'out of sight out of mind' policy has no merit.

Yours sincerely, Coburg, Victoria, 3058, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 10:04 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

Please lead by example and treat the most vulnerable with the greatest dignity.

Yours sincerely, Sandringham, Victoria, 3191, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____ .

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 10:06 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

We as a society do not have a right to make our living spaces “aesthetically pleasing” by criminalizing the most vulnerable people and compounding the issues that have driven them to homelessness in the first place.

If we do not want homeless people on the streets of Melbourne then we should address the issues leading to homelessness – lack of public housing, lack of other services that help people with addiction, mental illness, lack of domestic violence services. This is the civilized way to deal with homelessness, not the barbaric proposals put forward by Melbourne City Council.

It is a shameful day for all of us when we treat the most vulnerable in our society like animals.

Yours sincerely, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 10:20 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely, Coburg, Victoria, 3058, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____ .

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 10:33 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

Please put resources into helping the cause of homelessness rather than just pushing it out of sight. I also see this proposed law as a contradiction to basic human rights.

Yours sincerely, Abbotsford, Victoria, 3067, Australia

_____ This email was sent by via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to at

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 10:38 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

All this action will do is punish some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Those who sleep rough in our city did not choose to do so in the hopes that it would inconvenience Melbourne City Council.

Yours sincerely, Sunshine, Victoria, 3020, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 10:58 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

A successful society is measured by how it's most disadvantaged and disenfranchised are treated. The social problem of homelessness, or 'sleeping rough', is a complex problem which requires a multi-level response starting with putting a person's (in this case, Melbourne resident who is sleeping rough) needs first. If they are removed without adequate resources, opportunities to seek sustainable housing, nurturing environments (both physical and sociopolitical) support with enabling their capabilities to do, be and become (Nobel Laureate and Economist Amartya Sen), then we as a community are setting them up to fail and become the next city or town's problem. This is unsustainable, and contravenes human rights, freedoms and conventions including, but not limited to, the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. As homelessness often houses people suffering from psychiatric disability together with other entrenched complex issues, they are amongst the most marginali

sed groups who need support to flourish. Please reconsider this decision by starting with a roundtable discussion with homeless people, together with housing, health (including mental health), disability, medical and justice system representatives, local and state government representatives and academic specialists in the field to develop a roadmap for practical action and sustainable change to eradicate homelessness through more dignified means.

Yours sincerely,

, Victoria, 3220, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:01 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

Homelessness is not a crime it is the result of unfortunate circumstance. Removing people sleeping rough does nothing to change those circumstances it simply moves them out of the public eye. Rather than using public funds for a bandaid solution council should be focused on long term effective solutions such as public housing, rehab programs improved mental health support. Now is a chance to show that Melbourne is a compassionate city that does not give up on the vulnerable.

Yours sincerely, Pascoe Vale, Victoria, 3044, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:12 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely,

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:25 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

it is inhumane and short-sighted and not worthy of Melbourne.

Yours sincerely, Thornbury, Victoria, 3071, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____ .

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:27 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

How can you make it illegal to be homeless? It's so wrong. People need somewhere safe to sleep, there isn't enough last resort support accommodation. More needs to be done to address the root cause and provide emergency accommodation, not make it an offence and move them on.

Yours sincerely, Mont Albert, Victoria, 3127, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:35 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

The appropriate response to homelessness in Melbourne must be based upon the needs of people who sleep rough and who have lived experiences of homelessness.

As the key factor for homelessness in the city is a severe lack of affordable housing, any effective action would prioritise increasing affordable housing. Change your priorities.

Yours sincerely, Brunswick West, Victoria, 3055, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____ .

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:38 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action is a band aid solution that doesn't address the real problems that cause homelessness in the first place. Melbourne City Council should be increasing pressure on State and Federal Governments to address the waitlist on government housing which in Victoria currently is 33,000.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

Criminalising homelessness will not only have negative impacts on people sleeping rough but also the broader community. Fining people only puts more pressure on individuals who are already on the fringes of society, this will only increase their isolation. Its an unnecessary involvement of the criminal justice system.

Its is unbelievable that a forward thinking culturally and artistically diverse city such as the City of Melbourne would propose such narrow minded solutions. It is a complex issue that demands decency of a human rights approach. This is an opportunity to find innovative and broad minded solutions, the City of Melbourne should be embarrassed with this proposal.

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Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:42 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

Yours sincerely, Brunswick, Victoria, 3056, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:47 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

Yours sincerely, Heidelberg Heights, Victoria, 3081, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:55 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

It is cruel and punitive to move on homeless people. Criminalizing, punishing or pushing out of site people suffering from a situation caused by a lack of affordable housing and social services is cruel and reflects badly on the government. It will be opposed by the people and you will further waste tax payers money enforcing your disturbing laws and policing protests that will surely follow. This money would be better spent on social services. There appears to be a huge lack of ethics in the councillors who think this is acceptable. So they should not be allowed to govern.

Yours sincerely, Preston, Victoria, 3072, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however _____ i provided an email address _____) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____ .

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Batch 24

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:59 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

Yours sincerely, Fitzroy North, Victoria, 3068, Australia

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Please reply to _____ at _____ .

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From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 2:13 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work. It does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

City of Melbourne, well-funded and well-resourced, is in a perfect position to address the housing crisis in a serious and sustained way. The City has a responsibility to invest in public and social housing (including maintenance and creation).

I am in a private rental arrangement in an apartment building that includes social and public housing. Just nearby the rough sleepers in Enterprize Park are a growing reminder to all of us that the current system is fundamentally broken. The terrifying threat of falling behind on our rent looms large.

What also looms large is Crown Casino, making billions on a peppercorn rent. This is a sick reminder to all of us that our elected representatives at all levels of government are not being bold enough in making sure those who can afford to contribute do and those who can't benefit.

Criminalising the poor is not a short-, mid- or long-term solution. It is a scandalous and transparent attempt to paper over a serious problem. Don't do this.

Yours sincerely, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

To learn more about Do Gooder visit www.dogooder.co To learn more about web protocol FC 3834 visit: www.rfc-base.org/rfc-3834.html

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 2:22 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

****INCLUDE YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE SUBMISSION HERE****

Yours sincerely, Huntingdale, Victoria, 3166, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

To learn more about Do Gooder visit www.dogooder.co To learn more about web protocol FC 3834 visit: www.rfc-base.org/rfc-3834.html

From: <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 5:00 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Response to Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Please accept my submission to the proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless in the first place.

This action will not work because it does not address why people are homeless.

Please take compassionate and considerate action, based on evidence shown in other cities, that laws without heavily increased services, will only make homelessness as a social problem worse.

Yours sincerely, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000, Australia

_____ This email was sent by _____ via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however provided an email address _____ which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to _____ at _____

To learn more about Do Gooder visit www.dogooder.co To learn more about web protocol FC 3834 visit: www.rfc-base.org/rfc-3834.html

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 16 February 2017 10:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#9]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Friday 17 February 2017

Agenda item title proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

To make life more difficult for homeless people living on the street is to exacerbate the problem, increase inequality and inequity in Australian society and further harm the health and wellbeing of our communities most vulnerable. This law amendment does not address the systemic problems that have enabled individuals to slip through the cracks; work needs to be done to address the root issues. Conversations with homeless people would provide answers to the big question of how can society sustainable aid these individuals and provide them with the resources and opportunities they need to get off the streets and into productive lives. This productivity not only benefits themselves, but the wider community as well.

Please indicate No

whether you

would like to

address the

Submission

(Section 223)

Committee in

support of your

submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 17 February 2017 12:34 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#10]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title Proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

The economist Adam Smith once wrote: "The first and chief design of every system of government is to maintain justice: to prevent the members of society from incroaching on one another's property, or seizing what is not their own. The design here is to give each one the secure and peacable possession of his own property."

Sympathetic to this view of property as a right secured and upheld by government are some of our least debatable laws; those that protect against theft, burglary, and robbery.

In the proposed amendment, I suggest it would be rash for council to commence the seizure and impounding of a citizen's property. It is fantasy to presume that these processes will be carried out without incident, that items impounded will be claimed swiftly, or that what is seized will not amount to a problem of disposal that council has not sought after — difficult to resource and difficult to justify.

The amendment penalises citizens for their misfortune by taking what is left. It provides for "a process by which such unattended items can be confiscated and impounded" which amounts to the seizure of property. The impounded property, unclaimed (as it will largely be, especially in the event of a fee) will eventually need to be destroyed. In effect, this is punishment for those not fortunate enough to have a home to return to in the evening. It is an insult to our imagination of a fair and reasonable democratic society, and an insult to our fellow citizens who are already suffering.

They will suffer further as a result of this proposal. Assigning a penalty to the few possessions of a homeless individual is not the secure and peacable possession of their own property, it is thuggery on the behalf of our council. Melbourne is a city I am proud to call home — a place where we find peace in the openness and warmth of ourselves toward those who are unfortunate or unfamiliar.

On my first visit to this beautiful city, I accidentally left my coat on the seat of a city tram. As I stepped onto the sidewalk, asleep to my mistake, I spotted a man who had gotten off at the next stop and was jogging back toward me,

holding my coat — the only one I had brought. Melbourne is a city of outstanding people, who have respect for each other's property. I expect that respect to be extended by council to everyone.

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 16 February 2017 7:50 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#7]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Thursday 16 February 2017

Agenda item title proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I would like to voice my concerns about this proposed amendment.

I think it has not been thought through in its entirety. This seems like a band-aid solution that is only going to push the homelessness problem out of sight and therefore out of mind. It seems like the Melbourne City Council is only concerned about themselves and is not concerned about the impact this will have on neighbouring communities. It will only push the problem out of the CBD and onto less safe streets in surrounding areas. These spaces are more prone to violence, thus creating a bigger issue.

Retaining the current law allows those in loss of accommodation refuge in a place that is secure and safer because of the high traffic through the CBD and CCTV.

The current problem does not warrant such drastic and thoughtless action. The council's time needs to be instead to be directed toward creating a long term solution. If anything is to be done, it is to take the time to look at the causes of this issue and address them from the ground up. By taking the homeless out of the CBD you are taking it out of the public eye which makes it easier for the public to forget about the issue entirely. This will just lead to a continual worsening of the problem. I think looking into the funding of current shelters and the approval process of public housing may be good place to start.

I ask you please reconsider this amendment before the repercussions actualise.

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission

(Section 223)

Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 17 February 2017 10:52 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#11]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Date of meeting * Monday 7 March 1983

Agenda item title * Homeless

Please write your submission in the space provided below Not happy with the law on the homeless meeting vote

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Monday, 20 February 2017 9:13 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#17]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Date of meeting *

Monday 28 September 1992

Agenda item title *

Proposed Ammendments to the local activities law

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I do not agree with the new proposed ammendments! It should nor be illegal to crash overnight somewhere 'safe' in the city! The council keeps saying this is not a homeless ban but that is exactly what it is! We need help for these people not jail time! So many peopke can fall on rough times either due to family violence or even the economy! Stop the stigma against homelessness and put your time and effort towards fixing the actual problem and not just making the city look better!

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Monday, 20 February 2017 12:14 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#19]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I strongly support Council's action on vagrants in CBD streets. They are a public safety issue blocking footpaths, a public hygiene problem (wrt toilets, personal washing), garbage generators and greatly affect public amenity.

I have previously suggested to Council that sleeping in the Hoddle Grid should be banned and begging strongly policed (this element results in people camping where they can beg)

I have also complained on several occasions about bedding in the streets (in one case a good bedroom in Elizabeth St). Sleeping in major streets is a poor option for the homeless among the sleeping rough possibilities. Further it is terrible for the public.

While these people can have personal problems, to some sleeping in the street is attracting cult status. They obviously have very little respect for the large majority of CBD street users.

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Monday, 20 February 2017 5:07 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#22]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Monday 20 February 2017

Agenda item title Homelessness in city of Melbourne

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I worked for a time as a psychiatric nurse for the homeless at Youth Projects in Melbourne

I also worked at Alfred Psychiatry prior to that

I formed the clinical opinion that most of the homeless people I encountered had the diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia, a very serious medical condition with symptoms such as paranoid delusions of persecution, suspiciousness and hallucinations

The Centre where I worked did not have a psychiatrist, which I found extraordinary in view of such an unwell population, and apart from myself and a very competent psychologist, was staffed by mostly ex junkies or still using junkies, who had completed a Cert IV in either drug and alcohol or mental health

These people, who seemed to regard their workplace as their own sheltered workshop, undermined every strategy the psychologist and I tried to essay

I say this not out of bitterness but as an indicator of the standard of care which is considered "good enough" for the homeless

Many homeless people that I saw were dual diagnosis, which means that they were self medicating their schizophrenia with illicit drugs, and if you are aware of the suffering endured by these with paranoid schizophrenia, you would not blame them

This started in Melbourne about twenty years ago when Jeff Kennett, now doing penance for his actions at Beyond Blue, closed all the major psychiatric hospitals and suddenly floridly psychotic people were frequently seen in Bourke Street So much so that it resembled a back ward at a large psychiatric institution

There was meant to be hostel accommodation for all the people put out of the big hospitals, but this was of course underfunded, as are all psychiatric services in Australia

So you see there is government accountability affecting the current situation, as well of course as moral imperative

The homeless people are not some kind of alien other

They are unwell members of our community

You may somehow get rid of this cohort, but they will be replaced by another, such is the injustice and meanness of the health system

I tried on various occasions to have clients taken to hospital, by the police, when they were floridly unwell

What happened was that the police, seemingly afraid of contamination by "mad" people, refused to take people to hospital, or if they did the emergency psych services wouldn't admit them because they are scandalously under resourced

I hope you are able therefore to see that the people who are homeless have been badly let down by the community at large, and can refrain from seeing them as less than human

Yours sincerely

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 February 2017 8:48 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#25]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Tuesday 7 February 2017

Agenda item title Proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

As a suburban train-driver, Flinders St Station is my workplace. Homelessness has increased greatly recently. This fact is a symptom of untreated societal problems, not a problem in of itself. A great opportunity to show the world how the most livable city treats its most vulnerable with respect and decency has been absolutely trashed, by treating people (and what few possessions they do have) as such, merely to be removed. These proposed changes to the law do not even address their own stated aims, which are all covered by existing laws. My wife's wheelchair, nor I, have ever had our access impeded. It's disgusting that my city's council seeks to use one un-effected group of disadvantaged people, to make more palatable an increase in disadvantage to another already impoverish group. Reclassify empty office buildings as social housing, regulate airbnb's effect on rental prices and open enough crisis housing for family violence victims. We would all benefit from such sensible, not-to-mention cost-effective, measures.

