



CITY OF  
LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



P.O. BOX 4670, WEST HILLS, CA 91308  
WWW.WESTHILLSNC.ORG  
MAIL@WESTHILLSNC.ORG

## WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### **JOINT BOARD AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting of the West Hills Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee will be conducted online via Zoom Webinar and telephonically. All are invited to attend and participate.

**To attend online** via Zoom Webinar: Click or paste the following link into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/91106636778>

**To call in by phone**, dial (669) 900-6833, then punch in this Webinar code when prompted: **911 0663 6778**, then press #.

This meeting is open to the public. Comments on matters not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Those who wish to speak on an agenda item will be heard when the item is considered.

1. Call to Order
2. Establish a quorum
3. Review and approval of minutes from January 11, 2021 meeting
4. Comments from the Co-Chairs
5. Report from Homeless Liaison, Marie Javdani, WHNC
6. Public Comment
7. Discussion on Homelessness Committee on previous and future budget allocations for current fiscal year, Aida, WHNC
8. REVISIT - Discussion and possible action on Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 20-1376.
9. Discussion and possible action on Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0031.
10. Discussion and possible action on Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0032.
11. Discussion and possible action on Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0063.
12. Discussion and possible action on Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0113.
13. Updates on West Hills NC Task Force to assist unhoused West Hills stakeholders with shelter, housing or Safe Parking options – Shadow Ranch Park
14. Update, discussion and possible action on Supportive Housing, Bridge Housing and alternative housing options, West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness, Olivia, Tom, Aida
15. Call for future agenda items

16. Adjourn - Next meeting is Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm on Zoom Virtual Mtg

**Public input at Neighborhood Council meetings:** When prompted by the presiding officer, members of the public may address the committee on any agenda item before the committee takes an action on the item by punching in \*9 (if calling in by phone) or by clicking on the “raise hand” button (if participating online through Zoom) and waiting to be recognized. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of said committee.

**Notice to Paid Representatives** - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, city law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying) For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

**Public Posting of Agendas:** WHNC agendas are posted for public review at Shadow Ranch Park, 22633 Vanowen St., West Hills, CA 91307 or at our website, [www.westhillsnc.org](http://www.westhillsnc.org). You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to the City of Los Angeles Early Notification System at [www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index](http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index).

**The Americans With Disabilities Act:** As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting via email [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org) or calling (213) 978-1551. If you are hearing impaired please call 711.

**Public Access of Records:** In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the meeting where such writing was considered or by contacting the WHNC’s executive director via email at [Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org](mailto:Michelle.Ritchie@westhillsnc.org) Requests can be made for a copy of a record related to an item on the agenda.

**Reconsideration and Grievance Process:** For information on the WHNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the WHNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website, [www.WestHillsNC.org](http://www.WestHillsNC.org).



## WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2021

Telephonic and Web Meeting

Revised January 12, 2021 rev. 2

Attendance: Aida Abkarians (arrived 6:36 PM), Thomas Booth, Kian Gholibeik, Olivia Naturman, Marie Javdani, Saif Mogri, Daniel Ostreicher, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Myrl Schreiber, and Brad Vanderhoof

Committee Co-chair Thomas Booth called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was established.

Chair Comments: Thomas announced committee member Marge Brown passed away suddenly. He said she was an asset to the committee describing her passing as “a great loss” and thanked her for her service. Olivia also said we will all miss Marge.

The December meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Numbers refer to agenda items.

5. Report from Homeless Liaison Marie Javdani: Registering unhoused stakeholders, as candidates and voters, for the NC elections is the current focus of the liaisons. The strategy is to work with local groups who interact with individuals experiencing homelessness. The West Valley Food Pantry and Fish of the Valley have been identified as serving West Hills. They have agreed to allow distribution of election materials, but as 5013c charitable organizations they cannot directly participate in elections. Marie will work with the WHNC Ad Hoc Election Committee.

6. Public Comment: Irene M. supports items 8 and 10 and is opposed to City Council Member Blumenfield providing CIS language to NCs. Damon made inappropriate comments which were off topic.

