



HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ
Councilmember, Thirteenth District

March 5, 2026

Dear LA Street Care and Coalition Members,

I want to reiterate my appreciation for the advocacy you all do to support unhoused residents in the city, and to provide you with an update since our last correspondence.

As I shared before, I have voted against every 41.18 zone that has been introduced by other councilmembers. We have not added any new 41.18 zones in District 13, and for those implemented before I took office, we have asked LAPD to not enforce them. Repealing 41.18 citywide would require majority support on City Council, which I don't think is possible at this time.

At the same time, I understand why the coalition is making the demand to repeal the 41.18(c) zones established by my predecessor. **My team and I are in conversations with city departments to understand the legal and procedural steps required to repeal 41.18(c) zones, since this has never been done before.**

We want to undertake this process with care, transparency, and robust community involvement. When we took down the fence around Echo Park Lake, our office and community volunteers knocked on over 1,000 households, surveyed hundreds of residents, and held multiple town halls. That process allowed us to lead with our values and bring the broader community along. Three years later, many residents who were initially skeptical now support our approach because they've seen the results, evidence, and engagement behind our decisions.

We are also seeking updated, location-specific data on 41.18 enforcement to prepare for a thoughtful community engagement process. We appreciate the analysis you have already provided and are specifically seeking updated data that includes 2025 and 2026, as well as location-specific enforcement data for 2023 and 2024. While 41.18 arrests increased from nine in 2022 to 47 in 2023, prior analysis indicates that the majority of those arrests occurred in 41.18(e) zones (which are citywide), rather than 41.18(c) zones.

I understand it's frustrating that we can't provide a specific timeline for completing this analysis and outreach, but I want to assure you that we are taking this matter seriously and our team is working diligently on this issue. Once again, I want to thank all of you for your work to support and defend unhoused Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Hugo Soto-Martinez

Los Angeles City Council, 13th District