Please indicate No

**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 February 2017 4:06 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#26]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title Homeless

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Fix the problem not the vision and inconveniences.

Some cities in USA are solving the problem. your proposals will just move them somewhere else. just like shutting down a drug corner. it just pops up on another corner.

By "banning" homelessness, Melbourne City Council is implying it is a "choice". Homelessness is usually the cause of a range of interconnected factors, some of which include poverty, unemployment and family violence. There is also a shortage of affordable housing and jobs that pay a living wage.

Anyone can become homeless. Sometimes, all it takes is a sudden change in circumstance, such as job loss. This is especially the case for those living week-to-week. In addition, not everyone has family and friends willing to accommodate them.

Most of those who are homeless (68%) are not addicted to alcohol or other drugs. Many people become addicted to drugs after they become homeless. Banning "rough sleeping" may exacerbate drug use as a result of stress and isolation.

There is not enough public housing. On the other hand, there are 80,000 empty properties.

Despite the media having reported that immediate housing has been offered to those sleeping rough, the Homeless Persons Union Victoria says only 40 people will be housed by late this year. There are about 22,000 homeless

Melbournians.

Many homeless people report that crisis accommodation is unsafe and "pointlessly temporary". Many people also prefer the "safety in numbers" and political expression of well-lit Melbourne CBD streets. Melbourne City Council needs to invest in public housing with long-term leases so that people can lead stable lives.

Homelessness is not a lifestyle choice. Nobody would choose to be attacked, urinated on or spat on. Not many people would choose to be ignored in most of their interactions. Nobody would choose to sleep outside on a winter's night in Melbourne.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 February 2017 8:35 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#27]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear Committee Members,

The purpose and effect of these amendments is to prevent and criminalise rough sleeping in the City of Melbourne.

Such an approach to addressing the issue of homelessness is unsafe, inhumane, expensive and counterproductive. It will displace rather than address the problem. It dehumanises people and strips them of dignity. It is also contrary to basic principles of international human rights law and the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

Having previously lived in inner-urban Melbourne for over 10 years I understand the imperative of a safe and aesthetically pleasing city.

Having worked in the homelessness sector for more than 5 years, I also understand that this objective will not be achieved unless and until there is adequate, affordable, safe and appropriate housing for all and that there is a substantial increase in investment in services that prevent and work to address the complex and multiple causes of homelessness. More often than not, crisis accommodation facilities are full. Moreover, having spent a lot of time at such facilities – where many residents are experiencing the trauma of mental illness, drug dependence, family breakdown, violence and the lack of dignity that comes with homelessness itself – I can certainly understand a rational choice to sleep rough rather than stay in such conditions.

In addition to effectively criminalising homelessness in the City of Melbourne, the proposed amendments are overbroad and arbitrary to the point of being ridiculous. Under the new provisions relating to 'Unattended Item in a Public Place', if my son or daughter accidentally kicks their football into a tree in a park and cannot retrieve it, an authorised officer may destroy the football and my son or daughter may even be guilty of an offence.

The City of Melbourne should desist from populist but ineffective responses to homelessness and lack of adequate and affordable housing and instead pursue evidence-based policy that works.

Yours sincerely,

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 7:32 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#28]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title Proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I strongly object to the proposed amendments because:

- Impact on people who are experiencing homelessness.

These laws risk pushing people to the edges of the city and isolating them further from services and supports. There is also a significant risk that people will get caught up in the justice system through fines (of \$388.65) or charges.

Homeless Law already assists approximately 100 clients every year dealing with overwhelming fines and charges for 'public space offences'; we shouldn't be adding to these numbers. For a personal perspective on the experience of being fined or moved-on when you are experiencing homelessness, watch and listen to these stories, In the Public Eye: Personal Stories of Homelessness and Fines.

- Ineffectiveness.

Tougher enforcement will not deliver the solutions the City of Melbourne or the community is seeking. The law doesn't solve homelessness, long-term housing with support does. Los Angeles had one of the world's toughest enforcement-based approaches to homelessness, including a ban on sitting, sleeping or lying on the sidewalk. They also had the highest concentration of people sleeping rough in the United States – approximately 5000 people in a 50 block area. It didn't work there and it won't work here.

- Challenges for the Council and authorised officers.

The role of authorised officers is a difficult one, but increased enforcement powers won't make it easier. The pressure to use an enforcement-based approach to homelessness will reduce the ability of authorised officers to effectively

engage with people sleeping rough. The laws also imply that the Council is responsible for solving homelessness when, in reality, significant efforts are needed from State and Federal Governments to address our homelessness crisis (including Victoria's public housing waiting list of 33,000 people).

- Unhelpful messaging that undermines the City of Melbourne's leadership role.

The City of Melbourne has repeatedly reminded the community that 'it is not illegal to be homeless'. The proposed laws make it difficult to stand-by this important message and undermine the positive, constructive work the City of Melbourne otherwise does to effectively respond to homelessness.

To go down this path would be a damaging step in the wrong direction for Melbourne. At a time when we could be leading best-practice responses to homelessness, instead we are at risk of taking a path that has been recognised as punitive, expensive and ineffective. By way of example, the US Federal Government's Interagency Council on Homelessness has said:

"... there is ample evidence that alternatives to criminalization policies can adequately balance the needs of all parties. Community residents, government agencies, businesses, and men and women who are experiencing homelessness are better served by solutions that do not marginalize people experiencing homelessness, but rather strike at the core factors contributing to homelessness".

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufao <no-reply@wufao.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 1:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#33]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed amendments to the Activities Local Law 2009.

I believe that the changes will not in any way help address the challenges Melbourne faces with the growing number of individuals facing homelessness and sleeping rough as a consequence. Effectively criminalising homelessness will not help these people get back on their feet but rather create another obstacle for them to overcome, some of who may be unable to do so.

The vilification of people sleeping rough will not help them. The amendments proposed will only add shame to people already experiencing the failures of government.

The way to end sleeping rough is to provide enough safe, affordable and permanent housing with support, not through criminalising it.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Regards,

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to

address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 4:08 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#35]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Date of meeting * Friday 17 March 2017

Agenda item title 'proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017'

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

To the Manager Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

I am a at the Kingston city council, working in a small outreach program with rough sleepers and people at risk of homelessness or low cost accommodation in the cities of Kinston and Bayside. I have been working in the homelessness sector in a variety of capacities for some 22 years.

Over this period I have seen housing affordability plummet, and the service sector stretched to crisis and breaking point – resulting in the inevitable situation we now find ourselves in whereby many people are forced to sleep rough in public spaces, whilst many others—in similar circumstances, are perhaps less visible, and languish out of sight out of mind.

Rather than sweep this issue under the carpet –as this amendment seeks to do by simply pushing these most marginalized, disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens further downstream, local governments have a ethical – and practical responsibility to seek to address this issue by committing to evidence based workable and constructive solutions.

The overwhelming evidence from overseas (particularly the USA ad Canada) – and indeed from some pilot programs here in Australia, is the 'Housing First ' approach – whereby rough sleepers are placed in housing and 'held' via 'wrap around' services to support them to maintain their tenancy and move forward with their lives.

local governments have a role to play , by 1 / adopting affordable housing policies which provide incentives for housing

associations and community housing, and provide guide lines for minimum percentages of new housing to be affordable. 2/ in advocating for this approach to both State and federal governments – not only via the provision of new build properties, but by taxing unoccupied dwellings and investment properties – of which there are many in the city of Melbourne, and providing tax incentives for owner/landlords to lease at affordable rates or work with welfare agencies to lease to disadvantaged Australians.

local governments can also tackle this issue directly. A striking example is the 90 lives 90 homes project in Woolloomooloo in inner Sydney – an LGA with many parallels to the City of Melbourne. Council there worked closely with a range of community organizations and real-estate agencies to transition 90 rough sleepers into subsidized head lease private rental arrangements. This program has proved to be far more cost effective than the business as usual approach – which is more costly in dollars per year even before one factors in hospitalizations, criminal justice custodial involvement (which is hugely expensive) and even police and other emergency service involvement. If we add the social costs to these individuals and to society, the rationale to act is overwhelming.

This visibility of rough sleepers in the city presents council with a unique opportunity to advocate to local and state governments – and to work with both private and community groups to address this issue in an ethical, practical, cost effective way.

I urge council not to act on short term, ineffective approaches like this amendment proposal

Please feel free to contact if you would like me to provide further information in relation to any of the issues or research implied therein that I have mentioned
regards

City of Kingston

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your

submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 5:43 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#36]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Date of meeting * Wednesday 22 February 2017

Agenda item title ANZAC Day 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am the the H.M.A.S. SYDNEY & VIETNAM LOGISTIC SERVICE VETERAN`S Association, representing six hundred members in Victoria. I have organised our members to take part in the ANZAC Day March since 1988.

Each year approximates 60-100 members start to arrive from 0700 on the foot path in Flinders St West, outside Flinders St Station. They are more often than not, accompanied by Children and Grandchildren, wishing to see their Veteran, fall in on the roadway at 0830, ready to march off at 0905. The Marchers are supported by nearly 70 Naval Cadet Banner Bearers, whose ages range from 13 - 17 years of age. Also the other 33 Navy Associations swell the ANZAC march numbers and supporters, to over 1000, in Flinders St West Sth side. At 0840 34 young Cubs and Scouts 10 - 16 years of age, move into Flinders St West, to carry the unit signs. When the Navy Associations march off there are the same numbers of 2nd AIF Veterans and Family Members on the Nth side of Flinders St, ready to fall in and march off shortly after 0940, also the National Service Men march off at 1100 from the Nth side

A number of our Members have over the past months contacted me, to voice the concerns in regard to the presence of rough sleepers and their belongings being underfoot at the assembly point in Sth side Flinders St West.

These can only be construed as obstacles, which present an unacceptable OH&S risk.

The Veterans are doubly concerned, that confrontations with the rough sleepers may occur.

My Association Committee feel the following concerns must be addressed.

1. Removal of all obstacles on the footpath in their path, rough sleepers, bedding, furniture etc.
2. The area be presented in a clean, safe and hygienic state.
3. The abuse of Veterans and their families be minimised by Police patrols.
4. Drug and alcohol affected persons be removed.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
★

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2017 10:39 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#41]

Name *

Email address *

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title Do not victimise people because they are homeless

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

In my role as a social worker for a Victorian crisis service, I work with people who are facing homelessness on a daily basis.

Most of my clients have multiple and complex issues such as mental health and polysubstance use. As many studies have shown most of these issues occur when people become homeless, not the other way around. As such people who are homeless are some of the most vulnerable people in our community and should not be victimised simply because there are not enough affordable housing options in Melbourne.

The proposed changed to the local law to fine people for sleeping rough and having their possessions in the view of the public is disgraceful. This not only serves to further marginalise and oppress people who are homeless but it also places extra demand on our court systems. It is ridiculous to think that people who are homeless would be able to pay these fines, and realistically, after attending court most of these fines would be waived.

Pushing homeless people out of the public's view is not going to solve homelessness. People do not choose to be homeless. People are homeless because there are not enough affordable accommodation options for people to live in. Further attention should be placed on support services to help to heal people who have suffered a lot of trauma in their lives. Further attention should be about funding sustainable housing solutions.

People should not be victimised for living in poverty, Melbourne should be ashamed that in such an affluent city and country that we continue to be unable to provide basic shelter for people, shelter which is a basic human right.

Please indicate No

whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2017 11:27 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#42]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Date of meeting * Thursday 30 March 2017

Agenda item title * proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below Simply put, these proposed changes are inhumane to our most vulnerable in society.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2017 11:27 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#46]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

A lot of Australians seem to like camping.

Australians seem to like going to the beach, even in Victoria where the water's pretty cold.

Australians seem to like having a barbeque, and in Melbourne we have public barbecues all over the place.

Melbourne started as a camp, where people came in from the beach, at the spot that is now Enterprize park. Camping and other forms of outdoor living are part of our social practise because they are connected to our colonial history. John Batman's party were camping on contested land. The area that is now the location of Melbourne, was already the homeland of the Woiwurrung and Boonerwung peoples, who called the area 'Narm'. The colonial government of New South Wales believed the land belonged to the British Crown. Batman was trying to acquire land for his business, then Port Philip Association. This created a complex conflict between Tasmanian businesspeople, New South Welsh bureaucrats and local Aboriginal people.

Once again we have a situation where camping is contested in Melbourne. The proposed changes to Melbourne by-laws make it easier for authorised officers to interfere with people who depend on camping in the city. I wonder if we would see the current conflict differently if we humbly recognised that our city began as an unauthorised camp?

<http://ordinarytime.com.au/post/157592325490/unauthorised-camping-is-melbournes-founding-story>

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in

support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, 26 February 2017 12:21 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#48]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear City of Melbourne,

I am very concerned about the proposed changes to Activities Local Law 2009. Homeless people are some of the most vulnerable members of our society, and I believe they often struggle to maintain their basic human rights.

The proposed changes would infringe upon their human rights even further namely Article 7 "Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile" and Article 3 "Right to Life, Liberty and Personal Security".

Melbourne is a wonderful city! often cited as the World's most liveable. A city I am proud to live and work in. I am confident the City of Melbourne has the resources, motivation and ability to address this issue in a way that is fair and just to all of Melbourne's residents.

I genuinely think we are better than this.

Yours in hope,

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) Committee in support of your submission *

No

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

☆

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017 2:50 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#55]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone
number (optional)

Agenda item title Laws against homelessness.

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I feel it is my civic duty to dispute and ask that the new laws against homelessness be revised.

Homelessness is not the problem of Melbourne but rather the result of the problem.

Personally those that are homeless have never bothered anyone passing them by and upon talking to a few of them have given me a much greater perspective on life.

Many have been the victim of unfortunate times and are not homeless due to bad decisions they have made.

Homelessness cannot be solved by making it a legal issue and we must endeavour To Help these people in whatever way they can rather than branding their will to survive criminal.

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: CoM Meetings
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017 4:34 PM
To: *Gov & Leg - Council Business (Team)
Subject: FW: Meeting submission form [#56]

From: Wufoo
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017 4:34:04 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#56]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title * Homeless by law

Please write your submission in the space provided below There is a huge amount of rubbish in the CBD from the homeless squatting in our city. This attracts vermin. I absolutely support the by law.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 7:33 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#58]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda Item title Counter to the proposed changes to the Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

By "increasing [the] Council's ability to remove items which are left unattended in public places" you are effectively making it illegal to be homeless, as being homeless obviously means making a home wherever possible. The public space is for the public and it is authoritarian for the state to control how members of the public use it when no harm is being committed upon other members of society as a direct result of homeless people's possessions being in the public sphere. The state however has a responsibility to its most vulnerable people and if they are not comfortable with the visual evidence of homelessness they should instead be addressing the myriad causes of homelessness and providing suitable alternatives to sleeping on the streets.

