



VERY LARGE EXPENDITURE, VERY LITTLE CARE: LOS ANGELES'S "CARE+" HOMELESS SERVICES PROGRAM IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 11

a CD11 Coalition for Human Rights and Venice Justice Committee Report

January 20, 2026

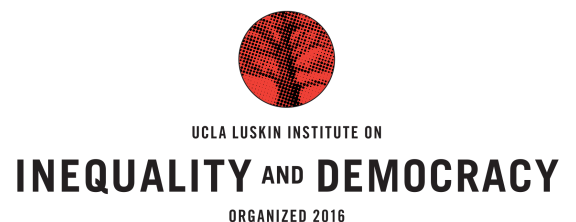


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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Peggy Lee Kennedy

Peggy is an anarcho-feminist, anti-racist activist and legal worker who co-established the Venice Justice Committee over decades spent fighting for human rights.

Sam Lutzker

Sam is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at UCLA, where he studies homelessness and housing. His collaborations with community organizations seek to produce both novel research insights and powerful organizing tools.

Chris Tilly

Chris is a Professor of Urban Planning at UCLA, where he primarily studies bad jobs and how to make them better. Recent work includes chapters in the forthcoming book *Progressive Planning Practice: Transforming Communities of Color*.

Contributors: DJ Darren, Katherine King, Barrie Levy, and Pat Raphael

The CD11 Coalition for Human Rights is a coalition of organizations and individuals in LA Council District 11 that support the human and civil rights of unhoused people, advocate for safe, decent and affordable housing, and promote tenants' rights. If you want to reach us, whether about this report or otherwise, please email us at cd11forhumanrights@gmail.com.

The Venice Justice Committee is a coalition of community activists, unhoused and vehicle-housed people, researchers and attorneys. Founded by Peggy Lee Kennedy and Calvin Moss, they have worked for the civil and human rights of unhoused people in Los Angeles for nearly two decades.

The UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy advances research and scholarship concerned with displacement and dispossession in Los Angeles and elsewhere in the world. Working in alliance with social movements and communities on the frontlines of struggle, the Institute seeks to abolish structures of inequality.

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*Denotes equal co-authorship.

INTRODUCTION

One of Los Angeles City's signature homeless services programs is the Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement (CARE+) program, which is intended to send teams of City staff into the streets to assist unhoused individuals and clean up trash associated with those individuals. **The City's website states, "The primary mission of the CARE¹ and CARE+ teams is to deliver services to the individuals experiencing homelessness within their service areas".² The City spends a significant amount on this program, \$56 million in fiscal year 2024-25 and \$35 million budgeted in 2025-26, with additional costs such as law enforcement³.**

With that level of funding at play, Angelenos should rightly expect quite a considerable delivery of services that effectively alleviate the crisis of homelessness. **What do these budgets actually translate into on the ground?**

We set out to verify what CARE+ teams are actually doing in one area of Los Angeles City — Council District 11 (CD11), represented by Councilmember Traci Park. We used two methods to assess the impact of CARE+. First, we observed the CARE+ teams at work in Venice, an area of relatively heavy CARE+ operations, on 16 days during June-October 2025, typically observing for 1.5 hours per day. As we will demonstrate, we documented that CARE+ operations compelled unhoused persons to relocate, but without connecting them to housing or services. So in a second, follow-up study, we conducted a survey of 51 unhoused individuals in Venice and asked about their recent experiences being relocated by City personnel.

The results show that, in our study area of Venice, the reality of the CARE+ program is far from the stated purpose of "deliver[ing] services to the individuals experiencing homelessness". Instead, **we find that the CARE+ program employs a large number of City staff who, in any given operation, order a relatively small number of unhoused people to move, in many cases destroying some or all of their possessions — while conducting little or no outreach. Even when the teams do offer services, those services appear to be minimal: for example, handing them a card with a list of service providers and their phone numbers.** In other words, CARE+ has earned the moniker "sweep⁴," as it is commonly referred to by many unhoused people and advocates, while abandoning its association with the term "care."

¹ While the CARE/CARE+ program includes CARE and CARE+ teams, with the latter providing "full comprehensive cleanings" that require displacement and the former providing "spot cleaning," we abbreviate the program as CARE+ given the prevalence of CARE+ teams and the City's practice of abbreviating the program as such.

² LA Sanitation. ND. "Livability" web page.

<https://sanitation.lacity.gov/san/faces/home/portal/s-lsh-wwd/s-lsh-wwd-s/s-lsh-wwd-s-l>. Accessed 1 January 2026.

³ An anonymous source working for the City of LA told us that no CARE/CARE+ funds are directly spent on law enforcement, but that law enforcement costs associated with the program aren't tracked.

⁴ According to the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), a "sweep" includes the "forced disbanding of homeless communities and removal of homeless individuals from an area," the "threat of force, arrest, citation, and/or destruction of property to coerce homeless communities to disband," and/or the "theft or destruction of property, including vehicles." <https://wraphome.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/sweeps-fact-sheet1-22.pdf>

Tracking Councilmember Park's online newsletters and social media over the same period shows an overwhelming emphasis on "cleanup", "encampment removal", and, in the words of one video, "bringing relief to the neighbors." Helping unhoused people secure shelter or housing is rarely mentioned. **The tenor of pronouncements on Councilmember Park's website and social media seems to imply that the true purpose of the CARE+ operation is to drive away and displace unhoused people.** "Bringing relief" to unhoused people is either low on the agenda or not on the agenda at all.

Many of the unhoused survey respondents had been compelled to relocate multiple times. The CARE+ operations are primarily shifting unhoused persons around. Far from providing services, this process makes their lives worse both by frequent "sidewalk evictions" and by frequently seizing and in most cases destroying their possessions, often including tents, bedding, and IDs and other valuables. Further, these operations bring unhoused persons into contact with police, sometimes leading to arrest.

