



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Brian Jones  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7640  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1011 – Encampments: penalties – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Jones,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I write to express our support for Senate Bill (SB) 1011, which would prohibit homeless encampments within 500 feet of a school, open space, or major transit stop.

California leads the nation with the most chronically homeless individuals. Estimates indicate that homelessness in California increased by 6% last year, and nearly 40% over the last six years, to over 181,000 people. During those six years, California spent over \$22 billion on homelessness. Upward trends in homelessness are seen in cities across the state. Californians are becoming increasingly concerned with the state's growing homeless population as they notice homeless encampments increase across the state. In fact, 60% of Californian adults say the presence of homeless people has increased over the past year and almost 70% of Californian adults see it as a big problem.

Residents are concerned about dangerous encampments and crime in their neighborhoods, as well as an overall decline in quality of life, because of the homelessness crisis. Parents are worried about their family's safety with encampments only steps away from schools, playgrounds, and areas where children often gather.

Some local governments have already taken action to address their residents' concerns about increasing homelessness, and these have strong support from residents. However, these additional tools to clear encampments are not available to all local jurisdictions statewide.

SB 1011 would help to clear encampments and would also improve public safety and public health. Specifically, this bill would:

- Prohibit encampments near schools, open spaces, or transit stops. This will help protect our most vulnerable population: our children.
- Prohibit camping on sidewalks if a homeless shelter is available. This will protect pedestrians' need to utilize sidewalks for travel without unfairly inconveniencing homeless individuals.
- Require a 72-hour warning before an encampment is cleared. This will give homeless individuals a chance to find alternatives and accept services before their encampment is cleared.
- Require enforcement officers to provide information about sleeping alternatives, homeless and mental health services, and/or homeless shelters in the area. This will help connect homeless individuals to desperately needed services.

This bill balances accountability with compassion to tackle the homelessness crisis and puts public health and public safety as top priorities. The city supports legislation that preserve the safety, security, and well-being of our residents, workers, businesses and visitors. For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 1011 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Blackburn  
Mayor  
City of Carlsbad

CC: Members and Staff of the Senate Public Safety Committee  
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38  
The Honorable Tasha Boerner, Assembly District 77