Please indicate Yes

whether you

would like to

address the

Submission

(Section 223)

Committee in

support of your

submission *

Privacy

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

*

From: CoM Meetings
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 10:14 AM
To: *Gov & Leg - Council Business (Team)
Subject: FW: Meeting submission form [#59]

From: Wufoo
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 10:13:33 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#59]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Camping Law changes

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Please find attached my submission in relation to the proposed changes to the Activities Local Law 2009 (re: camping provision change and " removal of "items" proposals)

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



submission_to_mcc.docx 129.96 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Submission prepared by

on 25 Feb 2017

Proposed changes to MCC Activities Local Law: Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017)

Melbourne City Council Activities Local Law 2009 (Incorporating Amendments up to and including the Activities (Miscellaneous Amendments) Local Law 2015 (the following line has been added) and changes proposed by the Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017)

Camping in public places

2.8 Unless in accordance with a permit, a person must not camp in or on any public place (the following words have been removed) in a vehicle, tent, caravan or any type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation.

Comment:

Although Council has suggested that this new "camping" prohibition measure is not meant to be punitive, it can be potentially punitive for homeless people if they continue to camp in the City after such a measure is introduced.

The real question is how the Council and other agencies can in fact enforce this measure in the short-medium-long term. It is not a question of just removing a homeless person from the city's boundaries under the no camping provision- where will that person be taken to/or go?

If there is no viable option, that person will return back to the City, despite the "no camping" measure. If a person continues to return because of no viable alternative to living in the City, will that person then be fined? Then taken to Court for not paying the fine, then taken to prison?

The worst case scenario is to have a person sent to prison- prison is a very costly exercise, even just considering pure financial numbers:

Cost of Prisoners

Australia's prisoners each cost an average of \$292 per day, in a system that costs the nation \$2.6 billion (after expenses) in 2013-14, new justice data from the Productivity Commission reveals.

Source:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/02/02/how-much-does-it-cost-keep-people-australian-jails>

It is my understanding that a Melbourne 2016 homeless street count reported 247 people were sleeping rough. Keeping one person in prison for one year, based on the above figures will be \$106,580 (\$292 by 365 days). Keeping 247 people in prison will cost \$26,325,260 per year.

Viable Alternatives need to be incorporated in providing a healthy, safe and affordable place for homeless people to stay.

1. One viable alternative is that of increasing the stock of social housing:

Refer to the article below:

The Age 23 Feb 2017

Taxpayers will act as the guarantor on new social housing projects under a \$1 billion Andrews government policy aimed at boosting affordable homes for vulnerable people.

New homeless strategy for Melbourne CBD

Minister for Housing Martin Foley announces a \$9.8-million emergency response package to fund immediate housing for the city's street homeless on Thursday.

Victoria has the lowest percentage of social housing in the country. Growing demand has put pressure on the sector to build more houses and renovate existing stock to better cater for needs. One and two-bedroom homes are most in demand.

A major contributor to social housing demand is women fleeing domestic violence.

"The increased homelessness that we are seeing in the Melbourne CBD is the physical manifestation of the housing crisis and it is critical we find ways to deliver more options for low-income Victorians," he said.

Source:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/victorian-taxpayers-to-act-as-guarantor-on-1b-social-housing-projects-20170222-guisuq.html>

2. Melbourne City Council should not work in a vacuum. It should communicate with other cities in Australia and see what is working/not working.

For example, refer to Sydney's multi-faceted approach/plans to tackle homelessness:

- FEBRUARY 24 2017
Clover Moore calls for multi-agency taskforce as Sydney's homeless rate remains high
- Article by Harriet Alexander

There are fewer people sleeping rough in Sydney than last year's record high, but there are still significantly more homeless people than any other year since at least 2010.

Lord mayor Clover Moore is calling for a multi-agency taskforce to tackle homelessness after the City of Sydney tallied 433 rough sleepers in its summer street count on Monday night, down from 486 in February last year.

Fi, who was homeless for 10 years, now lives in an apartment in Sydney. There were also 489 people in crisis and temporary accommodation beds, which were at 91 per cent capacity, and 26 people without a fixed address in hospital beds.

Cr Moore said the figures demonstrated the need for another "Common Ground" style housing development, where the long-term homeless can be accommodated with tailored support services.

Homeless numbers show the need for a multi-agency approach, says Clover Moore.

"The number of people sleeping rough across our city highlights the need for multiple agencies across all levels of government to work together to provide safe and secure shelter for all – one of the most fundamental human needs," Cr Moore said.

A collection of 19 agencies including the council, police, state government, women's services, Aboriginal services, drug and alcohol services and health services regularly patrol known hot spots for rough sleepers to check on their welfare and offer accommodation.

Last year, accommodation was found for 130 rough sleepers, including a man in Woolloomooloo who had been homeless for 30 years, and 90 per cent remain off the street.

They also included Fi, who had been living on the street since she moved down from the Gold Coast 10 years ago, and secured a social housing unit in the

eastern suburbs at a one-off event organised by the City of Sydney and Family and Community Services.

It was furnished by Habitat for Humanity and populated by children's voices, which floated across the street from the local primary school.

"I was lost for words," Fi said.

City of Sydney homelessness manager Trina Geasley said legislated co-ordination between agencies would help in complicated cases, such as the woman she met last year who had fled domestic violence and was sleeping rough with a wheelchair and a dog.

"She couldn't get the operation she needed because she didn't have anyone to look after her afterwards and she didn't want to stay in hospital because she had her dog," Ms Geasley said.

"It was just this mix that was very challenging. We arranged for her to shower at Redfern community centre and flagged her with FaCS."

High-level involvement by departments such as Corrective Services would also cover gaps in services, with some prisons better than others in arranging support for inmates on release.

Many people living on the street have been doing so for years and have substance abuse or mental health problems, but the overall profile is more complicated.

About a third of people who accessed homeless services last year were women and children affected by domestic violence – an increase of 26 per cent on the previous year.

Just over half of homeless people have been in prison. Just under half have been traumatised, either physically, psychologically, emotionally or sexually.

And while 35 per cent of people on the street would need intensive support for the rest of their lives if they were to move into housing, City of Sydney surveys showed the remaining 65 per cent just needed housing they could afford and some short-term support.

Homelessness NSW chief executive Katherine McKernan said increasing awareness of domestic violence had prompted many more women and children to leave unsafe situations, but the lack of affordable housing in the community had created a bottleneck in short-term refuges.

"The problem is the crisis system is full because there's no longer housing available, so there's a blockage," Ms McKernan said.

"Women who would normally sort things out for themselves can't afford it, and have to access services."

Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward, who participated in the street count on Monday night, said rising house prices contributed to homelessness but poverty was rarely the only driver.

"I have a very strong view that nobody becomes a rough sleeper without complexities," Ms Goward said.

"You can give them housing but I've seen what happens when people don't have their underlying trauma or medications or problems addressed. Even managing housing, unless they're well supported, it becomes difficult."

NSW is constructing 1500 new social housing dwellings, largely funded by the controversial sale of 293 public housing dwellings in Millers Point.

But Ms Goward said there were no more plans to sell social housing in high-value areas to buy more stock.

Neither did she intend to lobby the federal government on changes that might affect housing affordability before the state had explored its own levers, including designated affordable housing in new developments and changes to state taxes.

Source:

<http://www.theage.com.au/nsw/clover-moore-calls-for-multiagency-taskforce-as-sydneys-homeless-rate-remains-high-20170223-gujuoz.html>

Other Comments

Unattended item in a Public Place

2.12.3 Any item confiscated and impounded under clause 2.12.2 will be returned to its owner on payment of any fee or charge prescribed by the Council for its release.

Comment:

In the context of homelessness I am not too sure how this can be realistically abided by. The operative word here is "owner" or in other words "ownership". Not too sure in the context of homelessness, how a homeless person will be able to prove ownership- unlikely to have receipts, many items may have been donated etc. Even if ownership was theoretically proven, not too sure if the fee or charge could be paid.

In effect the clause may sound fair and reasonable on face value, in reality it will be from a homeless person point of view, a confiscation clause by stealth.

2.12.4 If the owner of the item has not paid any fee or charge required for its release, the Council may sell, destroy or give away the item.

2.12.5 Before exercising the power conferred by clause 2.12.4, the Council must take reasonable steps to notify the owner of the item that the item has been impounded and may be sold, destroyed or given away unless the specified fee or charge is paid within 14 days.

Comment:

In the context of homelessness, this clause (2.12.5) is unlikely to be workable. How in reality will Council identify the owner of the item-refer comment on clause 2.12.3?

If a person has no fixed address, how does Council believe it can legally and/or reasonably notify the owner?

Other Comments

A. Proposal for lockers to be provided to homeless people.

This may be a good idea if it can also be used as an address for homeless people to receive mail-an important consideration if they receive welfare assistance and/or need to communicate with different entities/people.

In this regard I read an account of a homeless man who lived in a drainpipe in Sydney's Centennial Park:

"It must have been a large drainpipe. The mental health team knew where to find him and **the post office delivered his mail there**. Inside the drainpipe he had a comfortable nest. He said that at night he could wiggle out of the drainpipe and look up at the stars"

(P.202 a book titled ***Resilience*** by Anne Deveson)

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 1:37 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#61]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title *

Proposed new laws regarding homelessness

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Punishing vulnerable people for being vulnerable is cruel and disgusting. We need to provide long term support in relation to drug and alcohol counselling and affordable accommodation to fix the problem in the long term, not a cosmetic fix because the media has a tantrum. I used to be proud of Melbourne as a compassionate city. I am not anymore. Homelessness is the result of a chronically unfair system. No one chooses homelessness if they have better, safer options. They are citizens of Melbourne too, and deserve support and respect, not shame and punishment.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 2:13 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#62]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Activities Local Law 2009 changes

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

The proposed change to clause 2.8 is poorly drafted. The current wording is already unclear on whether it applies to 'sleeping rough'. The proposed removal of the reference to 'a vehicle, tent, caravan or any type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation' serves only to further obscure the intended meaning. If Council's intention is to make 'sleeping rough' an offence, then this should be clearly stated, and likewise if this is not the intention.

Regardless of Council's intention, the broadening of the ban on camping effectively makes it an offence to sleep on the streets. This risks pushing people to the edges of the city and isolating them further from services and supports. There is also a significant risk that people will get caught up in the justice system through fines or charges.

The provisions regarding unattended items also have potential to impact harshly on rough sleepers, including because of the inevitability that goods may be temporarily left (for example, while someone is getting food or using the toilet) and the requirement to pay a fee or charge to get belongings back.

In conclusion I think the proposed changes are poorly drafted, and will negatively impact some of the most vulnerable members of our society. As such I urge Council to reject the proposals.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 2:25 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#63]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title *

Supporting change to the camping bylaw

Please write your submission in the space provided below

In regards to the homeless situation, I absolutely agree to the proposed changes supporting camping bylaw. Our streets are a mess, pathways are being blocked which is affecting the disabled and general community.

Best Regards

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 9:11 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#66]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Melbourne Homelessness laws

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Please consider the needs of those that are homeless in our community. Many many of those homeless suffer from Mental Illness, can barely afford medications, psychologists etc on top of potential fines for sleeping rough. If the law is changed it will put even more pressure on services who support homeless people and they are stretched already. Melbourne city council would be better putting more money into community housing and affordable housing moving forward for homeless people. And please stop vilifying homelessness !! It's a community problem and needs a compassionate solution.

Please indicate No

**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2017 9:12 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#69]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title *

By Law Re: Changes to Camping Law

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear City of Melbourne,

I am proud of your strong stance in changes to the local laws re: camping. It is no doubt a hard and arduous decision however given the disgraceful actions of an entitled few I feel it is completely necessary.

I have personal experiences with disability and it is obvious that the litter, items and paraphernalia that the homeless spread all over our city streets is dangerous for access as it blocks pathways.

I support your decision to change the local laws to broaden the definition of camping and commend your good work.

Sincerely,

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2017 10:19 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#71]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda Item title Bylaw

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

To the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Robert Doyle and Councillors for the City of Melbourne,

I support the changes to the local law.

I love Melbourne and have lived and worked in the city for most of my life. I have never seen the homeless situation be as bad as it is today. Something must be done!

I am worried that the amount of stuff they leave on the streets is a potential safety issue. To put it bluntly, what if there was a bomb in one of those bags? Or needles from drug use pricks someone and they contract a disease?

I am glad you are doing something about it. It has gotten out of hand.

Regards,

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2017 10:21 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#72]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title * Abandoned Camping gear and rubbish

Please write your submission in the space provided below I agree with the Council proposal to remove abandoned camping gear and rubbish

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2017 10:52 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#73]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear City of Melbourne,

I have lived in Melbourne for five years. I have a 2 year old son and am pregnant with my second child. I think Melbourne is a wonderful place to raise kids. It's clean, safe and definitely the most livable city in the world. However, the past few years I have noticed homelessness has increased. It is full of drug addicts and mentally ill people who appear scary and threatening. I refuse to bring my family into the city and have not visited for 6 months. I really hope your amendments to the local law are approved as I would hate to see this squalor and unsafeness continue.

Thank you,

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2017 11:30 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#74]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title *

Local law changes

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am in support of the amendment to the local law around camping.

I think it is disgraceful that people harassed the council for voting on the changes to local law. They are merely exercising their democratic rights.

What happened at Flinders Street during the Tennis Open was a blight on our city. It should have been stopped before it got that far.

Hopefully this change will be implemented so Melbourne can keep moving free from the rubbish and things left everywhere on the streets.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2017 3:43 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#79]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

This is a submission by the Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group Inc.

We object to and oppose the implementation of the law that extends the ability of the law to remove homeless people from the streets of Melbourne for the following reasons.

- 1.It is a mean and heartless law that treats disadvantaged people who need our help unfairly and unduly harshly.
- 2.It will be ineffective, does not deal with the issue but merely moves these people elsewhere.
- 3.It will be further evidence that the City of Melbourne, like the Federal government, does not care about people who are in difficulty and need our help.
- 4.It will do enormous harm to our reputation as a city where people are supposed to like living.