In short, CARE+ operations in Venice cause harm to unhoused individuals by constantly displacing them, while providing only minimal services — all at great expense in City personnel and equipment. Our findings echo those of a 2024 Human Rights Watch report on the treatment of unhoused people in Los Angeles.⁵ They also parallel the findings of a 2025 UCLA and Venice Justice Committee report on Westside vehicle residents' experience of harassment, displacement, towing, and vehicle destruction — while only a small fraction received any assistance accessing adequate housing.⁶ Homeless services are in need of a major overhaul so that they will in fact deliver useful services to unhoused people. Though the Los Angeles Community Action Network recently won a judgment which found that the City's decision to clear 9,800 homeless encampments was made without opportunity for public input in violation of the Brown Act, it will take more than that judgment to change policies toward unhoused people.⁷

In the remainder of this report, we make this case in more detail. We first report findings from the CARE+ operations monitoring study, then the follow-up survey, and finally a review of Councilmember Park's communications. We close with a conclusion that restates and further interprets our findings, along with policy implications.

⁵ Human Rights Watch. 2024. "You Have to Move!" *The Cruel and Inhuman Criminalization of Unhoused People in Los Angeles*. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/08/14/you-have-move/cruel-and-ineffective-criminalization-unhoused-people-los-angeles>. Accessed 1 January 2026

⁶ Kennedy, Peggy Lee, Lutzker Sam, Raphael, Pat, Clukey, Nathan, Wiles, Magan, and Vucetic, Veronica. 2025. "Keep Moving": *West LA Vehicle Residents Survey*. UCLA Institute on Inequality and Democracy and Venice Justice Committee. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6074c3dg>. Accessed 1 January 2026.

⁷ Zahniser David. 2026. "L.A. violated open meeting law with plan to clear homeless encampments, judge rules," *Los Angeles Times*. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-01-10/la-violated-open-meeting-law-with-plan-to-clear-homeless-encampments-judge-rules>. Accessed 12 January 2026.

OBSERVING CARE+ OPERATIONS IN ACTION

We observed CARE+ teams in action in Council District 11 to assess how well this implementation aligned with the stated purposes of the program. Based on official postings warning unhoused persons of planned operations, we visited areas on the beachfront, in parks, and along major thoroughfares in a variety of locations throughout Venice, usually going out around 7:30-10am when most CARE+ operations happen. We went out on 16 days, but on three days we saw no CARE+ activity despite posted warnings, so we just report on the 13 days when we saw City personnel at work. Nine of us, all CD11 residents, went out to observe on different occasions. Most observations came at the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, in May (5 observations) and June (5 observations) 2025, plus 2 observations in July 2025 and 1 follow-up in October. We typically observed from a distance of 15-30 feet; City officials forbade us to cross caution tape and come closer. We took photos and in some cases videos, and after the fact wrote up reports on what we had seen.

Figure 1 (below) summarizes what we saw. We counted City personnel and vehicles, noted whether we observed any outreach, and counted the number of unhoused persons who received outreach and/or who were displaced. The table tells a powerful story at odds with the official mission of CARE+. **An average of 15 City employees were present on the days observed, with the number ranging from 9 to as high as 24. The average number of City vehicles was close to 10. In contrast, the average number of unhoused people the teams engaged was fewer than 4. Nearly that many (3.4 per day, on average) were displaced by the CARE+ staff, whereas we observed an average of only 0.7 outreach contacts with unhoused individuals per operation — one unhoused individual contacted about services for every 5 moved.** Indeed, we only saw outreach taking place on a bit more than one-third of the days and a bit more than one-quarter of the total CARE+ operations. It is worth noting that of the large numbers of City employees, a maximum of 2 per day were outreach workers, attached to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The remaining workers were mainly Sanitation and LA Police Department personnel, plus 1-2 people from Councilmember Park's staff, and sometimes added people from Beaches and Harbors, Park Rangers, Parking Enforcement, and cleaning contractors. Importantly, staff members from Councilmember Park's office were always present and oversaw all of the CARE+ operations we observed.

Figure 1: Summary statistics on Venice CARE+ operations observed, June-October 2025

Date	City staff	Vehicles	Outreach?	# reached	# displaced	Number of CARE+ operations*	Total unhoused persons involved
5/15/2025	21	15	N	0	1	1	1
5/21/2025	23	10	Y	1	5	2	6
5/22/25	9	6	N	0	7	1	7
5/23/25	19	14	N	0	3	1	3
5/30/25	10	7	Y	1	3	2	4
6/4/25	17	11	Y	1	2	1	3
6/6/25	24	12	Y	3	4	1	4
6/11/25	9	7	N	0	0	1	0
6/13/25	10	8	N	0	1	1	1
6/18/25	11	6	N	0	3	1	3
As of 7/1 new fiscal year, cutbacks in CARE+							
7/9/25	14	12	N	0	0	1	0
7/17/25	14	10	N	0	15	5	15
10/10/25	14	7	Y	3	0	0	3
TOTAL	196	125	5 Y	9	44	19	50
AVERAGE	15.0	9.6	38% Y	0.7	3.4	1.5	3.8

* "Number of CARE+ operations" is the number of distinct locations where people were required to move from.

As noted in the table, July 1 marked the beginning of the 2025-26 fiscal year, when CARE+ funding decreased by 38% from the previous fiscal year. However, if we split the observations into FY 24-25 and FY 25-26 (not shown), we find very little change. The average number of City staff inched down from 15.3 to 14.0; the number of vehicles was essentially unchanged (going from 9.6 to 9.7). This is likely because, as reported by the City Administrative Officer, budget cuts reduced the number

of CARE+ Sanitation teams from 24 to 17 and CARE+ homeless engagement (i.e., outreach) teams from 36 to 27, while the size of each team remains largely unaltered⁸.

The statistics reveal what we described in our Introduction: CARE+ sent out a large number of City workers, with their trucks and cars, to deal with a small number of unhoused people — and mainly to displace those people rather than to offer them services. For an example of what this often looks like, see figure 2 below.

Figure 2: An unhoused person moves their belongings as LA Sanitation and Police watch.



Photo taken by Peggy Lee Kennedy.