7. Homelessness Committee Previous and Future Budget Allocations for Current Fiscal Year: Marie suggested financing election materials for distribution by local organizations. Ran Vandoff made inappropriate comments. Daniel Ostreicher suggested using the opportunity for outreach to the homeless and collecting feedback on issues. Saif Mogri suggested trying to get Covid19 vaccinations for individuals experiencing homelessness. Thomas said the County Health Department has a plan to administer vaccines to the unhoused. Olivia suggested this could be an opportunity to introduce people to organizations providing rent assistance.

8. Community Impact Statement to OPPOSE CF 20-1376: Nigel supports the CIS in opposition. Zach Volet supports the CIS in opposition. Brenda Smith supports the CIS in opposition and said the motion is litigation based. Caleb supports the CIS in opposition and said Council Member Blumenfield is providing CIS language to NCs. Taylor Christsen supports the CIS in opposition and complained there was no rent protection before the pandemic. Anelia Kortkamp supports items 8 and 10 and the CIS in opposition. Neil, a resident of CD15 supports the CIS in opposition. Elizabeth 1 supports the CIS in opposition and said it does not actually address ADA issues with sidewalks and streets. Edgar Guzman called the motion a “poverty pimp kind of scheme” and asked why there is not more medical and mental health treatment available.

Committee and WHNC member Marie Javdani thanked attendees, said she attended both City Council meeting where this item was discussed, and has two issues. The first is health professionals strongly discourage moving individuals experiencing homelessness during the pandemic crisis and the second is there are already six lawsuits pending against the City for targeting homeless encampments. She also expressed support for the substitute motion submitted by City Council Member Bonin. Marie also would like LASHA to explain why there is no comprehensive list of available shelter beds and housing options available.

Committee Co-chair Thomas Booth said at least thirteen other NCs have passed a CIS in opposition.

Thomas moved to recommend a CIS in opposition to the WHNC Board. Marie seconded.

Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 2, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The motion carries.

9. West Hills NC Task Force to Assist Unhoused West Hills Stakeholders with Shelter, Housing or Safe Parking Options: Item tabled to February.

Aida Abkarians arrived during the following discussion.

10. West Hills Land Parcel Identified for Housing / Services, 23133 Sherman Place: Thomas explained this is part of an overall effort to answer a request from CD12 to identify potential sites. He said he believes all council districts and neighborhoods should participate in providing housing and do their “fair share.” Olivia reminded everyone that NCs do not approve sites and only provide suggestions for potential sites. This is a “first step” and there would be public hearings before any project was approved. Daniel Ostreicher presented a map of the site, said it is currently zoned C-1 commercial, private property, and “empty.” Zach Volet supports the location, said CD12 is lagging behind the rest of the city, and described it as an ideal location due to being right next door to a medical center. Nigel supports the location. Taylor Christensen supports the location and said other development finds space and projects are approved, so it should not be difficult to build needed housing. Chase supports the location and said there should be real housing and services instead of criminalization for those experiencing homelessness. Breand Smith said she is concerned CD12 is tied with CD3 for last place in providing supportive housing. She also stated it is easier to help the transitional homeless than the chronic homeless. Sarah V. lives just to the east of West Hills Hospital and said her neighborhood has a severe problem with drug addicted patients being discharged from the hospital and committing crimes in the neighborhood. She said the problem is bad enough it is causing insurance rates to go up. Edgar Guzman said he worked in recovery and everyone experiencing homelessness does not want help. He is concerned about the parcel being in a residential neighborhood. Kevin V. supports the location. Jessica Fuentes said she lives close to the hospital and has seen an increase in the homeless population. She read a statistic that there has been a 56% increase in property crime and fears for public safety. Jamie Ishcomer-Aazami supports the location. Teo lives close to the hospital and said there are security issues with people leaving the hospital. He is opposed to the location. Isabel Naturman supports the location.

Julie Himot is concerned about what type of services would be provided and how it would affect the neighborhood. Abbey Buron does not feel safe in the neighborhood and is opposed to the location. Sherman Aazami is opposed to more encampment sweeps and incarceration. He supports expansion of services.