No such action should be taken at least until advice has been obtained from the experts in this field about how best to deal with this problem including from the Homeless Advisory Committee (whatever it was called) set up by council some years ago.

It is the problem that must be dealt with by council with the State and Federal governments, not the populist and thoughtless response contemplated be council at the moment.

Melbourne South Yarra Residents Group Inc.

1/3/2017

Please indicate Yes
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)**

Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2017 6:47 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#81]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Section 23 reforms

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I write to voice my concern about the proposed changes to Section 23, an action that appears crafted to mask the inadequate resourcing of homelessness prevention services.

The proposed change will further punish individuals who are already socio economically disadvantaged by threatening people to either part with the few possessions they have accumulated or move on and away from their networks. An impossible and cruel choice.

Instead of wasting time and resources with the action the council would be better placed spending time looking at ways to stop housing that has traditionally housed people with little income from being sold off.

Regards,

Please indicate Yes
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 2 March 2017 5:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#86]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title camping in public places

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Council is to be applauded for taking steps to manage camping in public places by homeless people and others in the City of Melbourne. Last week I got off the train at Flinders St to go up to Myers. In Swanston St outside McDonalds the police were trying to revive a person with all the baggage and appearance of someone homeless. He was intoxicated to the point of being comatose lying in the middle of the footpath. Further up the street there were others begging, one with a dog. The atmosphere was one of tension and antagonism. I think that further steps are warranted.

Arrangements should be in place to accommodate dogs so that they do not hinder the process of moving itinerants on. I suspect that the dogs serve to deter arrest and management. The council and other bodies should act, they should act until the desired outcome of restoring a peaceful, pleasant and beautiful city to it's people.

Please indicate No

whether you

would like to

address the

Submission

(Section 223)

Committee in

support of your

submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 2 March 2017 8:50 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#87]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda Item title Amendment to camping definition and leaving items unattended in a public place

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Hello, my name is . I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the definition of camping and the proposal that items left unattended in a public place be confiscated and only retrievable upon payment of a fee. I believe these proposed changes unfairly target the homeless population of Melbourne, and rather than address the issue of homelessness or provide support to people experiencing homelessness, it seeks to push the homeless population out of the CBD and out of sight of everyone else. This will only make their lives more difficult (e.g. more difficult to access resources and less traffic = less donations to cover their costs) and sweep the problem under the rug. These proposed changes will inspire further lack of empathy towards homeless people. The proposed changes are heartless and provide no public benefit. Any belongings that some people may find offensive are the symptom and not the problem – homeless people deserve secure places to store their things (and a place to live!) regardless of whether you think they "brought it on themselves" or not. I think that homeless people deserve more support from the rest of us who are comfortable and these proposed changes are an embarrassment.

Please indicate ☐ **No**
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy ☐ I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 2 March 2017 10:15 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#88]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Objection to the proposed "Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017"

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Honourable Councillors,

I wish to lodge in the strongest possible terms my objection to the proposed "Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017".

I am a nurse at a public hospital just outside the borders of your council. Every month I treat homeless people, many of whom live in Melbourne CBD. The deperate situations which have forced many to sleep rough break my heart. What I find worse, however, is the heartless way in which rough sleepers are treated by the community – and by the organisations which should defend them.

I believe Melbourne City Council has an obligation both moral and civil to assist in any way possible all those who find themselves in need of assistance on your streets.

However, I am aware that political realities rarely allow for moral imperatives. So let me appeal instead to your common sense. The proposed law will force rough sleepers out of established camps where a semblance of safety and security has evolved. Where will they go? Presumably, to sleep in less safe and less secure locations. Will this solve the perceived problem (which, let's be frank, is a fear of poor people)? No. Beggars will still come to the same spots they always have. Rough sleepers are just more likely to face assault, theft, and persecution.

As for the proposal to charge a fee for the return of confiscated belongings. This strikes me as the height of counter-intuitive foolishness. Rough sleepers are trapped in (often intergenerational) poverty. Taking away the few possessions they have does nothing but push them further into despair (and more likely to turn to "antisocial" activity to cope).

I do hope you can see the absurdity of these proposals, and change your policy before the law is enacted. I love

Melbourne. I hope it does not become the heartless place you dream of.

Please indicate No

whether you

would like to

address the

Submission

(Section 223)

Committee in

support of your

submission *

Privacy

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 3 March 2017 11:33 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#90]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am submitting this against the proposal to amend the above law.

The broadening of terms and penalties against people forced to carry belongings and live on the streets of Melbourne City or any council district is not only unreasonably punitive on a community who, by definition, have less than most others in society, but also completely useless in achieving any of the objectives in assisting the community to find permanent solutions to the homeless issue in the city centre.

I request that Melbourne City Council consider their decision in the context of the sort of economic environment and social policies that may have contributed to this situation and not pass this amendment.

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, 5 March 2017 12:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#94]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title stating opposition to theft of homeless peoples dignity and possessions

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I wish to submit a written disagreement with your proposed ammendments to the law that would see harmless vulnerable people stripped of their basic rights to exist. It is unfortunate and absurd that you are attempting to assert dominance over such a disenfranchised section of the community in this way and pathetic that you would attempt to pass this attempted monopolisation of public space and personal possession and identity off as beneficial for any member of the community. This is yet another attempt at blatant corporate monopolisation and control of social capital and the right of people to exist freely outside of your corporate dictatorship of stolen lands. You all should be thoroughly ashamed of yourselves and recognize that there will absolutely be drastic discourse within the community that pays the taxes that keep you housed and employed should you continue pursuing absurd notions such as this latest shame job.

Please Indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, 5 March 2017 2:41 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#95]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed amendments to the Activities Local Law 2009

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



submission_to_city_of_melbourne.docx 13.14 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

To the councillors for the City of Melbourne

I make this submission to encourage you not to make the proposed amendments to the Activities Local Law 2009.

Initially I was not going to make a submission, because I thought I was not qualified to do so. I am not an expert on homelessness or local laws. There are no homeless people camped outside my local business. But then I realised that if people like me do not make submissions, how will you know what we think.

I have lived and worked in the city for 25 years. I have noticed the increase in people sleeping on the streets. To me it feels like a dramatic increase. I get asked for money every week — as I walk to work, as I go out to lunch, as I visit the supermarket. I have even been very slightly nervous of the ‘camps’ near my home and near my work. But then I remember the wise words of a friend — ‘they are more scared of us’. And I think that is so important to remember. Those homeless people face dangers everyday that I cannot even begin to imagine.

I also admire and respect the places they choose to ‘live’. Mostly, it is outside empty shops and outside public buildings. I am not sure how that comes about but I think it is important to recognise. These people are not trying to stop people going about their lives, they are just trying to live themselves.

I do not support the proposed amendments. I feel that they will not fix anything, well not anything real anyway. Yes, it will be more pleasant to walk down the street and that would be great. But I do not want to live in a world where we hide our problems instead of dealing with them.

Let us spend this energy on finding solutions. The City has the ear of the whole state now, maybe even the whole country. I would like to see us use this to lobby for real change. Let us start a new Lord Mayor’s charity — one to support the homeless. Let us demand more funding from the State — I know the Council cannot be expected to pay for real solutions alone.

I want to live in a city that supports all its residents. Please consider working towards real solutions not cosmetic ones.

Thank you.

From: CoM Meetings
Sent: Monday, 6 March 2017 5:23 PM
To: *Gov & Leg - Council Business (Team)
Subject: FW: Meeting submission form [#97]

From: Wufoo
Sent: Monday, 6 March 2017 5:22:09 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#97]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Homeless Proposed Amendments to the Activities Local law

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear Council,

I have serious issues with how inhumane your proposed laws will be.

The impact on the most vulnerable who have no homes and noting the shortage of housing and lack of proper alternatives to homelessness will be significant.

To remove peoples belongings (the few that they have and often their most significant), limit their freedom and move them on totally ignores their plight. Just let them go elsewhere and not your problem. This is so shallow for a Council and lacks real leadership and respect for human rights. You say it impedes the path of people with a disability well then come up with a better alternative. What about the homeless with their often multiple disabilities and complex issues and trauma (well documented). This is not a balancing of human rights but a derogation of them.

Your suggestions are to provide them with meaningless short term options. The laws are not wise, blunt and ill thought out.

If you think such ways of clearing out the homeless befit a civilised society and are 'Melbourne-ian' then you are mistaken, Knee jerk, ill conceived and feeding prejudice in the narrative coming from the Lord Mayor whose approach contradicts his earlier stances.

Can you go back to the drawing board and work out a collaborative approach that is not so draconian, radical and harsh.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to

address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
*

From: CoM Meetings
Sent: Monday, 6 March 2017 9:50 PM
To: *Gov & Leg - Council Business (Team)
Subject: FW: Meeting submission form [#99]

From: Wufoo
Sent: Monday, 6 March 2017 9:49:57 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#99]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title * dont criminalise homelessness

Please write your submission in the space provided below its not their choice please don't do this

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2017 9:44 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submission form [#100]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone
number (optional)

Agenda item title Activities Local Law 2009

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

The homelessness issue in our community is heartbreaking. For those of us who can remember a time when you never saw a beggar on the streets of our city it is especially harrowing.

Just as the reasons for homelessness are varied and complex I know that the solution needs a new radical approach in order to address both the causes of displacement as well as an effective path to reconnect with our society.

So while I sympathise with these vulnerable souls I do believe they should not be allowed to camp out in our city.

- . Their personal belongings are a health hazard, impeding people, especially the disabled in wheel chairs to move easily through our pavements.
- . When they gather in large groups they sometimes get a little aggressive in their begging which can be frightening.
- . Should we have an emergency and need to evacuate an area their belongings may cause a bottleneck in people trying to move through.
- . While I am sure that most homeless people are not terrorists, given the sad state of affairs in our world today, their camps would be an excellent camouflage for anyone wanting to leave a bomb or any other incendiary device in their camp.
- . As a citizen of Melbourne, I know that I am not allowed to just leave a bag unattended anywhere in the city so it is not that I am advocating different rules for the homeless. I expect the same rules for us all.
- . Superficial as it sounds it is also very unsightly and unsettling for visitors to our city to be exposed to large areas of homeless people camping around our city. Tourism provides a much needed revenue stream to our city and we need to be mindful of giving our guests the best experience possible.

Again I am not advocating that this will in any way help redress this awful situation and I have ideas on how to do this long term...but in the meantime we cannot allow people to take over pavements and leave unattended belongings anywhere in the city.

I am happy to discuss this further should anyone wish to contact me.

Alternatively you
may attach your
written
submission by
uploading your
file here



the homelessness issue in our community is heartbreaking.doc 33.00 KB · DOC

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

Tuesday 7, March 2017-03-07

Activities Local Law 2009

The homelessness issue in our community is heartbreaking. For those of us who can remember a time when you never saw a beggar on the streets of our city it is especially harrowing.

Just as the reasons for homelessness are varied and complex I know that the solution needs a new radical approach in order to address both the causes of displacement as well as an effective path to reconnect with our society.

So while I sympathise with these vulnerable souls I do believe they should not be allowed to camp out in our city.

- . Their personal belongings are a health hazard, impeding people, especially the disabled in wheel chairs to move easily through our pavements.**
- . When they gather in large groups they sometimes get a little aggressive in their begging which can be frightening.**
- . Should we have an emergency and need to evacuate an area their belongings may cause a bottleneck in people trying to move through.**
- . While I am sure that most homeless people are not terrorists, given the sad state of affairs in our world today, their camps would be an excellent camouflage for anyone wanting to leave a bomb or any other incendiary device in their camp.**
- . As a citizen of Melbourne, I know that I am not allowed to just leave a bag unattended anywhere in the city so it is not that I am advocating different rules for the homeless. I expect the same rules for us all.**
- . Superficial as it sounds it is also very unsightly and unsettling for visitors to our city to be exposed to large areas of homeless people camping around our city. Tourism provides a much needed revenue stream to our city and we need to be mindful of giving our guests the best experience possible.**

Again I am not advocating that this will in any way help redress this awful situation and I have ideas on how to do this long term...but in the meantime we cannot allow people to take over pavements and leave unattended belongings anywhere in the city.

I am happy to discuss this further should anyone wish to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2017 8:45 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#103]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title * Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Hi,

I think it is bad policy to make homelessness illegal. These people have psychological and economical problems. It would be better if they were given community housing. Yes it looks bad for the image of Melbourne. But maybe there is a serious policy issue of reaching out to these homeless people. They should be identified and helped.

The current Victorian government will be remembered for voluntary euthanasia laws and making it illegal to be homeless. Homelessness and poor people will exist forever unless their problems are not considered by the government.

Regards

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2017 10:01 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#105]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

A society and its people are judged by how they treat the least fortunate among them. Perhaps one could say that by this standard, there are very few societies that could be judged favourably.

But one could definitely say that the city of Melbourne would be judged unfavourably, were they to pass these amendments. All homeless people have suffered and continue to suffer immense hardship. Instead of working with state government to reform public and temporary housing, improving access to employment and support services, or even helping to destigmatise homelessness in the public eye, you have instead decided to kick them while they are down.

These amendments display not just a lack of will towards serious reform, but also a base callousness and lack of sympathy towards the plight of those who need it most. These amendments will increase the hardships that homeless people face every day and, in addition, tarnish the city of Melbourne's reputation both nationally and internationally.

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2017 3:48 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#107]

Name *

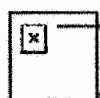
Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



ceosubmissiontocityofmelbourne_final_march_8_2017.pdf

89.50 KB • PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

8th March, 2017



Submission to City of Melbourne

Re: Proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009

To whom it may concern

Sacred Heart Mission, like most other community organisations, is deeply concerned about the Council's criminalisation of homelessness as described in the proposed amendments to Activities Local Law 2009. I write based on our 35 year experience providing innovative responses to people experiencing persistent disadvantage, social exclusion and homelessness.

While we appreciate the city's broader interest in promoting community health, safety, aesthetics, and amenity through the regulation of public space, the proposed changes will discriminate against people experiencing homelessness. Through targeting behaviours associated with the state of being homeless, namely urban 'camping' and leaving unattended items on the street, it will essentially criminalise homelessness, which is unjust and inhumane. It may also indirectly cause harm to many people sleeping rough on Melbourne's streets.

The question is essentially one of our collective values: as one of the wealthiest cities in the world, and the most liveable, do we sweep problems like homelessness under the rug, or support people in need?

