

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA MONICA



P.O. Box 1265 Santa Monica, CA 90406-1265
Phone: 310.564.6946 www.lwvsantamonica.org

#MakingDemocracyWork

August 24, 2021

OFFICERS

President
Natalya Zernitskaya

Re: Agenda Item 7B

Vice President, Program
Barbara Inatsugu

Dear Mayor Himmelrich, Mayor Pro Tem McCowan, and City Councilmembers,

Secretary
Sharon Hart

We wrote to the Council in April (please see attachment or <https://bit.ly/413217c>) to express our concerns regarding a substantially similar proposed emergency ordinance as the one before you this evening as Agenda Item 7B, an ordinance prohibiting certain items during community events and public assemblies.

Treasurer
Karen Carrey

DIRECTORS

Cathie Gentile

Jason Islas

Angela D. Scott

Ann Williams

We wish to echo the comments we submitted less than six months ago and urge you, as the City Council, to consider the potential negative unintended consequences of this item, such as potential misuse due to the wide-ranging types of objects and potential situations in which it may be applied.

Question to consider: Are actions that this ordinance seeks to resolve already addressed under existing laws?

Furthermore, since April, Santa Monica has made substantive progress toward addressing systemic inequalities, in part by creating and empowering the new Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission. We encourage the City to use this excellent resource when evaluating potential changes to laws that relate to civil liberties and public safety.

The item is also still on the agenda as an emergency ordinance, which means it would take effect immediately, without the contemplation, reflection, or robust public discussion necessary for proposed restrictions of civil liberties.

We urge the City Council to consider the concerns we've shared regarding Agenda Item 7B, both in our written public comments in April and above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Natalya Zernitskaya
President
League of Women Voters of Santa Monica