Myrl Schreiber said this was discussed at a WHNC Zoning and Planning Committee meeting. He added the property is privately owned and there are traffic and parking problems in the area. Saif Mogri said there needs to be consideration of people who live around the property. Marie Javdani said she understands the concerns and proposed a recuperative care site. Daniel Osreicher asked anyone with a site suggestion to send him the location. He said the site is perfect for an “unconventional use.” Thomas Booth said every emergency hospital takes psychiatric emergency cases and sometimes more care is required after discharge.

Marie moved to amend the action to recommend the site for recuperative care. There was no second.

Thomas moved to recommend 23133 as a potential site for housing and / or services. Olivia seconded.

Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 1, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The motion carries.

11. Supportive Housing, Bridge Housing and Alternative Housing Options: Item tabled to February.

12. WVNAH Outreach Committee Provider of the Month: Item tabled to February.

13. Call for Future Agenda Items: Thomas announced there will be a West Valley Neighborhood Council Alliance on Homelessness forum to discuss state initiatives concerning homelessness on January 18 at 6:00 PM. Details are available on the WHNC website.

Committee Co-chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Webinar and telephonic.

- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: [20-1376](#)

Title: LA Alliance v City and County of Los Angeles / Martin v City of Boise / Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment

Position: Oppose, Unless Substitute Motion is Adopted

Summary:

**West Hills Neighborhood Council** strongly opposes this callous and counterproductive attempt to displace and criminalize our unhoused neighbors. As the homelessness crisis continues to worsen, exacerbated by a deadly pandemic, the City Council should be putting forward real solutions. Instead, this motion will only make matters worse, accomplishing nothing more than forcibly moving unhoused Angelenos from one part of the city to another, disrupting their lives and increasing their interactions with law enforcement and the criminal legal system.

The ordinance proposed by this motion would make illegal the basic activities of unhoused people's daily lives across broad swaths of our city, despite the fact that there are not enough available shelter beds for them. This would not only be inhumane, it would also open up the City to further litigation, which our taxpayer funds will be spent defending.

Displacing unhoused people would disrupt their relationships with outreach workers and could result in the loss of valued property and documents like IDs that are often needed to obtain assistance. Furthermore, the citations, arrests, and fees that would result from the proposed ordinance would create additional impediments to obtaining employment and housing.

To make matters worse, the City would be taking these counterproductive measures in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, endangering the lives of unhoused and housed Angelenos alike by forcing thousands of unhoused people into smaller areas or into jails, in the face of CDC guidance, and increasing the virus' potential spread.

We understand the desire for clean streets and unobstructed sidewalks. But this is not the way to get there.

Improve service delivery. Increase the number of shelter beds. Invest in affordable and supportive housing. Do not waste time and resources on this short-sighted motion. Councilmember Bonin's substitute motion offers an alternative path—one that is more just, humane, and productive. We urge you to adopt it instead and take a step toward actually solving this crisis.

# HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

## MOTION

The City of Los Angeles continues to experience a homelessness crisis. While the city has made progress in addressing homelessness, much work remains. A lawsuit has been filed against the City and County entitled *LA Alliance v. City and County of Los Angeles, et al.*, Case No. LA cv-20-02291-DOC-KES, pending in the Federal District Court, Central District of California. The lawsuit alleges that the City has not responded quickly enough to shelter individuals experiencing homelessness, which has led to unhealthy conditions on City streets, and the obstruction of free passage on sidewalks. The City understands the urgency to implement solutions today instead of tomorrow.

In response to the *LA Alliance* lawsuit, the City has included in its Homelessness Roadmap plan innovative approaches to shelters including the construction of pallet shelters, acquisition of hotels/motels for Project HomeKey, and expansion of safe parking. These approaches will decrease the cost of shelters and the construction time to increase the number of available beds and other safe shelter locations. As the City expedites its efforts to create new housing and shelter for its homeless residents, it must also ensure that the public right of way serves its purpose as a shared public space that is accessible for all, including residents protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

New shelter locations will provide individuals experiencing homelessness alternatives to residing on the street. The City will be more successful in siting these new shelters if existing neighbors have assurances that the shelters will improve the health and safety of conditions on the adjacent sidewalks. Residents of the newly opened shelters will have greater chance of success if they experience a sense of physical separation from the circumstances of unsheltered life.