The sad reality is that the streets have become 'home' for some people, and yes, this is unacceptable. But the fight should be against the causes of homelessness, not against the homeless themselves. We are concerned that the amendment may lead to people being demonised and displaced, resulting in further marginalisation and exclusion. It is inevitable that itinerant people who live without a home will sometimes need to store belongings in public space. This is not in itself an anti-social activity and nor should it be made into a crime. Council and the police already have plenty of channels through which to curtail anti-social behaviour such as aggressive begging or blocking the pavement.

The proposal to broaden the definition of 'camping' will affect people who are already extremely vulnerable, who are simply trying to survive the challenges of being homeless. Fining people for sleeping in the city will force them into hidden corners of our city and surrounding suburbs, which will then expose people to greater risk of assault and further trauma. Fines will also create a financial and legal barrier to their potential recovery. Many people experiencing homelessness are already subject to a myriad of fines.

Moreover, the amendment may also break a hard-earned trust that police and social services are able to build with people sleeping rough in the city. This is also counterproductive to recovery and contradictory to what we in the service sector are trying to do: a trusting relationship is essential for someone to accept support, and trust is essential to recovery. Part of ending homelessness is making recovery as accessible as possible—the financial and social exclusion resulting from the amendments will do the opposite.

All the evidence about this type of 'law and order' approach to homelessness says that it is costly to enforce and does nothing but sweep the problem under the rug for a short period of time. Why would we

do something here that doesn't work elsewhere?

Every day here at Sacred Heart Mission we have between 5 - 20 people sleeping rough on our veranda, sometimes up against our front door, because our veranda is safer than other spaces. Every day we balance the need to provide an accessible workplace and service centre that is both welcoming and hospitable versus managing the remnants of people sleeping rough, with the area being used as toilet, with bedding and mattresses filling the veranda space. Through assertive engagement we build and maintain trust by continuing to welcome people and giving them a second chance. We protect the amenities of our space through clear and predictable boundaries and enforce those boundaries respectfully. Police already have powers to create boundaries that manage public space by managing antisocial behaviour

Instead of criminalising people, we need solutions that address the root causes of homelessness in Australia, including affordable housing. While there is no easy fix to the problem of homelessness, an independent evaluation on our Journey to Social Inclusion (J2Si) program shows it is possible to break the cycle of long-term homelessness through access to stable, affordable housing combined with support. There is ample evidence from both here and overseas that the "ultimate solution to problematic conduct in public space is access to permanent supported housing"¹.

We would also encourage an investment into creative and immediate solutions that coordinate the myriad of existing services in the city to work in a coordinated way with Police and Council Officers to assertively identify, engage and support people sleeping rough in the city. It will be more cost effective for council officers to participate in this coordinated approach than to hand out fines.

My personal experience working with people experiencing homelessness in St Kilda for over 15 years is that people can make significant, even remarkable, changes in their lives when given the chance. Too often society and government policy put up barriers, albeit unintended, to this recovery journey. Let's not put up another barrier.

Thank you for considering these views, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely

Sacred Heart Mission

¹ P. 103 'In the Public Eye', Accessed on Thurs 2 March 2017 <https://www.justiceconnect.org.au/our-programs/homeless-law/law-and-policy-reform/infringements-and-public-space-offences/infringements-public-space-and-homelessness/public-eye-churchill-report>

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2017 7:11 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#108]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Hi,

I have been appauled and shocked by the number of homeless people in the CBD. I have had numerous homeless people approach me for money. One i offered to buy him a burger but he didnt want it. He only wanted money.

I have a lot of sympathy for homeless people. I feel vety sorry for them and i know it is not thier fault. But the situation has gotten out of hand. The cafe that i work at always has homeless people sleeping out the front with thier mattress, bedding, rubbish and belongings everywhere, fully blocking our doorway. I know they have no where to go but our business is suffering too. Also it should not be our responsibility to move their rubbish every morning and ask them to clear thier stuff out of the way so we can work.

I hope the Council votes in favour of this bylaw. I think we need to do something about it and it is not only up to the worker.

Can i please have my submission public but my personal details remain anonymous.

Thank you

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)

Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 9 March 2017 9:12 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#109]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear City of Melbourne, Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and Councillors,

I have lived in Melbourne on and off for 2 years now. My partner and I have been shocked by the increase in homeless activity. We have been threatened by a homeless man outside 7-Eleven, we saw a disabled woman in a wheelchair forced almost onto the road because her path was blocked by items left by homeless groups and we saw a woman smoking a glass pipe near Hosier Lane. It makes us feel scared and unsafe.

We love the city and we love Melbourne. We have nothing against homeless people, quite the opposite, our heart breaks for them but we really are distressed by it all.

We read in the Herald Sun that the Lord Mayor and Councillors are being targeted. This has added to our fear. Therefore we wish for our details to remain anonymous but we want to reiterate that we wish to support the bylaw.

Thank you.

From,
A Concerned Citizen

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)

Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 9 March 2017 4:44 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form (#110)

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title * Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear City of Melbourne,

I support the bylaw to remove the possessions of homeless people so they don't create a risk and are an eyesore within the city district.

The problem of homeless people within any city in the world needs to be readdressed and I support any program that changes the outcome for homeless people.

Regards,

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 9 March 2017 9:27 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#111]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

These proposed changes are ridiculous and incredibly damaging to us all.

How dare we criminalise some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Homelessness is not a choice. We don't provide enough for people who suffer under a system built to disadvantage some people - Indigenous communities, queer communities, disabled and mentally ill communities, survivors of various traumas... These changes will penalise and criminalise those who suffer under these systems and are down on their luck.

Disability accessibility is important. But are we forgetting that many homeless people are also disabled? City aesthetics are important. But are we forgetting that cities are for people not just businesses?

You can't just sweep people and their possessions off our streets like rubbish. We need to act to ensure people don't need to end up on the streets.

True concern would reveal itself in dramatically increasing public housing. In providing adequate resources so those who are disadvantaged are given the support they need.

Have a heart Melbourne City Council!

Please indicate Yes
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission**

(Section 223)

Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 10 March 2017 8:58 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#113]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I propose an amendment state that council, state government and federal governments will be fined for any persons sleeping rough due to inaction.

Governments have known for years that housing has been in crisis, DHHS housing waiting lists are at minimum 3 years...

If governments can't provide housing then how can someone with no fixed address and rental history gain a private rental!

Governments must provide housing!

Governments should be fined and funds should go to housing and support agencies to provide instant housing and assistance... it should not be hard to find rentals for people sleeping rough under a corporate government rental scheme similar to defence housing...

The great thing is that people in Melbourne sleeping on the streets are front of mind and easily visible so they should be able to be assisted... there are many more that are hiding in derelict buildings or couch surfing that are harder to assist.

Energy must be moved away from councils wanting to fine or charge our most vulnerable for sleeping rough! This is a government issue on all levels and a humanitarian issue and governments need to be brought accountable for these fines and supply ongoing housing and assistance not to be left with charities and welfare agencies to fit the bill as that already struggle for funding!!!

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in**

support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 10 March 2017 10:53 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#114]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

I would like to take this opportunity to make a submission on the proposed amendments to the above local law.

Firstly, section 1.9 appears to omit "service dogs" for people who suffer from mental health issues, such as War Veterans with PTSD. These dogs are also trained to assist their owners, especially in crowded places, such as the City of Melbourne. By omitting these disabled people from the exemptions, this local law may be discriminatory; it would certainly open the Council up to potential legal action should anyone in this class of disabled people wish to challenge this local law.

Secondly, section 1.9 also appears to omit members of the Correctional Services Dog Squad from carrying out their duties, potentially at the Metropolitan Reception Prison, or during a search for contraband or escapees.

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 10 March 2017 5:30 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#116]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear Madam, Sir,

I'm extremely concerned about the proposed changes in the law.

The proposed ban on camping is extremely broad and, whether or not this is the intention, it effectively makes it an offence to sleep on the streets.

The provisions regarding unattended items also have potential to impact harshly on rough sleepers.

Homeless people already fall through the cracks of our systems, and the only solution to "fixing" the problem of homelessness is to fix our systems.

This change in the law will make things worse and increase inequality in our society even further.

I urge you to show compassion towards those who are most disadvantaged, often caused through poor safety nets (eg. inadequate systems) and to reject this change in the law.

Yours sincerely,

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the

Submission

(Section 223)

**Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, 11 March 2017 12:19 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#119]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I think the proposed changes to the Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017 will unfairly penalise and make life harder for a group of people who are already suffering hardship. Homeless people do not have the luxury of having a home where they can lock up and store their belongings. They already face the prospect of their goods being stolen when they leave them unattended. To confiscate their meagre belongings and force them to pay a fee to get them back is cruel and barbaric. We should be trying to help these people get their lives back on track not punish them further for something that they have no choice in. Also only giving them two weeks to find the money to get their belongings back, will be nearly impossible for most of them and will likely increase the instances of begging.

The council would be better off setting up places where homeless people could drop their belongings off free of charge and collect them later when they are needed. (Most of their belongings are sleeping bags and blankets that they need at night). These places could also offer them a place to have a shower and wash their clothes; things that those of us who have homes take for granted but are not something homeless people have access to.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, 12 March 2017 6:51 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#120]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title * Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

1. Increasing homelessness is not coming out of nowhere.
2. Impounding possessions and fining people experiencing poverty is inhumane, unhelpful, and will increase trauma.
3. Boarding houses, rooming houses, and other forms of low-cost accommodation are often unsafe.
4. Punishing people experiencing poverty and homelessness is not the solution, it's the problem.
5. Public housing is being reduced and privatised.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, 12 March 2017 9:24 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#121]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Whilst the proposal is good I would love to point out that it does not support the homeless and the International students doing it tough. Housing costs are on the rise and the only way that some can afford to live is on the street. Yes it does look unsightly but if the City of Melbourne can afford the cost of buying some cheap accomodation whilst they sort their feet out that would be great.

Also what would be great is a mandatory donation by all residents and businesses who have to pay their council rates. \$10 goes towards a meal for those doing it tough, \$100 gets a room for a night, \$50 gets public transport for a week.

Just a thought as I read that QLD are doing it tough too.

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 10 March 2017 5:56 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#117]

Name *

Email address *

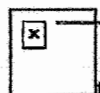
Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

See attached one page submission

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



the activities local law 2009

.comments.pdf 67.37 KB

• PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

City of Melbourne

The Activities Local Law 2009

Proposed changes to the local law to broaden the definition of camping

I do not accept that it is either desirable or necessary to broaden the definition of camping in public places. It must be remembered that it is not against the law to sleep rough, and that the current local law includes provisions around camping in public places, portable advertising and causing obstruction.

According to Mr Tony Nicholson, the State Government's new advisor on rough sleeping, "Where cities have tried to solve this problem by passing laws, it doesn't work. What it does is shift the problem around ... but it doesn't resolve rough sleeping." (The Melbourne Anglican, March 2017)

In my view, we need to provide more affordable housing in a location that is going to best reintegrate people back into the community. Also, it is not just a question of providing more affordable housing; this housing must be SAFE. People sleeping rough will refuse to use some accommodation options because of safety concerns. There is also a need for other complementary support services to be provided, as homelessness is rarely just a housing issue.

Proposed changes to the local law that would allow the removal of unattended belongings

Currently, if items and rubbish accumulate, or block pedestrian access, council officers may ask people who are sleeping rough to tidy up or leave the site. If this happens, the Council will work closely with services to make sure that people have the opportunity to access shelter, clothing, medical and other basic needs.

Accordingly, I do not accept that the proposed changes to the local law in relation to the removal of unattended belongings, are desirable. In a similar vein, I do not believe that the Council should require people sleeping rough to pay a fee to reclaim their unattended belongings.

Although the problem of unattended belongings will require a creative solution, it must be emphasised that people sleeping rough are NOT the only contributors to this problem. Many other residents of the municipality, on vacating premises, dump household goods [including mattresses] on the street.

Concluding Comments

The experience and approach of the Lazarus Centre for the homeless, at St Peter's Eastern Hill, is salutary. According to the Rev Dr Hugh Kempster, these homeless people are our friends. "They sleep in the church grounds because there is nowhere else to go. We invite them for breakfast every day of the year. We introduce them to social workers and health professionals who can help. We teach some of them to make coffee, which offers a little purpose, and may open up an employment pathway. These people have names. They have families and friends. They tell us tragic stories of misfortune and powerful stories of resilience, if we make the time to listen."

In my view, it must be possible in a first world country, for resources to be provided to enable services like those offered by the Lazarus Centre, to be made more generally available. Also, given that the prevalence of rough sleeping is not just a City of Melbourne problem, the government and community response must be developed at a regional scale.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Monday, 13 March 2017 7:00 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#123]

Name *

Email address *

!

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



[melbournecitycouncil.docx](#) 16.01 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Attention: Manager, Governance and Legal, Melbourne City Council

Dear Councillors

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

I wish to make a submission in respect of your proposed changes to local laws concerning public amenity and security.

I had always been proud to live in Melbourne, the "most liveable city in the world" with all that it has to offer residents and visitors alike. That is, until the recent presence and invasion of hordes of unruly squatters and vagabonds who accosted me personally, invaded my space, adversely affected my business, and affronted my belief in freedom and safety.

I travel to the CBD regularly; I frequently host overseas/international visitors whom I had, until recently, been happy to take into the city to show off and enjoy what Melbourne has and what Melbourne is. After the happenings of January 2017, I shan't be doing this again. Win:lose – vagabonds win: tourism loses.

I also work in the CBD, and travel to work by train, arriving at Flinders Street Station. During the unpleasant and illegal invasion of the CBD by unruly squatters and vagabonds, I felt threatened and was, on more than one occasion, accosted verbally and physically by the group of people who had put themselves and their untidy possessions in my path outside the station, making access impossible. I felt safer jay-walking across Flinders Street and running the risk of paying a penalty for doing so, than putting my personal safety at risk by having to force my way through the aggressive and hostile louts who showed no respect for me, or my right to be in the city. This was not their space; this is our space. Win:lose – lawlessness wins: safety loses. My clients were threatened, and business was adversely affected.

It became obvious that a police/law enforcement presence was ineffective, and it is clear that local by-laws need to be changed in order to prevent this appalling situation from re-occurring. It is recommended that move-on provisions should be included in any proposed amendments to your regulations, which have woefully failed the citizens of Melbourne, and visitors to our former safe and beautiful city.

