

County Support of the City of Los Angeles in their State of Emergency

The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County (County) has grown steadily over the last few years. After being on pause for a year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Los Angeles County Homeless Count resumed in February 2022 and counted a total of 69,144 people experiencing homelessness, up from 66,436 in February 2020. As the largest city in the County, the City of Los Angeles (City) has the highest number of unhoused individuals with almost 42,000 people experiencing homelessness within the City.

On December 11, 2022, Karen Bass was sworn in as the 43rd Mayor of Los Angeles. The next day, she declared a state of emergency on homelessness. The goal behind this declaration is to be able to mobilize resources more quickly to address the issue of homelessness and move housing projects forward without being delayed by cumbersome red tape. Although the declaration itself will not be a silver bullet to solving the homelessness crisis, it does provide some cautious hope of quicker movement in an area that has for too long been stalled by bureaucracy.

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
BARGER	_____
HAHN	_____

The City's efforts to reduce homelessness will only be successful with the cooperation of the County. It is the County that provides many of the services that individuals experiencing homelessness require and that will be a vital component of their path towards permanent housing. These services include those provided by the Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services, Department of Public Health, and Department of Public Social Services. It is imperative that the County work with the City to provide comprehensive services and support to all of our residents experiencing homelessness. Now that the City has declared an official state of emergency surrounding homelessness, we need to double down on our collaboration and treat the crisis with the urgency it deserves.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Directors of the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Health, and the Interim Directors of the Department of Public Social Services and the Department of Mental Health to support the City of Los Angeles in its declaration of a state of emergency on homelessness by doing the following:

1. By January 15, 2023, appoint a departmental executive to represent each department at City leadership meetings regarding the declaration of emergency for homelessness and the Inside Safe encampment to home program;
2. By January 31, 2023, identify departmental liaisons who will work with outreach teams in the City to assess and connect unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness to the County departmental services that they are eligible for, such as mental health counseling, substance use counseling, housing navigation, Medi-

Cal enrollment, and domestic violence services, with the goal of getting people into housing; and

3. By February 15, 2023, establish teams who will work directly with interim housing providers in the City to ensure that clients in interim housing are assessed and connected to County departmental services that they are eligible for, including providing services onsite as needed to ensure service connections.

I, FURTHER, MOVE Direct the Director of the Homeless Initiative to ensure Homeless Initiative funded programs and services are aligned to support the City state of emergency declaration; collaborate with DHS, DPH, DMH, and DPSS to implement the above directives; and to report back the Board on progress implementing the directives at 60 and 180 days. The 60-day report back should include departmental needs to support the City's declaration of emergency, including the possibility of redirecting County staff to align with the City's declaration of emergency.

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JH:is