The details of the observations provide more information on the nature of these interactions. First of all, **on every occasion, most of the City personnel spent most of the time standing around talking in groups, observing the small number of people actually doing work, or interacting with their phones.** Typically, small numbers of Sanitation personnel picked up trash and unhoused people's belongings (usually only 2-4 did this work, despite the fact that total Sanitation contingents numbered up to 10). Police intervened on occasion to tell unhoused people to move. We did observe one arrest, and Human Rights Watch reports that citywide, unhoused people are arrested and cited at rates far

⁸ City Administrative Officer. 2025. "Budget Memo 459: Reduction Impacts to CARE+ Teams and Outreach Teams." https://ens.lacity.org/cao/cao_budget_memo/caocao_budget_memo2925188776_05082025.pdf

exceeding those for LA's general population.⁹ The two LAHSA outreach workers sometimes did outreach, but when that occurred they most often only spoke with one unhoused person, who on several occasions wasn't even among the people being instructed to move.

Sanitation's web page states that, "Absent an immediate threat to public health or safety, personal property will be stored and maintained in a secure location for a period of 90 days for the rightful owner to retrieve."¹⁰ Again, this is not what we saw. **With only one exception, unhoused people's possessions were loaded into the rear of garbage trucks, presumably for disposal.** However, even that exception highlights the egregious cruelty of the CARE+ operations: an unhoused woman with a dog had briefly walked away, leaving her possessions unattended, when Sanitation crew members converged to place her goods in a small Sanitation truck. Those of us observing thought the City workers had seen the woman depart, and called out to them that she would be right back. The Sanitation workers' response was "Move away," as they continued to place her things in the truck. The woman returned when the truck had been packed up and was about to pull away, and we and others on the scene told her that her possessions were in the truck. But when she stopped the truck and asked the workers to return her goods, they told her she would have to go downtown (about an 18-mile drive) to retrieve her things. In another case, Sanitation workers took some of an unhoused pair's clothing and other belongings that were stacked in the place they had been sleeping, scattered them on the ground to take a picture — apparently intentionally making them look messier than they actually were — and then tossed them in the back of a garbage truck. We repeatedly saw unhoused persons racing to gather up their goods in an effort (sometimes successful, sometimes not) to remove them before Sanitation could throw them away. While we only observed one arrest of an unhoused person, their overall treatment smacked of criminalization.

In brief, then, what we saw in Venice over five months contrasted starkly with the publicly announced intentions of the CARE+ program. The CARE+ teams compelled dozens of unhoused people to move and disposed of their possessions. Very little outreach took place: outreach workers spoke with a total of 9 people out of the total of 50 unhoused individuals affected by the CARE+ operations across 13 deployments observed¹¹. Unhoused persons and their belongings were primarily treated as a nuisance to be removed, not people in need to help. And the number of City staffers and vehicles present was wildly disproportionate to the amount of work to be done, so that a great deal of staff time was spent hanging out or chatting among themselves — at taxpayer expense. It is worth noting that the tens of millions of dollars spent annually on CARE+ do not even include the added personnel costs of police and other City employees (Beaches and Harbors, Parks, etc.) who join Sanitation and LAHSA staff to push unhoused people around.

⁹ Human Rights Watch. 2024. "You Have to Move!" *The Cruel and Ineffective Criminalization of Unhoused People in Los Angeles*.

¹⁰ LA Sanitation. ND. "Livability" web page.

<https://sanitation.lacity.gov/san/faces/home/portal/s-lsh-wwd/s-lsh-wwd-s/s-lsh-wwd-s-l>. Accessed 1 January 2026.

¹¹ While it's possible that some unhoused people received outreach and/or moved prior to each CARE+ operation, our survey results cast doubt on the prevalence of serious outreach and pre-emptively moving to avoid CARE+ is still a form of displacement.

However, our observations left several important questions unanswered. For example, how helpful was the limited amount of homeless outreach that took place? We observed from a distance, out of earshot of the conversations; further, it's possible that outreach occurred in the days before or after the CARE+ operation. We also wanted to know more about unhoused persons' experiences of displacement, given that so much of CARE+ seemed to be about that. Is getting displaced a one-off experience for unhoused persons, or is it a chronically repeated experience? What types of possessions are being thrown out by Sanitation? And are unhoused people in Venice only being displaced by Sanitation CARE+ operations or by other means? To get at these questions, we conducted a survey of a sample of unhoused persons in Venice.

SURVEYING UNHOUSED PERSONS ABOUT DISPLACEMENT AND OUTREACH

In order to better understand unhoused community members' experiences with displacement and outreach, we designed a survey that would take 5-10 minutes to complete and offered participants \$5 as a gesture of appreciation for their time. The survey asked questions about each respondent's most recent experience of a "forced move" (i.e., displacement, whether in the form of a CARE+ operation, move-along order, or otherwise) that occurred within the past 30 days, including information about location, government and non-governments entities involved, lost possessions, and offers of shelter or housing (if any). Participants were also asked basic demographic questions about age, gender, race and disability. All collected survey data was anonymous. Google Forms was used to tabulate survey results, while data cleaning and analysis were undertaken in Excel and R. Our survey instrument is included under our report's appendix for review.

Fifty-one survey responses were collected at Venice locations selected for the high concentration of unhoused people present, such as the line outside a popular food pantry, the boardwalk, and the intersection near a homeless camp that is regularly subject to CARE+ operations. All responses were collected face-to-face during daytime hours of 5AM-5PM over October and November 2025 by four survey enumerators. While our survey collected data only about people who were forced to move within the past 30 days, which limits our ability to calculate how common such forced moves are among the local unhoused population as a whole, feedback from survey enumerators indicates that forced moves were still common for those at outreach sites even if they weren't eligible to take the survey.