These people were not genuinely homeless; this was obvious. I am a Social Worker, and I resent the emotive use of the term "homeless" to describe what was in fact clearly wanton vagrancy and begging. They were 'camping' – in my city, on the footpath (preventing pedestrian access) which they brazenly used for sleeping, defecating, vomiting, eating, littering, using illicit drugs – in order to harass the public, residents, business people and tourists. And nobody did anything, despite the fact that this was in flagrant disregard for the protection of the public, and of public amenity. It is clear that a broader definition of camping must be stipulated, and reinforced, and that offenders must be dealt with expeditiously.

These people brazenly erected shelters and brashly left their belongings unattended in public places, with flagrant disregard for the rights of normal citizens, business people and visitors, who come to the CBD not to be confronted by this rabble, or by unsightly, offensive and disgusting amounts of litter and refuse. Well, who used to come to the CBD. Many, quite simply, won't return. Many of my clients have gone elsewhere. Many of my overseas/international visitors will not return to Melbourne. What an utter tragedy. It is clear that the authorities must be given powers to remove items which are a threat or an affront to public safety.

I am happy to provide statutory declarations verifying the experiences that I encountered, the observations that I made, and documentation to substantiate the devastating effects on my business.

Yours faithfully

From: CoM Meetings
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 10:16 AM
To: *Gov & Leg - Council Business (Team)
Subject: FW: Meeting submissions form [#124]

From: Wufoo
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 10:15:38 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#124]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone
number (optional)

Agenda Item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

1. Jurisdictional issues with passing the law (Part 5 of the Local Government Act 1989) and even if the law were jurisdictional possible the implementation would make MCC financially insolvent almost immediately, due to the requirements of 2.12.5
2. Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities ACT 2006
3. Conspiracy to take possessions without lawful excuse possessions council is aware are owned by individuals at risk
4. Breach of Duty of Care
5. Mental Health ACT 2014, the paracetamol challenge, the doctor, s30, s351, s352, s353 & s354, Duty of care, negligence, violation
6. Accessing state & federal resources instead of violating those people sleeping rough
7. What the hell was the budget allocated on ... show me whose got the dollars from this allocation

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
★

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 12:02 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#126]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Activities Local Law 2009. The City of Melbourne has a good reputation for working with homeless people to improve their situations, both for their own safety and lifestyle and those of the wider community. It is highly distressing to see Melbourne take such a step backwards.

Enforcement-based policies never work, be it in drug treatment, mental health or homelessness. By creating harsher punishments for sleeping rough it is only going to increase the distress and sense of isolation of those experiencing homelessness. People don't become homeless because it's legal, and criminalising it won't help move them off the streets.

When there is such an urgent need for a strong voice for better policy and funding for increasing access to affordable housing, AOD rehab and mental health supports, it is unthinkable that the City of Melbourne could waste so much effort on blaming the homeless and treating them as second-class citizens.

I urge you to approach this situation with the only tools that really make change – love, compassion and evidence based solutions – as opposed to punitive, reactionary policies aimed at the lowest common denominator.

Social Worker

Clifton Hill

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to

address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 1:53 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#128]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here



final_submission_homelessban.pdf 571.27 KB • PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.



Level 4, Fitzroy Town Hall
Access via courtyard at 126 Moor Street, Fitzroy

All correspondence to:
PO Box 297
FITZROY, VIC. 3065
(DX no. 96611)

Phone: (03) 9419 3744
Fax: (03) 9416 1124
Email: enquiries@fitzroy-legal.org.au

A Community Legal Centre

14 March 2017

**Future Melbourne Committee
City of Melbourne
90-120 Swanston Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000**

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors

Homelessness in the City of Melbourne and proposed amendments to the Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2009

Melbourne (Finance and Governance) Committee, item 6.2: homelessness and public amenity, including the proposed amendments to the Activities Local Law 2009 (Local Law) in the Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017 (Amending Law).

Introduction

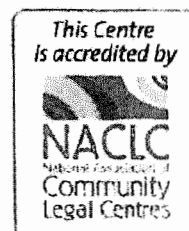
The terms of the proposed changes make abundantly clear that it is not the increasing number of Victorian experiencing homelessness that concerns local government, but rather the visibility of the homelessness Victorians are experiencing. A clear alternative approach exists, being to place pressure on the State Government, who specifically legislated against move on powers as a result of unintended impacts of displacing homeless people from areas of relative safety, to allocate funds towards longer term secure housing options, including supported housing options.

It is unquestionable that homeless Victorians face greater risk of violence, sexual assault, rape, and theft. For many if not most living on the street, family support to assist in dealing with mental health, material needs, and general social support are not available. Further, for many the journey into homelessness has been long, arduous and painful.

Despite some attempts by the State government to create viable and secure transitional housing options, these sites are often extremely expensive, at capacity, and do not present a secure safe housing option, particularly for women and children. Many of those living in the Central Business District are under the wardship of the State, or have escaped severe family violence.

DONATIONS OF \$2 OR MORE ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

ABN 46 187 177 143



The traditional role of policing in the Central Business District has been in many cases somewhat protective of the rights of the poorest, most marginalized and unwell Victorians.

The proposed changes will inevitably divert significant State resources towards enforcement sweeps as opposed long term solution focused approaches to homelessness. This diversion of resources is a decision Victorians simply cannot afford.

The inevitable focus on substance dependence, whether it be alcohol or other drugs, is a misdirected inquiry. For any person living on the street, each day presents challenges and experiences where sobriety and the battle to survive and maintain hope are in stark contrast to the experiences of those who are housed. The co-existence of severe post-traumatic stress disorder and various mental health disorders for which community members may be under community treatment orders are a consistent feature,

An appropriate approach is to acknowledge as a community our collective duties of care, and the need to work together to create affordable safe options to homelessness so as to allow those affected to live lives of contribution and dignity within our community. Interim measures may involve free use of lockers. In the ordinary course, removal of property known to belong to another is a criminal offence, being theft. The damage caused to an individual's sense of personal sanctity, which is often so minimal for the homeless, should be given serious and grave consideration.

We note that approximately one quarter of the homeless community in Victoria are of Aboriginal descent. Whilst the State Government speaks of treaty as an active discourse and commitment in Victoria, this is a shocking indictment on the actual commitment of the Government to make meaningful amends for the loss of family, cultural connection and land.

Specific duties in enforcement are elucidated further below – in particular, the duty upon the State to take positive steps to protect the right to life, recognition as a person under the law, discrimination on the basis of a protected attribute (whether direct or indirect), cruel inhuman or degrading treatment, unlawful deprivation of property.

Finally, we note that the physical security of persons from physical and sexual violence, in particular though not exclusively, women and children, has placed a central role in their decision to reside whilst without secure housing in the central business district. The removal of protections and security, and the direct consequences attendant, are matters for which decision makers in this process must bear personal accountability.

Summary of submission:

- Outlines the explicit link between homelessness and family violence;
- Outlines other causes of homelessness;
- Identifies safety issues for people sleeping rough;
- Summarises the Amending law;
- Summarises FLS's concerns with the Amending law, including:
 - The impact on people experiencing homelessness;
 - The relationship between the Amending Law and the right to life;
 - The effectiveness and utility of the Amending Law.
- Identifies the existing mechanisms available to government in response to homelessness 'problems';
- Shows that the imposition of fines constitutes poor allocation of resources;
- Provides recommendations.

FLS would also welcome the opportunity to make oral submissions on these matters.

Fitzroy Legal Service

The Fitzroy Legal Service (FLS) is one of the oldest community legal centres in Australia. FLS has been operating to assist the community through free or low cost/ legally aided legal services for over forty years. FLS has extensive longitudinal experience providing legal services to the urban poor involving thousands of persons affected by the following circumstances:

- Homelessness
- Mental health
- Alcohol or drug dependence
- Family violence
- Trauma related to childhood violence
- Insecure and/or unsafe tenancy

These circumstances are frequently if not universally interconnected for our clients.

Relevant, and to some degree, overlapping areas in which legal services are focused, and from which we draw experience, include casework and advice relating to:

- Tenancy;
- Infringements where 'special circumstances' of homelessness, mental health diagnosis, and/or alcohol or other drug dependence may be used as a ground to review and revoke infringements issued;
- The Drug Outreach lawyer program (funded by the Department of Health Human Services) to assist those dependent on alcohol and other drugs to navigate the legal system on an equitable basis with other community members through provision of outreach services;
- Family law matters where family violence is a central feature of family breakdown and risk of homelessness may present;
- Criminal law matters including prosecutions, and infringements that have progressed to prosecution stage, under the *Summary Offences Act 1956* (Vic) ('the Summary Offences Act');
- Provision of duty lawyer services at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC) where a multi disciplinary approach including housing support workers, psychologists, family violence counselors and support workers is used to address the causes of offending.

The explicit link between homelessness and family violence

Fitzroy Legal Service has provided support to the Homeless Person's Union of Victoria (HPUV) to make a submission for the Royal Commission into Family Violence by recording interviews with people currently homeless and/or with lived experience of homelessness.¹ All persons interviewed connected the experience of family violence to homelessness.

...a lot more women on the street particularly, that have had to flee their situations and they are left with no options. Refugees particularly, if they've got drug and alcohol problems aren't keen to take them in...²

According to Homelessness Australia statistics published in 2014, 33 percent of homeless persons in Victoria are homeless because of domestic violence and relationship issues.³

¹ Homeless Persons Union of Victoria, Submission No 0702 to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, 1 June 2015 <<http://www.rcfv.com.au/getattachment/656419C4-0424-42C9-A499-182A77274FC3/Fitzroy-Legal-Service-and-Homeless-Persons'-Union>>.

² Homeless Persons Union of Victoria, Submission No 0702 to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, 1 June 2015, p 20.

³ Homelessness Australia, *Homelessness in Victoria* (January 2014) accessed 15 February 2017. <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/images/publications/Infographics/Victoria_-_updated_Jan_2014.pdf>.

This data is consistent with the Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV), which reports that survivors of violence typically leave the family home and enter refuge or crisis accommodation, sometimes leading to homelessness⁴ According to the Commission, in 2014-2015, 31 percent of all people seeking assistance from homelessness services did so due to family violence—of that 31 percent, 86 percent were women.⁵ Furthermore, 90 percent of young persons experiencing homelessness had previously witnessed violence in the home.

According to the RCFV, 5,688 people approached homelessness services in Victoria requiring short-term or emergency accommodation in 2014-15 because of family violence. Of this number, 1,104 people (19.4 per cent) were unable to secure housing.⁶ During the RCFV's research, service providers consistently told the Commission that the demand for crisis accommodation exceeds the number of available places. Some of these people who are unable to find housing, the majority of which are women and children, have no other choice than to sleep rough. The Commission urgently recommends expanded crisis accommodation which can accommodate its ever-increasing demand.⁷

Difficulties in securing housing are exacerbated by the growing long-term housing crisis in Victoria. Melbourne's rental market has seen the average weekly rent for all properties increase by 46 percent, twice the rate of inflation, over the last 10 years.⁸ During that period the percentage of affordable housing stock in Melbourne fell from 27 per cent to just 8 per cent. This has particularly impacted single women forced out of the home due to family violence. It was also squeezed women out of the private rental market due to socio-economic issues of over-representation in part-time and casual employment and the propensity for women to be the primary carers of children.⁹ These issues, along with long waiting times for public housing has left many women trapped in transitional accommodation or on the streets for excessively long periods of time.¹⁰ This is of particular concern given the dangers faced by women on the streets, and the reality that transitional housing is frequently unsuited to their needs¹¹ and often compromises their safety.

FLS sees many clients whose homelessness has been caused by family violence. The following case examples from FLS clients demonstrate the strong link between family violence and homelessness. X became homeless because she was fleeing her rural home due to a physically violent partner. She lived on the streets for two and a half years. Similarly, Y was forced to "make (her)self homeless" in order to get away from a violent alcoholic housemate who triggered her post-traumatic stress disorder. Both women engaged with numerous services during their time on the streets, experiencing many barriers to obtaining secure housing. These included availability, suitability and issues with personal safety. In both case studies, violence forced these women out of their home and the lack of adequate services forced them onto the street. These cases illustrate that for many women, homelessness flows from their initial experience of family violence.

Other causes of homelessness

Homelessness Australia further reports that 29 percent of persons experiencing homelessness are in the position due to the housing crisis and inadequate dwellings; a further 22 percent are homeless due to

⁴ Victoria, *Royal Commission into Family Violence, Report and Recommendations* (2016) vol 2.9, 37.

⁵ Victoria, *Royal Commission into Family Violence, Report and Recommendations* (2016) vol 2:9, 38, 29.

⁶ Victoria, *Royal Commission into Family Violence, Report and Recommendations* (2016) vol 2, 9, 47.

⁷ Victoria, *Royal Commission into Family Violence, Report and Recommendations* (2016) vol 2, 9, 80.

⁸ Russell Skelton, *Massive decline in affordable housing adding to number of homeless in Melbourne* (19 October 2016) ABC News (Online)

<<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-19/affordable-housing-decline-adds-melbournes-homeless/7946800>>.

⁹ Women's Housing Ltd, Submission No 0237 to Royal Commission into Family Violence, May 2015.

¹⁰ Victoria, *Royal Commission into Family Violence, Report and Recommendations* (2016) vol 2.9, 64.

¹¹ Victoria, *Royal Commission into Family Violence, Report and Recommendations* (2016) vol 2.9, 50

financial difficulties and unemployment.¹² A significant percentage of homeless persons also recall experiencing trauma as a child.¹³

Just 3 percent of the 22,773 homeless people in Victoria (according to the 2014 statistics) were homeless due to health reasons such as substance abuse problems and mental health issues.¹⁴

Thus the increase in numbers of persons sleeping rough is symptomatic not of a moral failure of those affected, but of other complex issues including the following:

- Lack of safety amenity and security in transitional housing
- Lack of long term affordable housing
- Severe long term psychological damage caused by family violence
- Barriers to housing for those with psychiatric illness
- Waiting lists for rehabilitation services
- Access to employment

Safety issues for people sleeping rough

Individuals without secure housing are exposed to violence, threats and intimidation. This is relevant to all homeless people, but is particularly significant for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

In the previously mentioned case study, X spent time on the streets as a result of escaping family violence. During her time on the streets, she was subjected to further abuse and violence. She described frightening encounters with men, being generally kicked, spat at, laughed at, and being woken in the middle of the night by screaming. She describes experiencing “horror and fear” as a result of this, and at a later time X threw herself in front of a train. This case highlights the relentless cycle of exposure to violence, threats and intimidation experienced by homeless persons, which is often frequently in addition the existing trauma from family violence.