Although no City street is an appropriate place for human habitation, the Federal Judge overseeing the *LA Alliance* case has prioritized the relocation of homeless persons living unsheltered or in tents or makeshift shelters adjacent to freeways near underpasses, overpasses, and ramps, citing concerns over exhaust fumes and collisions between homeless individuals and vehicles. Certain underpasses, overpasses, and pedestrian subways constitute critical infrastructure because they provide access across freeways to schools and other essential locations, which can be otherwise impassable for more than a mile.

Underpasses can be dark, have narrow sidewalks, and heavy traffic congestion. While driving around underpasses, overpasses, and ramps, drivers often travel at high speeds while distracted looking for freeway entrances, reacting to directions from GPS devices, etc. This makes a homeless individual crossing from one side of the underpass to another, or a pedestrian detouring into the street to avoid physical obstacles on the sidewalk, particularly unsafe. In addition, there are no safe street crossings near freeway onramps and off-ramps.

Last year, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a case entitled *Martin v. City of Boise*, 920 F.3d 584 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2019), held that no jurisdiction in the Ninth Circuit may criminalize the act of lodging in public unless it has sufficient beds for its homeless population or offers shelter to a specific individual before commencing enforcement against that person. The *Boise* decision, however, acknowledged that a City may continue to prohibit sitting, lying, or sleeping in public spaces at particular times or in particular locations even before a City is able to shelter all of its residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request that the City Attorney draft an ordinance that repeals the current version of Los Angeles Municipal Code 41.18 and replaces it with an ordinance consistent with the current practice by the City in enforcing 41.18, including the Ninth Circuit decision in *Boise v. City of Martin*.

I FURTHER MOVE that the replacement for Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.18 allow the City Council, by Resolution and after the postage of signage, to ban sitting, sleeping, or lying within up to 500 feet of a designated freeway overpass, underpass, ramp, tunnel, or pedestrian subway where lodging unsheltered or in tents or makeshift shelters is unhealthful or incompatible with the critical route provided by the infrastructure;

I FURTHER MOVE that the replacement for Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.18 ban sitting, sleeping or otherwise obstructing the public right of way in a manner that restricts passage as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act;

I FURTHER MOVE that the replacement for Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.18 allow the City Council, by Resolution and after the postage of signage, to ban sitting, sleeping, or lying within up to 500 feet of a facility opened after January 1, 2018, to provide housing, shelter, supportive services, safe parking or storage to homeless persons;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request that the City Attorney amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 56.11 to align it to the new version of Section 41.18 by banning the storage of personal property in any area where sitting, lying, and sleeping is banned by 41.18, and to suspend the Bulky Item provisions (Subsection 56.11.3(i) and 56.11.10(d)) pending the outcome of the appeal in of *Garcia v. City of Los Angeles*, Federal District Court, Central District of California case number 2:19-cv-06182-DSF-PLA.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
BOB BLUMENFIELD (verbal)  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
JOE BUSCAINO (verbal)  
Councilmember, 15<sup>th</sup> District

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
PAUL KREKORIAN (verbal)  
Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
CURREN PRICE (verbal)  
Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
GILBERT CEDILLO (verbal)  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN S. LEE (verbal)  
Councilmember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

Committee Meeting Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

Board Meeting Date March 4, 2021

|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| File # :     | CF 20-1376 Substitute Item 42    |
| Title :      | Alternative Motion to CF 20-1376 |
| Type :       | Motion                           |
| City/State : | Los Angeles City Council         |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Summary : | In the January Homelessness Meeting, WHNC Homelessness Committee voted to OPPOSE CF 20-1376 (6 - Yes, 0 – No, 1 – Abstain) but did not take a position on the Substitute Motion – Item 42 proposed by Councilmember Bonin as an Alternative Motion to CF 20-1376. |
|-----------|---|