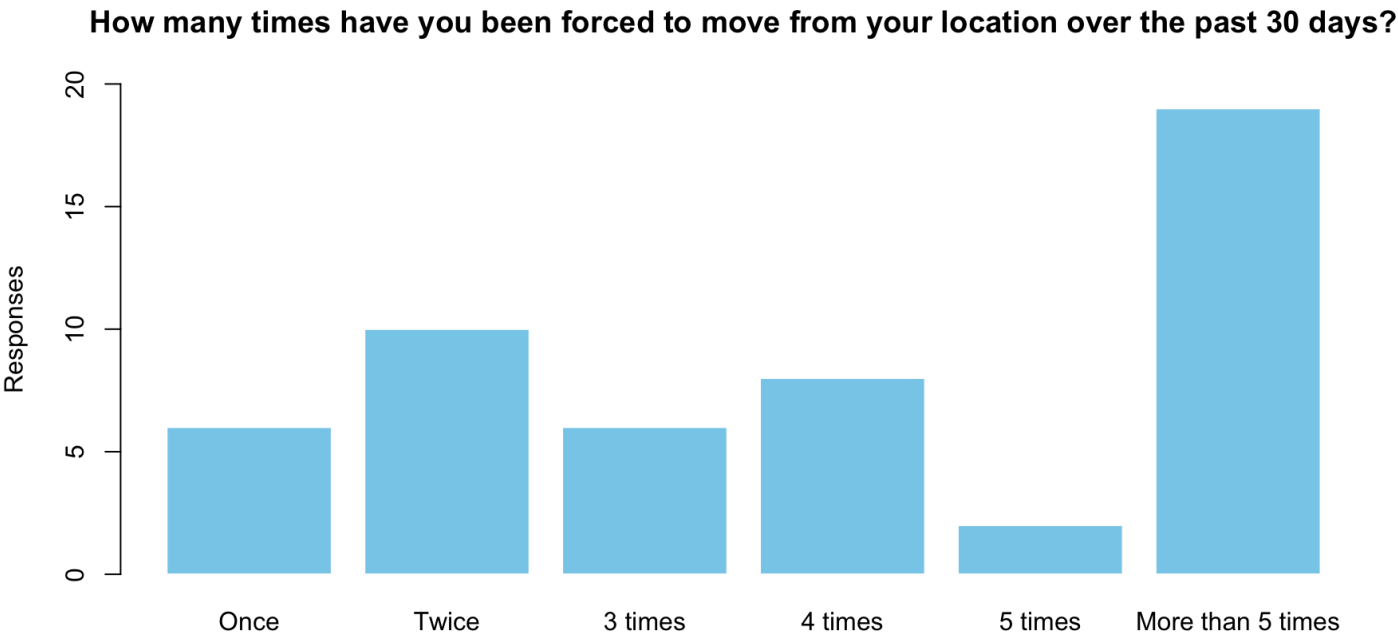
Demographically, it is difficult to estimate the representativeness of any survey of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness due to the difficulty of establishing population parameters. Further, our survey's limited focus on specific areas of Venice where we could find large concentrations of unsheltered people likely swayed our sample, which when compared with RAND's LA LEADS study¹² shows underrepresentation of vehicle residents¹³. Our study respondents were mostly "rough sleeping" without any form of shelter (n=27, or 53%), followed by those in tents or makeshifts (n=17, or 33%), those in vehicles (n=5, or 10%), and those living across multiple types of shelters (n=2, or 4%). **Notably, a majority (59%) of our respondents identified as disabled.** Most respondents (82%) were male and 18% were female, skewing slightly more male than estimates for

¹² See Abramson Louis, Hunter Sarah, Ward Jason, Bongard Michelle, and Garvey Rick. 2025. *Annual Trends Among the Unsheltered in Three Los Angeles Neighborhoods. The Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey (LA LEADS) 2024 Annual Report*. RAND. Accessed 21 December 2025. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1890-6.html

¹³ For survey data on local vehicle residents, see Kennedy Lee Peggy, Lutzker Sam, Raphael Pat, Clukey Nathan, Wiles Magan, and Vucetic Veronika. 2025. "Keep Moving": West LA Vehicle Residents Survey. UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality & Democracy and Venice Justice Committee. <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/2025/06/25/keep-moving/>

the unsheltered population nationally¹⁴. Given that Venice’s unsheltered population skews Whiter than in other parts of the city¹⁵, 61% of respondents identified as White, 16% as Black, 12% as Hispanic/Latino, 8% as mixed race, 2% as Native American, and 2% refused to answer the question. The mean age was 46, with our youngest respondent 28 and our oldest 63.

Figure 3: Displacement over past 30 days



Our 51 survey respondents indicated that displacement was a frequent occurrence, with 37% (n=19) estimating they’d been forced to move more than five times over the past 30 days (see figure 3). When asked about their most recent “forced move,” 90% (n=46) answered that it had occurred within the past week, with 18 of those people experiencing a forced move within the past day alone. Given how recent their last forced move was, respondents’ recall bias was minimized, enabling our survey to probe important details about each respondent’s most recent forced move.

We asked respondents about which group(s) had last told them to move and provided them with a list of options. Their answers (whether alone or in combination) were as follows:

- **LA Police Department (63%)**
- LA Sanitation (16%)

¹⁴ See Moses Joy and Janosko Jackie. 2019. *Demographic Data Project: Gender and Individual Homelessness*. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Accessed 21 December 2025. <https://endhomelessness.org/resources/research-and-analysis/demographic-data-project-gender-and-individual-homelessness/>

¹⁵ See table D.1 in annex of *LA LEADS 2024 Annual Report*. RAND. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1890-6.html

- Private security (14%)
- Social service provider (12%)
- LA Park Rangers (10%)
- Business Improvement District (6%)
- LA County Beaches & Harbors (6%)
- Council District 11 staff (2%)¹⁶.

