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17 March 2017

Manager Governance and Legal

Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017

Melbourne City Council

Melbourne VIC 3000

By email: [com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### **Submission to Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017**

1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Proposed Activities (Public Amenity and Security) Local Law 2017 ("Amending Laws").
2. Liberty Victoria is one of Australia's leading human rights and civil liberties organisations. It is concerned with the protection and promotion of civil liberties throughout Australia. As such, Liberty Victoria is actively involved in the development and revision of Australia's laws and systems of government.
3. In our view the City of Melbourne's proposed Amending Laws are draconian in their nature and target some of the most vulnerable persons in our community.
4. Liberty Victoria has had the opportunity to read and consider the submissions of the Infringements Work Group ("IWG"). We fully endorse those submissions which are consistent with the preservation of the human rights and civil liberties of persons in our community who suffer the misfortune of homelessness.

5. Liberty Victoria is of the view that there are already in place laws that sufficiently address the concerns expressed by the City of Melbourne and that the proposed Amending Laws will impact significantly on the human rights and civil liberties of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. In our opinion, rather than introduce the Amending Laws (that will effectively serve to punish the homeless), the City of Melbourne must look at more humane ways of dealing with the problem of homelessness, such as the provision of additional resources to better fund temporary housing and counselling services.
6. Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Liberty Victoria President Jessie Taylor, Liberty Victoria Immediate Past President, George Georgiou SC, or the Liberty office on 9670 6422 or [info@libertyvictoria.org.au](mailto:info@libertyvictoria.org.au). This is a public submission and is not confidential.



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