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Motion : | SEE SUBSTITUE MOTION ITEM SUBMITTED TO CF 20-1376 as an alternative motion. |
|----------|---|

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| HC Position : | Homelessness Committee |
| Vote :        |                        |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| “YES” Vote: | A “YES” vote would be <b>in favor of the CIS to support the motion</b> to request the <b>alternate substitute Item 41</b> is accepted by the City Council instead of CF 20-1376<br><br><b>YES = YES</b> |
|-------------|---|

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| “NO” Vote: | A “NO” vote would be <b>in opposition of the CIS to support the motion</b> to request the <b>alternate substitute Item 41</b> is accepted by the City Council instead of CF 20-1376<br><br><b>NO = NO</b> |
|------------|---|



## SUBSTITUTE MOTION - ITEM 42

Tens of thousands of people living unhoused and unsheltered, in makeshift encampments on our sidewalks, under our bridges, and in our parks, is inhumane and intolerable. More than a 1000 unhoused people dying on our streets each year is shameful and barbaric.

People should not be living in encampments throughout Los Angeles, and it would be reasonable to prohibit sleeping and lying on our sidewalks -- if genuine alternatives were truly available and accessible. But they are not.

It is imperative that the City restore and maintain public use of the public rights of way, but it will never be able to do so legally or adequately without providing the housing, shelter and services to facilitate the transition of unhoused residents from the streets. To do so would require the following:.

***Identified, tangible, and existing housing resources.*** The City cannot base policy on an assumed, projected, or hoped for inventory of housing and shelter. Many existing shelter resources are at capacity, or have restrictions that prohibit walk-ins, or limit access to individuals from nearby neighborhoods. The housing resource that is offered must be available immediately and long enough to provide assistance in developing a long-term housing plan.

***A commitment to appropriate housing placements.*** A “one size fits all” offer of shelter is a demonstrated, proven failure. A woman fleeing domestic violence should not be placed in co-ed facilities. Transition-aged youth or families with children should not be placed in facilities that are predominantly used by single adults. People accepting housing or shelter should not be required to sacrifice their belongings or pets, or be separated from family members.

***A real-time, accessible database of available housing and shelter.*** The lack of such a system makes it virtually impossible for city, county, or LAHSA employees to make a significant number of offers on the streets of same-day housing, shelter or services.

***A commitment that housing, shelter or services will be offered by caseworkers.*** Any offer of services should be made by caseworkers who can make appropriate placements, and not by sworn officers. In Orange County, the protocol established with the input of unhoused residents and their advocates, under the direction of U.S. District Court Judge David O. Carter, requires housing and shelter placements be made after consultation with outreach professionals and after proper clinical assessments have been made to determine appropriate placements.

***A commitment that housing, shelter and services will be provided, not merely offered.*** The City cannot simply “offer” a resource. It must provide transportation and

actual placement. In Orange County, appropriate placements consider an individual's ability to access medical appointments, outpatient programs, work and other support systems, and includes transportation to and from such services

Rather than repeatedly revisiting and trying unworkable and legally questionable enforcement proposals, the City must make significant and expanded efforts to actually help transition people out of encampments and into housing, shelter and service

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the City Attorney to detail what steps need to be taken, and by which agency, body, or person, to begin commandeering hotels and motels for use as homeless housing, and report back to the Council within 10 days.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer, develop a plan for a significant expansion of Encampment to Homes programs, coupled with a significantly scaled-up City of Los Angeles Master Leasing program. Such programs could use a coordinated, concentrated, services-based approach to rapidly house residents of an entire encampment simultaneously, through readily available master leased units. The report should include cost and staffing estimates, and consider federal grants, COVID relief funds, state and County assistance, and reprogramming from other efforts that do not result in the rapid housing of unhoused individuals.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council request that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority detail, within 10 days, what is prohibiting the development and use of a broadly accessible app that would provide real-time information on available housing and shelter beds and how to access them, and detail resources required to develop it and make it available.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council request that U.S. District Court Judge David O. Carter facilitate a settlement agreement between the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, unhoused residents and their advocates, the Alliance for Human Rights, and other parties as appropriate, similar to the settlement agreement he brokered in *Orange County Catholic Worker, et al, vs. Orange County, City of Costa Mesa, City of Anaheim & City of Orange*, which led to the housing of thousands of unhoused residents and left public rights of way free of encampments without a single arrest.