...you can end up on the street, and then you got that violence out on the street as well, and we've got to put up with that. Either you can go home and put up with it, or you can come out here and put up with it....¹⁵

The Central Business District with operational CCTV, well-lit and visible thoroughfares provide higher levels of safety for people sleeping rough. For women and children these small protections are particularly significant.

The Amending Law

The key aspects of the Amending Law are:

- Broadening the ban on camping. In removing the reference to ‘a vehicle, tent, caravan or any type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation’, clause 2.8 will provide: ‘unless in accordance with a permit, a person must not camp in or on any private place’.

¹² Homelessness Australia, *Homelessness in Victoria* (January 2014) accessed 15 February 2017. < http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/images/publications/Infographics/Victoria_-_updated_Jan_2014.pdf>.

¹³ Rosanna Scutella et al, *Journey's Home Research Report No. 1* (July 2012) Melbourne Institute, 25 < https://melbourneinstitute.com/journeys_home/assets/pubs/2012/Scutella%20et%20al%20Journeys%20Home%20Research%20Report%20W1.pdf>.

¹⁴ Homelessness Australia, *Homelessness in Victoria* (January 2014) accessed 15 February 2017. < http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/images/publications/Infographics/Victoria_-_updated_Jan_2014.pdf>.

¹⁵ Homeless Persons Union of Victoria, Submission No 0702 to the Royal Commission Into Family Violence, 1 June 2015, 3.

- Providing for confiscation and disposal of unattended items. The Amending Law suggests a new clause 2.12 which would provide that a person must not leave any item unattended in a public place. If an item is left unattended, an authorized officer may confiscate and impound the item and can sell, destroy or give away the item if a fee is not paid within 14 days.

FLS concerns with the Amending Law

Impact on people experiencing homelessness

As discussed, the most significant causes of homelessness are family violence, unavailable or inadequate housing or financial hardship. Homelessness is not a lifestyle choice but results from complex social inequalities. It is both disingenuous and disrespectful to victims of family violence and financial hardship to criminalise the outcome of this experience and refer to it as 'camping'. Camping is a recreational activity. Homelessness is not.

According to the unconfirmed minutes, the purpose of the broadened definition of 'camping' at clause 2.11 at the draft Activities Local Law 2017 is to 'better respond to items left unattended in a public place.' People experiencing homelessness are not leaving items 'unattended in a public place': they are leaving items in their improvised homes. The removal of belongings from persons experiencing homelessness risks further traumatising vulnerable individuals and reinforces a message that the lives of those experiencing homelessness are not worthy of preservation and dignity.

Exposing vulnerable and traumatized individuals to additional unwanted attention from authorities as well as the stress of navigating the legal system through the imposition of a fine is both pointless and futile, serving only to exacerbate challenges already faced by people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, it risks pushing homeless people to outer suburbs, isolating them from services and fostering further distrust of authorities.

Right to life

Section 9 of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006* (Vic) protects the 'right to life'. European jurisprudence imposes a positive obligation to protect life, or take steps to do so. It remains an open question as to how the right to life operates in Victoria. However, it is relevant to consider whether a positive obligation to protect should inform public authorities in decision making and allocation of resources. This is certainly the case for the population generally but FLS submits that people fleeing domestic violence, people experiencing financial hardship and the drug using population should not be excluded from that commitment.

The Judicial College Charter of Human Rights Bench Book states:

If the positive obligation exists, it is likely based on the requirement in s 38 that public authorities must give proper consideration to a Charter right when making a decision. This may require public authorities, such as Victoria Police, to have regard to the right to life in their actions and decision-making. This, in turn, may imply a positive obligation to safeguard the lives of people within Victoria.

The unconfirmed minutes for Meeting no. 5, Future Melbourne Committee state at '6.2: Homelessness and Public Amenity':

- 1.2. [the Council] notes that an assessment will be made in respect to the Amending Local Law and its compatibility with the human rights set out in part 2 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

This specific inclusion of the Charter implies that the Charter is a relevant consideration to the Amending Law. FLS submits that every time the Amending Law is enforced authorities would need to be cognizant of the duty to preserve life by the state.

Effectiveness and utility

The proposed draft law ignores the fact that homelessness, in the absence of more readily available social housing, will continue to increase. Banning 'camping' and confiscating blankets is not a helpful or realistic resolution to the financial and cultural conditions which cause homelessness.

There is significant international research that demonstrates that criminalisation approaches are ineffective and that other approaches can provide constructive alternatives, supporting the needs of people experiencing homelessness and balancing the concerns of other community stakeholders such as residents, businesses and governments.¹⁶

Existing mechanisms

There are many existing mechanisms available to government that are used in response to 'problems' arising from homelessness in urban areas.

Criminal laws in the *Summary Offences Act 1956* (Vic) are already relied upon to prosecute the offence of begging,¹⁷ public drunkenness¹⁸ and offensive language in public.¹⁹ It is a criminal offence to be in possession of drugs or to use drugs.²⁰

There is no evidence-base to our knowledge that indicates that risk to the public in terms of violence is concentrated in the homeless community.

Existing by-laws are already relied upon to remove and confiscate 'structures' that provide shelter for homeless people from rain and the elements.²¹ Councillors will recall on the coldest day of winter in 2016 such makeshift shelters were removed from Enterprise Park where rough sleepers had congregated.

Considering the above it is difficult to argue that authorities currently have inadequate powers.

More fines, poor allocation of resources

It is proposed that individuals will be fined for non-compliance of the Amending Law. This is a very poor allocation of resources with no discernable benefit and significant potential harm. Under the current infringements systems where fines are imposed on homeless people, an exemption may be sought on the following grounds: homelessness, mental health and drug dependence. Thus the result in many circumstances where fines are imposed under the Amending Law may be an exemption under these 'special circumstances'. Potential resources expended through the enforcement of the offence by authorised officers, prosecuting agencies, legal services and courts are substantial. Such resources could instead be employed to evidence based alternatives that are proven to support the needs of people experiencing homelessness, and balancing the concerns of other community stakeholders such as residents, businesses and governments.²²

¹⁶ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Searching Out Solutions: Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness* (June 2012), 2 <https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Searching_Out_Solutions_2012.pdf>.

¹⁷ *Summary Offences Act 1966* (Vic)

¹⁸ *Summary Offences Act 1966* (Vic) s 13.

¹⁹ *Summary Offences Act 1966* (Vic) s 17.

²⁰ *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* (Vic) ss 73, 75.

²¹ *Activities Local Law 2009* (Vic) clause 14.17.

²² See eg, United States Interagency Council, above n 12; Mollie Lowery, 'Housing first': What L.A. can learn from Utah on homelessness', *Los Angeles Times* (online), 3 June 2015 <<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-oe-0603-lowery-homeless-utah-la-20150603-story.html>>; Lucy Adams, *In The Public Eye: Addressing the Negative Impact of Laws Regulating Public Space on People Experiencing Homelessness* (2 June 2014) Justice Connect <

The Amending Law may reduce the visibility of the homeless, but it will not reduce the number of homeless persons. Enacting the proposed amendments constitutes a serious misallocation of resources, diverting money away from much needed housing into policing Melbourne's most vulnerable.

Recommendation

We strongly recommend that the change proposed at Meeting no. 5, Melbourne Future Committee, 6.2: Homelessness and Public Amenity, 1.1, are not enacted. In the alternative, we strongly recommend that Councillor Leppert's suggested amendment to paragraph 1.1 is instead adopted.

Please feel free to contact me with any further enquiries on

Yours faithfully

Fitzroy Legal Service

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 4:41 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#130]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I have lived in the Melbourne CBD for approximately 13 years, am a CBD property owner and rate payer.

I have observed the steady increase in homelessness and sleeping rough during this time, and particularly around where I live (near Parliament). Despite the increase in the number of people sleeping rough I have not experienced an increase in either intrusive begging or anti-social behaviour: people sleeping rough tend to keep to themselves.

I appreciate that there are concerns that this is "unsightly" however this is not something that I believe the council should be so concerned about as to pass laws that criminalize poverty. I have seen that council have been at pains to suggest that these measures do not seek to penalize poverty. I struggle to see that this is sincere and agree with groups that think these measures are an inhumane response to a beat up by certain portions of the media. As a resident and a rate payer I do not support Melbourne council taking steps like these.

I do think that the council should continue its good work in relation to this issue and urgently work with other stakeholders to get these people off the street and into some form of housing. Every year I see people sleeping rough especially over our biting winter and think this is totally unacceptable. A wealthy state like Victoria can afford to resolve this.

I exhort Melbourne council to focus resources into finding a solution to homelessness and not to enact laws that punish and criminalize it.

Kind regards

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 9:01 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#131]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

The changes proposed do not reflect my view of what the Council should be doing in respect of rough sleeping. I think it is the job of Council to educate any stakeholders who support the thrust of the changes about the futility of these efforts and the fact that stopping rough sleeping in the CBD does not stop homelessness, it just moves it. What kind of society would you have us live in where we address uncomfortable issues by moving them out of sight? It's as if we are trying to present an attractive facade to our city's visitors, and hide the problems we are failing to address. Should we make ourselves look better at dealing with childhood obesity by setting a weight limit on children who enter the CBD? Should we make ourselves look better at dealing with ice addiction by banning the use of the word "ice" within the CBD when not referring to water in solid form? It may not be Council's job to house the homeless, but if the State is failing to do it then it is Council's job to lobby for appropriate action by the State rather than hiding the issue.

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 9:45 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#132]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I think this is ridiculous that you are trying to refuse people from camping where they like and imposing fines on people for leaving items unattended, what do you have expect people to do when they have no home because housing is unaffordable in Melbourne? What if that was your son or your daughter? Or your father or cousin? Where is the basic respect for humans?

We need to help these people not impose fines on them that they will NEVER be able to pay and why now? Because there is pressure on the government from the wealthy people to clean up the streets, how do they expect you to clean up the streets? These homeless people can only go so far, they can't just grab there belongings and go find that house they didn't notice earlier. This is just absurd. Unless you are going to provide more adequate services and housing for the homeless this is just unjustifiable what you are trying to do to them. We are only as strong as our weakest link. There is NO reason to make life harder for those already struggling the worst. Open your hearts and help these people, as they are just like you and I.

Please Indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 10:49 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#133]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am strongly opposed to the proposed law. It is misguided in that it will only exacerbate the problem.

People sleeping rough are in need of our support and not our punishment. Punishing people for their homelessness with fines will only serve to further compound the issues they are facing.

I would much prefer that the City of Melbourne spent its resources supporting service providers and community housing organisations that are trying to get rough sleepers safely housed.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 11:30 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#135]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Fining homeless people will only compound the issue of homelessness. Their desperate plight will only be amplified leaving them with little hope of recovery whilst further alienating them from the rest of society. Homeless people are dealing with immense trauma. Rather than fining the most vulnerable members of society, providing free counselling services and a works program may be a better idea for reintegration.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 2:40 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#138]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

It is unfortunate that when so recently we had support of more nuanced, and more effective ways, of helping the homeless we have now adopted a policy that instead helps us not to see them. What in this policy aids those in need--indeed, what in this policy improves society beyond an inner city aesthetic? Please reconsider, you've shown you can comprehend better than this, let's action it.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 10:05 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#139]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am strongly opposed to any fines or confiscation of possessions for people sleeping rough.

I work in and visit the CBD and inner suburbs frequently and believe we need a committed and compassionate approach to finding housing rather than punishing poverty.

Instead of law enforcement, we should be looking at how Melbourne City Council can work with other levels of government and service providers to play a positive role in ending homelessness for people.

It is also unfair on local law enforcement officers to make them play any role in enforcing by-laws that infringe human rights and will bring them into conflict with people who are in the midst of major crisis.

I urge all councillors to reconsider and take a different course in response to Melbourne's homelessness crisis.

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 11:50 AM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#144]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am writing as a concerned Melbourne resident and worker in social and community services, to urge City of Melbourne to repeal by-laws fining and criminalising people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets in the CBD, people who are among the most marginalised and vulnerable people in our community. I further urge that Council focus instead on initiatives that are informed by respect and human rights, and which support people who don't have a stable and secure home to get immediate practical support for their needs and affordable, and where necessary, supported, housing.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 12:33 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#145]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Homeless advocacy and legal groups that understand the situation have opposed the amendments, explaining that they would create more problems and not solve the central issue of homelessness. Trust the experts on this matter, and avoid political expediency

It is clear that the current funding being used to support homeless people is insufficient. The issue lies with State and Federal funding; explain this to your constituents so that the right political pressure can be exerted on the State and Federal governments on this issue.

That hundreds of people are left homeless in "The Most Liveable City" in the world is appalling. The Federal government could pursue the billions of dollars lost by multinational corporate tax avoidance every year, or the State government could implement a wagering tax similar to South Australia.

I can't begin to understand how imposing fines and levies against the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society was considered a good idea by anyone. This further marginalises members of our community and exposes them to unjust and undue hardship

Better fund your homelessness services. Implement locker services as several other major cities around the world have done. Anything other than further burdening with financial hardship our most vulnerable community members.

It is unjust to impose further economic disadvantage on the most vulnerable members of our community. Worse than injustice, it is morally repugnant.

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the

Submission

(Section 223)

**Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 12:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#140]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I write in strong objection to the Council's Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017.

As, no doubt, many submissions will have observed, I am concerned that the proposed law will serve to further entrench the marginalisation of those the law is intended to target.

I acknowledge the efforts to date of the Council to engage service providers in offering an outreach response to people sleeping rough in the CBD, however the much-publicised rise in rough-sleeping in the city in the past 2-3 years is symptomatic of a much larger structural crisis in housing and homelessness in Victoria. A punitive approach to those congregating in the CBD will do nothing to address this crisis – it will at best shift what the Council perceives to be a 'problem' to other areas of inner Melbourne, and at worst criminalise and further stigmatise those who for any number of reasons find themselves without safe and stable housing.

I am particularly concerned at the proposal to issue fines to individuals who leave their belongings in public places – I draw your attention to Homeless Law's recent contribution on the issue of begging-related infringements <https://www.justiceconnect.org.au/askingforchange>. Those who sleep on the streets of Melbourne have no choice but to conduct their lives in public spaces. To issue fines to people whose belongings are left in public places is to effectively criminalize rough sleeping. It is utterly disingenuous for the proponents of this proposed law to claim otherwise.

I do not have lived experience of homelessness, but I have worked at the frontline of the specialist homelessness service system for nearly 7 years. In that time, I have seen viable short and longer-term options for individuals and families approaching specialist homelessness services in ever shorter supply. There is a critical shortage of supported crisis options for those in immediate need – a network of Victoria's worst motels provides what many in the general

community might believe to be the 'safety net' for vulnerable Victorians, and beyond the one or two nights motel crisis accom provided there is, for many, no option but referral to a private rooming house. I couldn't count the number of times I have heard clients of the service I work in say they feel safer sleeping rough than taking their chances in an isolated, invisible private rooming house somewhere in the outer suburbs.

