

To Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Eric Ares & The Council District 1 Team:

The sweep your office ordered on Thursday, October 9 has caused devastating and ongoing harm to every person who was living at the Mountain View & Beverly encampment in your district.

Cops arrived before 6am—more than an hour prior to the sweep—and slashed tents, dragging people into the street. Cops violently zip tied, photographed, and fingerprinted every person at the encampment, including people living in nearby shelters who came to help friends move their belongings in advance of your sweep. Everyone was cited with Los Angeles Municipal Code 41.18, the city law that criminalizes sitting, lying, or having personal belongings in public spaces—for the crime of being poor in public.

LAPD barred people from returning to their tents to retrieve belongings until minutes before your sweep began. Everyone grabbed what they could carry before being abruptly chased out. Your sweep destroyed every single tent, leaving every person at the encampment without shelter even as our city faces flash flood warnings this week.

Eric, you refused to commit to providing anything to anyone when the encampment asked to speak with you about shelter and housing options. You did not offer services, replacement tents, help with citations, or even an apology for the brutality and trauma these people experienced—simply because they are too poor to have a home. And not for lack of trying. The Mountain View Community [publicly issued demands](#) about housing to Councilmember Hernandez in May of this year. Your office has failed to provide it.

Last month, a woman from the Mountain View encampment tearfully recounted to you how a cop repeatedly sexually harassed and assaulted her at your August sweep. You consoled her, but that same predator cop again oversaw your sweep on Thursday and will continue to return for future sweeps you order. You do not get to wash your hands of this. Your sweeps bring this sexual predator into contact with the women he has repeatedly targeted. You have a moral obligation to put an end to this.

When another woman was brutalized by a different cop on Thursday, she pleaded with him to stop hurting her, explaining that he was triggering a trauma response related to her surviving domestic violence. The cop continued to manhandle her. This is the type of brutality that occurs at your sweeps. You've been made aware of it. This is unacceptable.

When you sweep an encampment, you create a permission structure for cops and NIMBYs to threaten, further displace, and inflict violence on your poorest constituents. On Friday, the day after your sweep, people working at the auto shop behind the encampment hurled car bumpers and other debris at people living on the sidewalk.

Later, cops raided the encampment again in the middle of the night, chasing everyone—including elderly and disabled people across Beverly Blvd into Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez’s district. Since resettling across the street, the encampment has experienced continual harassment and threats from several housed neighbors and the same cops who brutalized them at your sweep. On Sunday, a housed person in a Lexus told the encampment that he has violent tendencies and threatened to return to set the encampment on fire. Cops constantly drive up and down the block, threatening this community and vowing to continue displacing them.

This is not what care looks like. This is certainly not what abolition looks like. Now is the time to take action. Your silence and complacency will no longer be tolerated.

Over the past few days, the Mountain View Community has updated their demands:

1. We demand permanent housing.
2. If permanent housing isn’t available, we demand shelter with our own private space, our own bathroom, quality meals, and mental health services.
3. We demand access to a private P.O. Box so that we can have a mailing address for employment, be able to do our taxes, and receive personal documents like ID, disability checks, and social security cards.
4. Move the porta potty on Mountain View to where we were forced to relocate. Some of us are old, and it’s hard to walk that far.
5. We demand that the Councilmember fight to get our 41.18 tickets expunged.
6. We demand that the Councilmember fight to get rid of this law and stop cops from threatening us. It’s been nonstop since the sweep.

Councilmember Hernandez, you are one of the most powerful politicians in the second largest city in the United States. Meet the Mountain View Community’s demands. Fulfill your campaign promises. End your violent sweeps and fight back against criminalization of poverty.

In July 2021, you posted, “41.18 is not going to solve this crisis we are in. It just sweeps it under the rug. Out of sight out of mind for the council.” Now that you have the power to meaningfully reduce 41.18 enforcement, you and your team have failed to take action, leading to cops citing, arresting, and forcibly displacing hundreds—if not thousands—of your poorest constituents.

Councilmember Hernandez, you have voted against new 41.18 zones in *other* Councilmember’s districts but refused to take action in your own. Your complacency led to 41.18 arrests skyrocketing 329% in Council District 1 during your first two years in office, according to [data](#) compiled on L.A. City Controller Kenneth Mejia’s website.

Instead of repealing the same 41.18 enforcement zones that you loudly criticized your predecessor Gil Cedillo for passing through City Council, you look the other way while cops increasingly criminalize the poorest people you represent.

You seem to have lost touch with your organizing roots, so let us remind you:

When you order sweeps, you betray the promises you made before taking office.
When you order sweeps, you destroy documents, life-saving medicine, clothes, blankets, people's shelter, family photos, tools used for work, and so much more.

When you order sweeps, you needlessly put predatory cops in direct contact with vulnerable people.

When you order sweeps, you make it harder for people to connect with medical care, services, and housing.

When you order sweeps, you remove organizers from community patrols that work to save people from ICE/DHS kidnappings. You have broken trust. The sweeps that you order have been horrific and require monitoring from people who will hold you accountable.

Stop cowering. Stop sweeping the crisis in your district under the rug. Start wielding your power. Meet the Mountain View Community's demands. End sweeps and start fighting back against 41.18. We will make sure everyone's watching.

The Mountain View Community

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All Power Free Clinic

Chinatown Community for Equitable Development

Community Loving
Downtown Local, Los Angeles Tenants Union
Food For Comrades
J-Town Action & Solidarity
LA Street Care & Mutual Aid
LASH OUT
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