Presented by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District

Seconded by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID RYU  
Councilmember, 4th District

|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| File # :     | CF 21-0031                       |
| Title :      | Alternative to Encampment Sweeps |
| Type :       | Motion                           |
| City/State : | Los Angeles City Council         |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Summary : | <p>The City of Los Angeles continues to ignore guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control regarding how to keep homeless encampments clean, safe and sanitary. CDC guidance states that “If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are. Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.” At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City followed these dictates, but took steps to reverse course in July, and then again in December of last year when it reinstated CARE+ cleanups, which force unhoused residents to take down their tents, move all their belongings and relocate as crews power wash the sidewalks and remove trash.</p> <p>In reinstating an involuntary program, the City seemed to accept the premise that sanitary conditions could not be maintained at encampments without an involuntary sanitation program which confiscated people’s materials if they failed to comply. It does not need to be that way. There is an alternative way to maintain public health and keep conditions sanitary - a voluntary program that offers and provides services to remove trash and hazardous waste, and provide cleaning, without the threat of confiscation. Such an approach, compliant with CDC guidelines, has been advocated by the Services Not Sweeps Coalition, was promised and then promptly abandoned in the rollout of the CARE+ program, and has been piloted in recent months in portions of Council District 11.</p> <p>In the pilot program, which continues to evolve and improve, LASAN keeps a regular and predictable schedule and provides a voluntary service, much like it does to residential customers. Community ambassadors conduct outreach and seek cooperation ahead of time, allow people to leave their trash and waste in designated areas for easy pick-up, and invite encampment residents to move their tents if they desire a more thorough cleaning. Outreach teams also seek compliance with ingress-egress and ADA requirements, as well as provide services like food distribution, toilet services, showers, and tent distribution or exchange. This is accomplished without any involvement from the Los Angeles Police Department.</p> |
|-----------|---|

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Motion : | <p>I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct LA Sanitation to develop voluntary, service-based protocols for CARE+ operations citywide. The protocols should include: Compliance with CDC guidelines regarding public health and encampments Regular, scheduled and well-publicized cleanings Offers by LASAN of services such as trash pick-up, bulky item pick-up, etc. Designation of areas where trash and waste can be placed for disposal and removal Use of community partners and ambassadors to conduct outreach and facilitation Provision of easy-ups or shade structures so people can temporarily relocate with their belongings during a cleaning Provision, through LASAN or partner agencies, of mobile showers, bathrooms, COVID-testing, tent exchange and distribution, food and water Hiring of unhoused residents to keep areas tidy between LASAN cleanings Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.</p> |
|----------|---|

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| HC Position : | Homelessness Committee |
| Vote :        |                        |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| “YES” Vote: | A “YES” vote would be <b>in favor of the CIS to support the motion</b> to request an alternative plan be |
|-------------|--|

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | used to maintain public health and right of way on public streets.<br><b>YES = YES</b> |
|--|--|

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>“NO”</b> Vote: | A “NO” vote would be <b>in <u>opposition</u> of the CIS to <u>support</u> the motion</b> to an alternative plan be used to maintain public health and right of way on public streets.<br><b>NO = NO</b> |
|-------------------|---|

## MOTION

Tens of thousands of people, without opportunity for housing and shelter, fend for themselves in a growing number of makeshift encampments on our sidewalks. Our highest and greatest priority must be to provide a genuine alternative to sidewalk encampments -- appropriate housing. In the meantime, in the middle of a public health crisis, City policy regarding encampments should be guided by the words of the physician's Hippocratic oath: "First, do no harm."