Police are clearly the main mouthpiece of unhoused displacement in Venice. Respondents were displaced from a cluster of locations around Venice, from the beach to the boardwalk and commercial streets to side streets, though nearly all locations were on public property. Further, the overwhelming majority of these locations were near our survey recruitment sites, indicating that displacement (at least for our survey sample) wasn't immediately pushing unhoused people out of the neighborhood but instead scattering them across it. **Moreover, displacement resulted in loss of personal property in nearly 30% (n=15) of cases, items of which are included in figure 4.**

Figure 4: Possessions Thrown Away (most recent forced move)

- [1] "Girlfriend's clothes, second tent, bike, speaker"
- [2] "Clothes, tent, toiletries, coloring books"
- [3] "Sunglasses, sleeping bag,"
- [4] "Clothing, sleeping bags, family photos, social security card"
- [5] "Tent, clothes, diaries, books"
- [6] "Tent"
- [7] "Backpack, pictures, clothes, and most belongings"
- [8] "Tent & clothing"
- [9] "Sleeping mat and jug"
- [10] "Work supplies, clothes, bedding, computer"
- [11] "Clothes"
- [12] "Clothes, toiletries, food, utensils"
- [13] "Bedding, blankets, jacket, ebike, tools, tent, ss card, birth cert"
- [14] "Medication, pictures, electronics"
- [15] "Phone, money, clothes, wagon. Tent"

Outreach should ideally occur weeks ahead of any City operation that could result in displacement, but our survey found that only 5 of 51 respondents (i.e., less than 10%) had been offered "help accessing shelter or housing in the days before, during or after [they] were forced to move," even if that help was only "a card with a list of resources" as one respondent told us, or an offer for which there was no follow-up as others reported. In fact, there was only one case in which the person actually obtained shelter. Notably, more respondents experienced social service providers

¹⁶ Also included under the "other" fill-in option were neighboring city police departments (n=2), a housed neighbor (n=1), property owner (n=1), visitors center staff (n=1), and medics (n=1).

telling them to move (n=6) than offering them shelter or housing, which demonstrates how social work can become weaponized when homeless governance is concerned with street-based enforcement rather than outreach. This emphasis on enforcement over social services has downstream effects: only one-third (n=17) of our survey sample indicated they have a caseworker, with most answering that they didn't (n=29) while some were unsure (n=5).

Given recurring displacement and dispossession and a lack of social services outreach, it's clear that the work of City authorities overseeing street-based homeless governance (including but not limited to CARE+ operations) is more concerned with enforcement against unhoused persons than helping them access shelter, housing or other services. While this strategy can eventually push unhoused people out of a neighborhood, it makes those who remain more vulnerable¹⁷. In order to better understand Council District 11's strategy for unsheltered homelessness, we reviewed Councilmember Park's communications, which we cover next.

¹⁷ RAND has performed regular counts of the unsheltered population in Venice from 2021 to 2025, showing an overall decline over 2024; however, they also noted a dramatic rise in the share of unsheltered unhoused people who are "rough sleeping" from 23% in 2023 to 48% in 2024 (see tables 2.2 and 3.2). https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1890-6.html

COUNCILMEMBER PARK'S COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT CARE+ AND ENCAMPMENTS

The evidence from direct observation of Venice CARE+ operations and from the survey of unhoused individuals shows a great deal of City effort going to displacing unhoused people, with very little effort going to rehousing them. **What does Councilmember Park's office have to say about these efforts?** To assess the Councilmember's stance, we reviewed her newsletters and linked videos¹⁸ covering the same months in which we observed the CARE+ operations: May-July and October 2025 (including the August 3 newsletter, which reviewed CARE+ activity during the July City Council recess). The results are as follows:

- Out of 17 newsletters during these months, **9 mentioned encampment cleanups**¹⁹, making it one of the most frequently mentioned topics in Councilmember Park's communications.
- Between the text newsletters and linked videos, there are at least **48 mentions of specific encampments, either taking credit for removing or attempting to remove an encampment**.²⁰
- Among these 48 mentions of encampments, there are a total of **3 mentions of efforts to help unhoused individuals find housing**²¹.

This pattern suggests that the Councilmember's priority is removing unhoused persons, not getting them into housing. Three communications are particularly striking:

- The May 10 video²² depicts a CARE+ crew at work on Venice Beach. The video shows or refers to 19 City personnel and 9 vehicles.²³ To their credit, in this instance Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA) staff "worked with an unhoused individual who accepted services." But the people-power and equipment devoted to the operation is highly disproportionate to this modest accomplishment, consistent with our own observations of the large amount of resources going into CARE+ operations accompanied by a very small amount of service provision.
- The May 3 video²⁴ mentions actions to remove at least 9 encampments, and the October 4 newsletter²⁵ and video²⁶ mention actions to remove at least 15, all without any mention of services or assistance to unhoused people. Instead, the May 3 video comments that the

¹⁸ See Park, Traci. ND. "Newsletters," LA Council District 11 website. <https://cd11.lacity.gov/newsletters>. Accessed 21 December 2025.

¹⁹ This includes references to "cleanups", "engagements," "interventions" and/or CARE+ activity.

²⁰ Some encampments were mentioned more than once; we counted them as distinct mentions if they happened in different newsletters. This number also assumes that mentions of plural "encampments" refer to at least two locations.

²¹ The mentions are on May 10, August 3, and October 11.

²² See <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/RQEONSuOCPk>. Accessed 21 December 2025.

²³ This includes the LAHSA outreach workers' vehicle (not directly shown or mentioned), which we inferred was present because the outreach workers were mentioned (in our observations, LAHSA staff always arrived in a separate car).

²⁴ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Prwx8pLxSgo>. Accessed 21 December 2025.

²⁵ See <https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=b7c40956d1b3e052342a14337&id=f948cbd0af>. Accessed 21 December 2025.

²⁶ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Y1Sw6dahTI>. Accessed 21 December 2025.

CARE+ operations “bring relief to the neighbors” and that “conditions improved for neighbors and nearby businesses.” While having an encampment certainly imposes hardships on a neighborhood, those experiencing the greatest hardships are the unhoused persons themselves, who remain invisible in these and most other communications from Councilmember Park.