This picture contrasts drastically with much recent public commentary from Council, in particular that of Mayor Doyle, which implies that there are sufficient options for both short and longer-term housing available to those who wish to take them up. This is, quite simply, untrue.

I am concerned that the Council's rhetoric in relation to rough sleeping in the CBD has increasingly taken a stigmatizing tone – for example, regular reference to the purported anti-social behaviour of some rough sleepers, and the suggestion in public comments that not all who are rough sleeping are 'truly homeless'. This rhetoric, embodied in the proposed law, serves not only to undermine the manifest challenges CBD rough sleepers face, but fuels a broader perception that not all who are homeless are equally 'deserving' of the community's care, support and assistance.

I urge the Council to re-consider the proposed law, and instead join with those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and the services tasked with assisting them, to place renewed pressure on both State and Federal governments to address the critical shortage of safe and supportive crisis accommodation options for all those in our community who find themselves in immediate need.

Sincerely,

Social Worker), St Kilda

Please indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:05 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#147]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title * Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:06 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#149]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title * Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please indicate whether you would like to Yes
address the Submission (Section 223)

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my
personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:07 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#146]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

"The criminalisation of homelessness is deeply concerning and violates international human rights law...The proposed law goes further and is discriminatory – stopping people from engaging in life-sustaining activities, and penalising them because they are poor and have no place to live."

You asshole Lawmakers are the bloody criminals!

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:09 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#148]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I urge Melbourne City Council not to enact by-laws that will fine or confiscate the possessions of homeless people. This is cruel and inhumane as many of these homeless people have nowhere to go. Repeated fines will make it likely that homeless people will either go to jail over a bad debt or never be able to rent due to their credit history. Making vulnerable people even more desperate is a recipe for disaster and is no guarantee to clear them from the streets.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:24 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#150]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Sir's

Without a doubt this is a World Wide Problem for many different reasons The subjects involved did not voluntarily place themselves in this position so it is unfair and inhumane to victimize them We THE PEOPLE must support them and protect them from danger To FINE THEM for being HOMELESS is a crime against their HUMAN RIGHTS.IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER TO ALLOCATE SPACE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN THE FORM OF HOUSING WHICH WOULD NOT BE INTRUSIVE AND WOULD GIVE THEM DIGNITY AND CARE.

Therefore I am one of many VOICES to OBJECT TO THE ISSUEING OF FINES TO THE DISADVANTAGED AND INSTEAD GIVE THEM HELP AND IN RETURN THEY COULD REPAY THIS KINDNESS WITH A FORM OF WORK IF AGREED UPON.

Thank you

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:29 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#155]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

If the council is not willing to make real efforts to curb homelessness and invest in secure public housing, they certainly should not have the power to move rough sleepers on as they wish, confiscate their belongings and fine them for having nowhere to keep their belongings.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:39 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#159]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I respectfully ask that the Council vote against these proposed amendments.

People who are sleeping rough are clearly being targeted and will suffer as a result of these amendments. Already I hear accounts of people being targeted by police and members of the public; treated as though they are criminals. The answer to homelessness lies in providing homes and support for people, not criminalizing and targeting them. Robert Doyle ran for Mayor with a strong message that he wanted to improve the situation for people experiencing homelessness. I implore the Council to follow through and continue to work positively towards ending homelessness, in partnership with the homelessness sector and people experiencing homelessness.

Please indicate No

whether you

would like to

address the

Submission

(Section 223)

Committee in

support of your

submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:42 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#156]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Maybe the good councillors of the City of Melbourne, after enjoying comfy beds at night & nutritious food, could engage in some empathetic thinking / planning, & divert resources to actually assist those who are homeless, unemployed & probably also in dire need of access to free health services.

"The criminalisation of homelessness is deeply concerning and violates international human rights law...The proposed law goes further and is discriminatory - stopping people from engaging in life-sustaining activities, and penalising them because they are poor and have no place to live."

The "homeless" are Human Beings, just like you, I, & our children ~ kindly treat them humanely.

Warm regards,

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:44 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#161]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

**Please write your submission in the space
provided below**

Please interview them and give them accommodation that would suit
them. Have compassion, please

**Please indicate whether you would like to
address the Submission (Section 223)**

Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my
personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 1:58 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#152]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

15th of March 2017

Dear City of Melbourne,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed amendments to the Activities Local Law 2009. I have lived most of my life in Melbourne, was born in Melbourne and have lived in various local government areas in Melbourne, but never in the City of Melbourne. I am also a single parent and currently live with my parent to save costs as renting in the private rental market would not allow me to save for any future expenses for myself and my child. I am also a social worker and in my day to day work speak regularly with women who are either homeless or about to become so.

I have read the relevant documents on the COM website relating to the proposed changes to the Local Law.

I oppose the proposed amendments to the Activities Local Law 2009 on the grounds that it is not a human response to the problem of homelessness. I believe it is no coincidence that as the price of housing continues to soar upwards we are now seeing more people sleeping rough, not just in the COM, but in so called more genteel suburbs such as Hawthorn. I therefore believe that it is wrong to target the people who are the victims of housing inaffordability.

I recognise that homelessness is a complex issue and I completely sympathise that people sleeping rough may be causing access and even security and safety issues in the COM. I think a better response to this is to use the laws already in place, eg, those for blocking space and/or anti-social behaviour.

I recognise that the COM is taking measures to tackle homelessness in a way that preserves people's dignity, eg, the purchasing/loaning of land for housing. I am in no position to judge, but the COM's efforts may well be very

significant in regards to making safe and stable accommodation available to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. However I do not believe that because COM is making these efforts that it is valid to cause further hardship to those who are the most disadvantaged and vulnerable by making laws to ban any type of camping and fining those who do.

The proposed amendments to the Activities Local Law 2009 is in effect a 'ban on homelessness' because the way the laws will apply will make it extremely difficult for those who try to find shelter in the COM area.

The COM is probably as much a victim of the housing and other related policies of Federal and State governments that have led to a situation where those who are poor and/or disadvantaged cannot compete in the private housing market, whilst there is not enough public and social housing available. To this end could I propose that more agitating and lobbying efforts be directed to the Federal and State governments to change their housing and homelessness policies? The aim being to put pressure on governments to make real changes needed to make housing affordable and to roll out more public and social housing.

I feel extremely passionately about this issue and would have liked to have more time to research the issues and put forth my views but sadly time does not permit.

I ask councillors to keep in mind the human cost of the proposed amendments and to therefore vote against the proposed amendments.

Yours Faithfully,

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

acknowledgement:

✱

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 2:06 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#163]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am concerned with the level of homelessness here in Melbourne as I'm sure you are too. Of course, it's very visibility is confronting! It makes all of us uncomfortable for various reasons. Yet it is this very visibility that lies at the heart of the solution. Clearly, as a state and as a country, we need to invest much more heavily in public housing. When we are confronted with homelessness on a daily basis, then we begin to discuss it. Please do not hide this issue from people. Please do not issue fines to the very people who cannot afford to pay them the most.

I would prefer if Melbourne City Council called on every single resident and visitor to contact both the state and federal governments to voice their complaints and to ask for more money for public housing as well as drug treatment programs.

Thankyou

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 2:14 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#162]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

The Manager, Governance & Legal Melbourne City Council,

I am writing in regard to the proposed amendments to the Council's Activities Local Law 2009. I can understand the premise of these amendments as homelessness is a growing concern for those of us living in Melbourne and particularly the increasing numbers of people sleeping rough in Melbourne CBD. Despite this, I don't feel that punishing or criminalizing homelessness is a solution that will yield productive results. No one chooses homelessness, as is outlined in the Launch Housing Annual report 2015-16 the primary cause of people sleeping rough is lack of affordable or accessible housing. People who already feel neglected by society are not going to feel obliged to re-enter the workforce, attempt to find housing or socially engage with the community, if they are further punished for circumstances, which in many cases, may have been out of their control.

Moreover, to ban camping in the CBD and confiscate unattended items won't make these people disappear. Increasing services that assist people to engage in society, creating affordable and accessible housing and treating people with respect will not only reflect on Melbourne as a humane city, but will begin to address and resolve the problem.

I have lived in Melbourne all of my adult life and feel a strong connection to the city for all it's beauty and all it's flaws.

I hope that the Melbourne City Council can find a way to address the issues surrounding people experiencing homelessness rather than further polarizing between people with wealth and without.

Kind Regards,

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission

(Section 223)

Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 2:34 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#166]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda Item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Dear mayor and councillors,

I am staggered the city of Melbourne would be contemplating such a heavy handed approach. To further intend to place punishment (fines) and removal of possessions from an already marginalised group within our society beggars belief.

Surely a penal way out handing the situation is out of date and indicates an inability for the council to fully comprehend the real needs of those sleeping on our streets.

Some research and advice from experienced workers in the field may assist council toward a more humane and permanent solution, once which considers the human rights and dignity of those most needy within our society.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

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acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 2:57 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#169]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I understand that the city needs to be kept clean & safe- for everyone- but I do not support any change to local law that turns people who are having a hard time in life, with many complex issues to deal with & few resources, into criminals.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 3:18 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#171]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title * Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below I'm completely opposed to any laws that penalise homeless people for living on the streets of Melbourne.

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223) Yes

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 3:33 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#168]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone
number (optional)

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

It is highly concerning and disturbing that a Council is find the most easiest and unjust ways to eradicate homelessness by criminalising it. It is inhuman to punish the victims when it is clear that the State and Federal government is the culprit in NOT PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING!!!!

Housing is a right, not a privilege. It is a Fundamental Human Right!!!!

Homelessness has been created by the structural inequalities that govern Neo-liberal ideology. It has been a steady erosion of funding public housing since 1996 under the Howard Government. It is a disgrace that a so called civilised Nation is punishing the victims of harsh inhumane governmental policies. However, it doesn't surprise me that the Lord Mayor is approving of these extreme criminal proposed activities, as he once was a Premier of Victoria of the Liberal Party who blames the victims of their inhumane policies.

I strongly oppose this by-law.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

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acknowledgement:

*

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 4:06 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#173]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Please rethink your course of action. Homeless people need housing options prior to being 'run out of town' where most of their services are. Yes there are now 'townships' of homeless people, but you have allowed this to happen rather than taking action earlier and in gentler ways. Just because it is now 'a big problem for you' doesn't mean you have the right to act in ways that have no compassion, or indeed any proper planning for where these vulnerable people will end up. Plan first, and early is the best way, although you've already missed this point, so now plan properly – liaise with all other political, go and ngo bodies and sort out a proper and balanced solution to what has now become 'your big problem'.

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

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acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 4:24:43 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#174]

Name *

Email address *

Contact phone number (optional)

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space
provided below

Please do not criminalise homelessness. I could not afford to live in Melbourne, anywhere near I would like to work, such as The Royal Melbourne Hospital. As a highly experienced nurse, I not afford the rents. Years of poor council and government decisions have led to this disastrous state of affairs. Most liveable city, I think not.

Please indicate whether you would like to
address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 4:51 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#176]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I am submitting in response to the stated objectives of the council to "broaden the definition of camping in the Principal Local Law" and to "provide that a person must not without a permit leave items unattended in a public place, an infringement penalty for contravention and a process by which such unattended items can be confiscated and impounded". These two new initiatives will effectively see that, in accordance with the intentions of the council: those who are sleeping rough will be moved on or fined, and the items of people sleeping rough (such as pillows and blankets) will be seized.

As an attempt to address the state of affairs in the CBD where we have seen a spike in those experiencing primary homelessness I see these proposals as faltering on both the grounds of their effectiveness and their morality. That is to say not only is it reprehensible for a metropolitan council (indeed any council, but especially one such as ours) to be criminalizing people who are suffering the consequences of social isolation and marginalization, but the council's intended way of dealing with these problems will not work.

Giving people fines and further bringing people in to contact with the criminal justice system when already they are disadvantaged and sleeping rough on the streets is not likely to lead to harmonious, consensual interactions between citizens and council/government/police staff. People being forced to move when they have no where else to go is not conducive to effective outcomes for those people. Similarly, giving people fines when clearly they are not in secure financial positions is not an effective means of dealing with homelessness. If anything these measures are going to push people deeper into trouble with the criminal justice system, ensuring worse outcomes for these people and for the city too.

Moreover there has already been issues raised by other councils about the fact that these laws, even in this nascent stage, are not eradicating the problem of rough sleeping but are rather pushing people out into the suburbs where a) they have less access to services and b) they fall under the gamut of another council. I work for one such council in the suburban regions and can anecdotally provide evidence of an increase in those sleeping rough since the Melbourne

City Council's new approach to dealing with homelessness in the CBD.

The only long-term solutions to these issues is a greater investment in public housing. In the meantime, greater funding for services in the CBD is important, but only if people are actually allowed to stay in the CBD to access these services (ie soup kitchens). Pushing people away from services and into other municipalities through the threat of criminalisation and fines is at best foolishly designed public policy and at worst a scary program of social cleansing which has no place in the City of Melbourne.

Please Indicate Yes
whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission *

Privacy I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
acknowledgement:
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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 5:12 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#181]

Name *

Email address *

**Contact phone
number (optional)**

Agenda item title Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below

I think it's absolutely disgraceful that people who can go home to a nice warm and comfortable bed and lock their door at home are able to sit in judgement of those poor souls who in most cases, by no fault of their own, have fallen on hard times. It shocks me that this happens in Australia in our current times. Next time you pull the blanket up to your chin when you're feeling a bit cold in bed, please think of the poor men, women and children who are sleeping on cold, hard concrete with nothing to keep out the bitter Melbourne weather. A wise man once said – treat others as you'd like to be treated. Let's hope you never end up on the streets.

Please indicate No
**whether you
would like to
address the
Submission
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission ***

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acknowledgement:

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From: Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 5:16 PM
To: CoM Meetings
Subject: Meeting submissions form [#182]

Name *

Email address *

Agenda item title *

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Please write your submission in the space provided below

Please do not criminalise the homeless by fining them for sleeping rough in CBD Melbourne.

This violates human rights and penalises them because they are poor. They have nowhere else to go. It is not their choice to live on the streets.

People who have no place to live need our help not hindrance.

Yours sincerely

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Submission (Section 223)

No

Committee in support of your submission *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.