Existing City policy does not follow that precept. The City of Los Angeles continues to ignore guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control regarding how to keep homeless encampments clean, safe and sanitary. CDC guidance states that *"If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are. Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread."*

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City followed these dictates, but took steps to reverse course in July, and then again in December of last year when it reinstated CARE+ cleanups, which force unhoused residents to take down their tents, move all their belongings and relocate as crews power wash the sidewalks and remove trash. In reinstating an involuntary program, the City seemed to accept the premise that sanitary conditions could not be maintained at encampments without an involuntary sanitation program which confiscated people's materials if they failed to comply. It does not need to be that way.

There is an alternative way to maintain public health and keep conditions sanitary - a voluntary program that offers and provides services to remove trash and hazardous waste, and provide cleaning, without the threat of confiscation. Such an approach, compliant with CDC guidelines, has been advocated by the Services Not Sweeps Coalition, was promised and then promptly abandoned in the rollout of the CARE+ program, and has been piloted in recent months in portions of Council District 11.

In the pilot program, which continues to evolve and improve, LASAN keeps a regular and predictable schedule and provides a voluntary service, much like it does to residential customers. Community ambassadors conduct outreach and seek cooperation ahead of time, allow people to leave their trash and waste in designated areas for easy pick-up, and invite encampment residents to move their tents if they desire a more thorough cleaning. Outreach teams also seek compliance with ingress-egress and ADA requirements, as well as provide services like food distribution, toilet services, showers, and tent distribution or exchange. This is accomplished without any involvement from the Los Angeles Police Department.

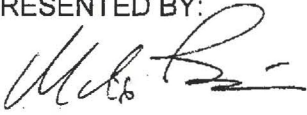
The City's initial suspension of involuntary clean-ups, known to many as sweeps, was part of a suite of policies that kept COVID cases low among the unhoused population in LA; COVID rates in encampments were lower than rates in congregate shelters and bridge housing. In recent

weeks, infection rates have soared, tracking with the increase in the general population. After averaging about 60 new cases each week through the fall, infections among the unhoused doubled in the week after Thanksgiving and have since continued to climb. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health showed 4,578 total cases among people experiencing homelessness as of January 4, 2021.

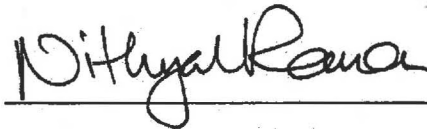
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct LA Sanitation to develop voluntary, service-based protocols for CARE+ operations citywide. The protocols should include:

- Compliance with CDC guidelines regarding public health and encampments
- Regular, scheduled and well-publicized cleanings
- Offers by LASAN of services such as trash pick-up, bulky item pick-up, etc.
- Designation of areas where trash and waste can be placed for disposal and removal
- Use of community partners and ambassadors to conduct outreach and facilitation
- Provision of easy-ups or shade structures so people can temporarily relocate with their belongings during a cleaning
- Provision, through LASAN or partner agencies, of mobile showers, bathrooms, COVID-testing, tent exchange and distribution, food and water
- Hiring of unhoused residents to keep areas tidy between LASAN cleanings
- Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.
- No use of law enforcement personnel

PRESENTED BY:

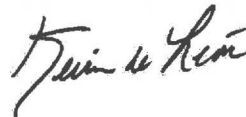


MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| File # :     | CF 21-0032                           |
| Title :      | Requesting Reports on Prop HHH funds |
| Type :       | Motion                               |
| City/State : | Los Angeles City Council             |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Summary : | In 2016, voters of the City of Los Angeles approved Proposition HHH (Prop HHH), which authorized the use of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1.2 billion dollars for the construction of permanent supportive housing for homeless Angelenos. The ballot measure indicated that the funds would be used to provide for the development of 10,000 supportive housing units to be built quickly to get homeless individuals off of the street, and into housing. Since that time, news story after news story has highlighted how the City is not on track to produce 10,000 units from Prop HHH. A report from the City Controller showed that the average per unit cost for Prop HHH projects is \$531,373. While the City's maximum contribution per unit is \$140,000 of Prop HHH, the time needed for projects to secure full financing has bloated project budgets and added years to the construction timelines of units that were needed yesterday. A comprehensive analysis of all Prop HHH projects is required so that Council may have an accurate picture as to what projects are on-time and are least costly, as well as those that are behind and/or over budget. |
|-----------|--|