Figure 5: A “before & after” feature showing “homeless reduction” from Councilmember Park’s newsletter (August 3rd, 2025)²⁷



Homeless Reduction Continues In CD11 – This week, our CD11 team was on the ground from Brentwood to Sawtelle, Venice, Del Rey, and Westchester keeping our neighborhoods safe and secure. In coordination with LA Sanitation, service providers, and our senior lead officers, we cleared multiple 41.18 locations and impounded several nuisance vehicles—including a long-standing RV in Venice that had been a problem for years. Some individuals moved to interim housing and others were connected to services and support. If there is an area near you that needs special attention, please reach out to your CD11 Field Deputy!

Other features of Councilmember Park’s communications reinforce the impression that the primary purpose for which the Councilmember uses CARE+ actions is to “relieve” housed neighbors, while assisting unhoused neighbors is secondary at best. One is the large number of reports taking credit for towing RVs and vans, with the vehicles invariably described as “nuisance” or “problem” vehicles, and the towing often described by the euphemism “clearing the right of way.” This report focuses on tent and makeshift encampments rather than on vehicle residents, but the tone of the newsletters and videos is in line with the harsh treatment of vehicle residents that the 2025 UCLA and

²⁷ See the linked YouTube video from Councilmember Park’s August 3rd, 2025 newsletter advertising “homeless reduction”: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Q7p1Zgv9AbY>. Accessed 21 December 2025.

Venice Justice Committee report on the topic found.²⁸ One CD11 video (posted on August 7, 2025, outside the period for which we reviewed communications in detail) plays a bouncy, upbeat pop music soundtrack while showing two vans getting towed, one of which is the home of a long-term Venice resident who works at a Venice Beach Boardwalk business.²⁹

Another notable element in Councilmember Park's social media is the frequent "Before and After" titles of videos showing trash and in some cases tents or vehicles "before" and empty streets, grassy areas, or beaches "after" (for example, videos linked to Councilmember Park's May 10, 17, 24, and June 7 newsletters). In all of the communications we reviewed, we did not see any acknowledgement that the encampments, tents, RVs, and vans were people's homes, however imperfect.

²⁸ Kennedy Lee Peggy, Lutzker Sam, Raphael Pat, Clukey Nathan, Wiles Magan, and Vucetic Veronika. 2025. "Keep Moving": West LA Vehicle Residents Survey. UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality & Democracy and Venice Justice Committee. <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/2025/06/25/keep-moving/>

²⁹ See Park, Traci. 2025. Councilwoman Traci Park Facebook page. "Today at Electric & Milwood in Venice..." https://www.facebook.com/watch/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-IO5_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=wwXlfr&v=2189910031510615. Accessed 21 December 2025.

CONCLUSION

CARE+ is in theory the City of Los Angeles's premier outreach program to unhoused people. However, in Council District 11 (and Venice in particular), our observation of CARE+ operations, survey of unhoused individuals, and review of Councilmember Traci Park's website reveal disturbing patterns that seem far from the program's stated purpose.

First of all, **the main impact of CARE+ in Venice is to compel unhoused persons to relocate, without providing services or a pathway to obtaining housing.** In observing CARE+ operations on 13 days in May-October 2025, we saw 44 unhoused people forced to move, while outreach workers only spoke to 9. Our survey found that only one currently unhoused person in ten — five people out of the sample of 51 — who had been displaced got any help accessing shelter or housing. Of those five, only one actually received shelter, in that case a hotel voucher. All who were offered assistance responded positively — there was no evidence of “service-resistant” individuals.

The forced relocations are repeated and frequent. The majority of unhoused individuals answering our survey had been compelled to move four or more times in the previous month, and 90% had experienced a forced move within the past week.

Relocations often involved the confiscation and destruction of unhoused persons' belongings. Close to one-third of respondents in our survey reported they had belongings thrown away during the most recent time they were forced to move. The most common property seized and destroyed were clothing (about three-quarters of those who had items thrown out) and tents (about half). But about one-quarter lost bedding, and 40% lost valuable (computer, phone, money, ID, medications) or irreplaceable (diaries, family photos) items. Given people's experience of multiple forced moves, we can assume that many more people lost belongings over previous relocations.

Widespread confiscation of tents may help explain why half the unhoused persons in our survey were engaging in rough sleeping, without any kind of shelter. This is consistent with the 2025 RAND report on unsheltered homelessness in three LA neighborhoods, which shows that between 2023 and 2024 the percentage of Venice unsheltered persons sleeping roughly doubled from 23% to 48%.³⁰

More generally, **our main findings — frequent compulsory displacements, few offers of services, and destruction of unhoused people's property — line up with a range of other recent research on the experiences of unhoused people.** Human Rights Watch's 2024 report, *“You Have to Move!”*, documents numerous CARE+ operations in which City authorities forced unhoused

³⁰ Abramson, Louis, Hunter, Sarah, Ward, Jason, Bongard, Michelle, and Garvey, Rick. “Annual Trends among the Unsheltered in Three Los Angeles Neighborhoods.” Santa Monica, CA: RAND, July 2025. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1890-6.html. Accessed 1 January 2025.

individuals to move and destroyed their belongings.³¹ City statistics obtained by Human Rights Watch tabulated 25,000 “major cleanings” that removed 100 or more pounds of “solid waste” during a 2.5 year period over 2020-2022. The same report’s close look at cleanings in one particular location, Rose Avenue and Hampton Street in Venice, over a 3+ year period found that out of 141 operations that disposed of 215,000 pounds of material, only 72 bags of property were taken to store downtown. Trashed material includes not only the personal possessions of unhoused individuals, but also actual trash (including from illegal dumping by businesses), for which unhoused people are rarely provided with receptacles for formal disposal despite the City’s public health and safety rationale for CARE+.

