

Dear Carson City Council,

As high school students in Carson, CA, we urge our city officials to end the criminalization of our unhoused neighbors. Although only representing 1.1% of the overall US population, Los Angeles County is home to 7.1% of the nation's unhoused. And at least 83 are unsheltered and living on our streets in the City of Carson according to the 2024 Homeless Count.

Criminalization of unhoused people is cruel. It punishes them for poverty and lacking housing. It results in incarceration and destruction of their property. It makes it harder for them to secure employment and housing. Channeling resources towards punitive measures is an economic burden for Carson taxpayers, is ineffective at tackling the core issue of houselessness, and diverts from real solutions, especially permanent housing.

Here in Carson, laws like sections 4102 and 4129 of the Carson Municipal Code (CMC) directly target and criminalize unhoused people, making their survival even harder. We need legislation that protects, rather than punishes, members of our community. We demand the repeal of CMC sections 4102 and 4129.

We also urge you to support passage of state and federal laws to protect our unhoused neighbors from punitive local laws and policies that effectively criminalize their houselessness. If there are state and federal laws against criminalization, then surrounding cities can't aggressively criminalize and force their unhoused people into Carson.

It's not just about decriminalizing houselessness—it's about humanizing our approach to this crisis and ensuring human rights are maintained regardless of housing status. It is a moral and societal obligation for the City of Carson to implement constructive and compassionate solutions that focus on keeping people in their homes, preserving existing affordable housing, and helping already unhoused people get into housing this is permanent, stable, affordable, and meets all the criteria of their human right to housing.

Please, stand with us in demanding justice and fairness for our unhoused neighbors. We have signed this petition to show our support for the repeal of CMC sections 4102 and 4129 and the passing of state and federal laws prohibiting criminalization of unhouse people.

Sincerely,

_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Zip Code