
Council Meeting Tonight Consent Calendar item 15.i - anti-camping ordinance

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To City Clerk <cityclerk@hermosabeach.gov>

Hello. I was unable to submit an e-comment on Consent Calendar Item 15.i - the second reading of the amended anti- camping ordinance. Is this acceptable to get into the record?

To Council: Please consider pulling from the Consent Calendar item 15.i - which is the second reading of the new anti-camping ordinance, to address the available remedies for violation.

In addition to a misdemeanor and an administrative offense, please consider that a violation may be declared a nuisance. This is in the Manhattan Beach ordinance and, as I understand from the MBSafe citizen's group, it is a helpful tool in the toolbox. Of course not all these remedies need to be used all the time but there does not seem to be any harm in having them available. Below is the language (in context) of the Manhattan Beach ordinance. I assume something similar would work for Hermosa Beach:

4.140.130 Violations, penalties and enforcement.

Each violation of Sections 4.140.030 or 4.140.040 of this Chapter shall:

- A. Be punishable alternatively as a misdemeanor or an infraction at the discretion of the City Attorney or City Prosecutor. The penalty for an infraction and/or misdemeanor shall be as set forth in Chapters 1.04 and 1.06 of this Code.
- B. Constitute a nuisance and may be abated by the City through civil process by means of restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or in any other manner provided by law for the abatement of such nuisances.

Separately, and maybe not appropriate for discussion at the meeting tonight, a number of us wonder how this ordinance will be enforced and how the City will know whether it is helping. For example, will the police department be directed to engage proactively when an officer observes a violation, or will they only respond to complaints?

Then, if they do not now do so, are PD, the MET, Harbor Interfaith and the Hermosa Cares van people each tracking and logging their interactions? Specifically, the person's name, and the location, nature and outcome of the interaction. If not, it seems this data would be useful to see if the new law is helping and also as to whether resources (the van for example) are being appropriately deployed. As I understand, the van operates during normal business hours. If the data show there are more encounters at night, or on weekends, perhaps the van should be deployed at those times.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and your service to our City.

Nancy Schwappach