The 2025 RAND study declares that offers of housing to unhoused persons are “rare,” and offers of permanent housing even less common.³² Human Rights Watch describes the poor record of service provision and housing placement associated with large-scale encampment CARE+ operations on Main Street downtown and in Echo Park, as also documented by the After Echo Park Lake Research Collective³³. Interestingly, Human Rights Watch shows that repeated CARE+ operations at encampments on Venice Beach under the previous CD11 City Councilmember, Mike Bonin, did place more people in housing, though the large majority of housing placements were for temporary housing and many of those relocated ended up back on the streets. Even at that, LAHSA staff only provided services in 64% of the Venice Beach CARE+ operations.³⁴ Still, this earlier record looks good compared to the CARE+ operations we observed, where only one person in five was spoken to by outreach workers, and to our survey that shows only one relocated person in ten reported being offered help accessing shelter or housing in the days before, during and after their last relocation.

City staff’s failure to offer services is unfortunate given that all of our survey respondents who were offered housing- or shelter-related services reported responding positively (though in four out of five cases the offers were hollow). The Human Rights Watch and RAND studies confirm that large majorities of unhoused people wish to secure housing. The notion that there is a large “service-resistant” population is a myth.

Our findings focusing on persons living in tents or sleeping rough also complement the conclusions of UCLA and Venice Justice Committee’s West LA Vehicle Residents Survey.³⁵ Much like our survey’s finding of forced mobility, that one found that the majority of vehicle residents had more than one overnight parking location in the previous month, and 25% had four or more spots. Over 75% had experienced harassment in the past month due to living in a vehicle. And nearly half (46%) had

³¹ Human Rights Watch. 2024. “You Have to Move!”: The Cruel and Ineffective Criminalization of Unhoused People in Los Angeles. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/08/14/you-have-move/cruel-and-ineffective-criminalization-unhoused-people-los-angeles>. Accessed 6 January 2025.

³² Abramson et al., 2024.

³³ Roy, Ananya, et al. 2024. (Dis)Placement: The Fight for Housing and Community After Echo Park Lake. <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/2022/03/23/displacement/>. Accessed 1 January 2025.

³⁴ Human Rights Watch. 2024.

³⁵ Kennedy Lee Peggy, Lutzker Sam, Raphael Pat, Clukey Nathan, Wiles Magan, and Vucetic Veronika. 2025. “Keep Moving”: West LA Vehicle Residents Survey. UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality & Democracy and Venice Justice Committee. <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/2025/06/25/keep-moving/>

moved from their prior overnight parking spot because of direct government action (e.g., being told to move by officials or cited). The majority, 59%, of vehicle residents had received no offers of shelter or housing over the previous three months. Somewhat more than one-third did receive an offer. But of those who expressed interest in the offer, 60% did not receive any follow-up, and 29% were just put on a waitlist. In short, those vehicle residents, like the unhoused people in this study, are forced to move frequently and rarely get assistance in finding housing.

Thus, our research confirms what earlier studies of the City's treatment of unhoused persons have found. But our investigations also provide additional quantitative and qualitative data for Council District 11, and Venice in particular. We provide detail on the day-to-day interactions of City personnel with unhoused persons, including the prevalence of forced moves and the infrequent and mostly unhelpful nature of service outreach.

Furthermore, our findings contribute to research about the operationalization of limited City resources for CARE+ operations and how politicians present such operations to the public. Regarding the very large amount of City resources going into CARE+ activity, we did not attempt to estimate the costs associated with the CARE+ operations we observed. **But with an average of 15 City staff members and 10 City vehicles in use for two or more hours on each day when we observed, CARE+ annual expenditures surely pay for many thousands of person-hours and vehicle-hours per year in Venice alone.** Even if these resources had gone to helping unhoused persons secure housing and services, sending 15 people, most without any social service skills, to interact with small numbers of unhoused persons (4 on an average day) seems a mismatch. And given our finding that very little service provider contact is occurring (with outreach to an average of 0.7 person per day), this level of staffing appears deeply problematic, especially in light of fiscal austerity leading to proposed cuts to programs like safe parking and safe sleep sites³⁶.

Our second contribution is a careful review of references to interactions with encampments in CD11 Councilmember Traci Park's newsletters and linked videos for four months in 2025. **Councilmember Park's communications show a stark contrast between 48 mentions of removing or trying to remove encampments and only 3 mentions of provision of services or housing assistance to unhoused persons.** Those lopsided numbers, along with comments about "bring[ing] relief to neighbors" and "before and after" videos of displacement, suggest that the emphasis on removing unhoused persons rather than helping them is intentional on the part of Councilmember Park. This resonates with the fact that one to two of Councilmember Park's staff were present to oversee the CARE+ operations on all 13 occasions when we observed them in Venice.

Our research indicates that the CARE+ program as carried out in Venice is forcing unhoused persons to move repeatedly, confiscating and destroying their property, and exposing them to a risk

³⁶ LAHSA. 2025. "Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Fiscal Year 2026-2027 General Fund Budget Request. <https://files.constantcontact.com/35394593901/b89bb782-1b24-4a87-8368-1f7c9a0b8265.pdf?rdr=true>. Accessed 1 January 2025.

of arrest and citation, while only offering services a small fraction of the time. And when “services” are offered they are in most cases minimally helpful at best, such as a list of resources or a promise to follow-up that is not kept. These shortcomings point to **three policy steps that would improve CARE+ outcomes** in terms of the program’s stated goal of “deliver[ing] services to the individuals experiencing homelessness”:

- **First, do no harm.** Forcing unhoused persons to move without offering them viable housing options, and seizing and disposing of their possessions including valuables, should be off the table. Criminalization and cruelty are not a solution.
- **Second, focus resources on assistance, not removal.** We observed an average of 15 City employees per day engaged in CARE+ operations, of which only 2 were LAHSA outreach workers. More human resources devoted to housing assistance, and fewer devoted to chasing people away and destroying their belongings, would better serve the official CARE+ mission. Furthermore, Sanitation should not increase the risk of public health hazards by giving unhoused people fewer services than the housed: regular trash infrastructure and pick-up could avoid many of the sanitation issues perceived as endemic to homeless camps.
- **Third, urgently build more low-income and permanent supportive housing.** As the 2024 Human Rights Watch report states, “The lack of available housing, including interim housing and shelter, but especially permanent housing, undermines the stated purpose of homeless services outreach and compounds the harm of their participation in the CARE+ operations.”³⁷

On this last point, it is worth noting that while Councilmember Park claims credit for the creation of thousands of units of housing, including affordably priced units, a recent analysis by the community organization Mar Vista Voice based on a public records request refutes this claim, showing that Park had nothing to do with many of the units she takes credit for and that other units are double-counted or listed even though the projects involved are not actually going forward.³⁸ Mar Vista Voice points out that many of the units included by Councilmember Park were generated by Mayor Karen Bass’s Executive Directive 1 and the City’s Transit Oriented Communities policy (two measures streamlining approvals for affordable units), both of which Park has vocally opposed. In Venice alone, Councilmember Park took the lead in shutting down the Venice Bridge Home interim housing, and has attempted to block the construction of the ready-to-launch Venice Dell project, which would provide 120 units, half low-income and half permanent supportive housing for unhoused people.³⁹

In Los Angeles Council District 11 today, CARE+ does not live up to its name. Rather than caring for unhoused persons, the program is being used to punish them, pushing them from one

³⁷ Human Rights Watch. 2024.

³⁸ Mar Vista Voice. 2025. “Park’s Housing Claims Collapse under Public Records Review.” <https://marvistavoice.org/parks-housing-claims-collapse-under-public-records-review/>. Accessed 1 January 2025.

³⁹ Venice Community Housing. 2024. “Court Rejects Attempt to Block Supportive and Affordable Housing in Venice.”

<https://vchcorp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/FOR-IMMEDIATE-RELEASE-Venice-Dell-Press-Release-5.23.2024-1-1.pdf>. Accessed 1 January 2025.

location to another and trashing their belongings, while rarely providing useful services to them. The only purpose served is facilitating gentrification and moving unhoused people out of sight of their wealthy Westside neighbors. It is time for CD11, and the City of Los Angeles as a whole, to discontinue costly, harmful programs that are in reality used to displace poor people from certain areas, and instead provide services that actually lead to permanent housing for our unhoused neighbors. The most fundamental need is for much more deeply affordable permanent housing in every part of the city, with services attached for those who need them – something that Councilmember Park has opposed in CD11, for example in the case of the Venice Dell project. But even in the best-case scenario, it will take years to get that housing online. In the interim, the key is policies that will improve unhoused people’s quality of life while on the street, including services supporting their health and places where they can safely camp and park – again, in every part of the city. These are the policies that will help mitigate and eventually solve the problem of homelessness, not CARE+.

APPENDIX

Survey of Unhoused Persons about Displacement and Outreach

Pre-survey Questions

WHO IS THE SURVEYOR? _____

WHAT IS THE DATE? ____/____/____

WHAT IS THE APPROXIMATE TIME?

- ☐ Morning (5am-12pm)
- ☐ Afternoon (12pm-5pm)
- ☐ Evening (5pm-10pm)
- ☐ Overnight (10pm-5am)

WHERE ARE YOU SURVEYING? _____

Informed Consent + Eligibility

We're collecting responses for a survey created by Venice Justice Committee and the CD11 Coalition for Human Rights. We are trying to track people's experiences with forced moves, including whether they're being offered any social services. If eligible, the survey will take 5-10 minutes and your response will be anonymous and will help us advocate for humane policies for the unhoused and precariously housed.

Have you been forced to move from your location within the past 30 days?

IF "YES," MOVE FORWARD WITH SURVEY; IF "NO" OR "I DON'T KNOW," MOVE ON TO NEXT PARTICIPANT.

1. How many times have you been forced to move from your location over the past 30 days?

- ☐ Once
- ☐ Twice
- ☐ 3 times
- ☐ 4 times
- ☐ 5 times
- ☐ More than 5 times
- ☐ I don't know

Most Recent Forced Move

We're going to ask you some questions about the most recent forced move you experienced.

2. When was the last time you were forced to move?

- ☐ Today
- ☐ Yesterday

- ☐ Within the past week
- ☐ Within the past two weeks
- ☐ Within the past 30 days
- ☐ I don't know

3. Where were you forced to move from? Please provide a specific location, including cross-streets if possible.

4. Which group or groups told you to move? Please mark all that apply.

READ ANSWER CHOICES TO PARTICIPANT.

- ☐ LAPD
- ☐ Sanitation
- ☐ Park Rangers
- ☐ Parking enforcement (LADOT)
- ☐ Private security
- ☐ LA County Beaches & Harbors
- ☐ Business Improvement District (BID)
- ☐ Social service provider (e.g., LAHSA, CIRCLE, St. Joseph's Center, etc.)
- ☐ Council District 11 staff
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Other: _____

5. Were any of your possessions thrown away?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

IF ANSWERED "YES" TO Q5, ASK Q6 BELOW; OTHERWISE, SKIP TO Q7.

6. What did they throw away? _____

Casework + Shelter/Housing Offer

7. Do you have a caseworker?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

8. Did anyone offer you help accessing shelter or housing in the days before, during or after you were last forced to move?

- ☐ Yes

- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

IF ANSWERED "YES" TO Q8, ASK Q9-10 BELOW; OTHERWISE, SKIP TO Q11.

9. What did they offer you?

10. How did you respond to their offer?

- ☐ I accepted
- ☐ I declined
- ☐ I asked for more information
- ☐ I didn't respond
- ☐ Other: _____

Demographics

11. In what type of setting do you currently live? If you regularly stay across multiple settings, please mark all that apply. READ ANSWER CHOICES TO PARTICIPANT.

- ☐ Tent
- ☐ Makeshift shelter
- ☐ Rough sleeping (i.e., with no shelter from the elements)
- ☐ Car or truck
- ☐ Van
- ☐ RV or other large vehicle (e.g., bus)
- ☐ Homeless shelter
- ☐ Motel
- ☐ Friend or family member's apartment or house
- ☐ Other: _____

12. How old are you (in years)? _____

13. How would you identify your race? _____

14. How would you identify your gender? _____

15. Are you disabled in any way?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Other: _____