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Motion : | I THEREFORE MOVE that the Housing & Community Investment Department be instructed to report to Council within 30 days on the status of all Prop HHH funded projects and their current status compared to when they were originally awarded a letter of commitment; and, I FURTHER MOVE that this report should include the following information on each Prop HHH funded project: a comparison of the total development cost per unit, total project cost, and proposed completion date both at the time of project award and currently, that shows how far behind schedule and over budget each project is; the proposed financing and the status and amount of each source of funds; whether or not extensions have been granted on the letter of commitment; a detailed explanation of why a project is behind schedule or has an increased budget; and, I FURTHER MOVE that the Departments of City Planning & Building and Safety be instructed to report to Council within 30 days on the required entitlements of all proposed HHH projects, where those projects are in the entitlement process, and the anticipated remaining time for each project until entitlements are approved. |
|----------|---|

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| HC Position : | Homelessness Committee |
| Vote :        |                        |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| “YES” Vote: | A “YES” vote would be <b>in favor of the CIS to support the motion</b> to request a report on the status of all proposed projects.<br><br><b>YES = YES</b> |
|-------------|--|

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| “NO” Vote: | A “NO” vote would be <b>in opposition of the CIS to support the motion</b> to request a report on the status of all proposed projects.<br><br><b>NO = NO</b> |
|------------|--|

MOTION

In 2016, voters of the City of Los Angeles approved Proposition HHH (Prop HHH), which authorized the use of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1.2 billion dollars for the construction of permanent supportive housing for homeless Angelenos. The ballot measure indicated that the funds would be used to provide for the development of 10,000 supportive housing units to be built quickly to get homeless individuals off of the street, and into housing. Since that time, news story after news story has highlighted how the City is not on track to produce 10,000 units from Prop HHH. A report from the City Controller showed that the average per unit cost for Prop HHH projects is \$531,373. While the City's maximum contribution per unit is \$140,000 of Prop HHH, the time needed for projects to secure full financing has bloated project budgets and added years to the construction timelines of units that were needed yesterday. A comprehensive analysis of all Prop HHH projects is required so that Council may have an accurate picture as to what projects are on-time and are least costly, as well as those that are behind and/or over budget.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Housing & Community Investment Department be instructed to report to Council within 30 days on the status of all Prop HHH funded projects and their current status compared to when they were originally awarded a letter of commitment; and,

I FURTHER MOVE that this report should include the following information on each Prop HHH funded project: a comparison of the total development cost per unit, total project cost, and proposed completion date both at the time of project award and currently, that shows how far behind schedule and over budget each project is; the proposed financing and the status and amount of each source of funds; whether or not extensions have been granted on the letter of commitment; a detailed explanation of why a project is behind schedule or has an increased budget; and,

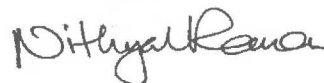
I FURTHER MOVE that the Departments of City Planning & Building and Safety be instructed to report to Council within 30 days on the required entitlements of all proposed HHH projects, where those projects are in the entitlement process, and the anticipated remaining time for each project until entitlements are approved.

PRESENTED BY:



---

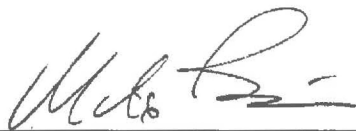
KEVIN DE LEÓN  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District



---

NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



---

MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11<sup>th</sup> District

JAN 1 2 2021



## INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY AND GENERAL SERVICES MOTION

The current homelessness crisis has had an enormous impact on the future and well-being of Los Angeles. Homeless individuals are on countless streets, in city parks, and under freeways. Despite voter approved measures which allocated billions of dollars to addressing homelessness, the homeless population has only increased. One of the challenges that is often cited when discussing how to house the homeless is available land. Land acquisition can be expensive and, unless there is a willing seller, very time consuming.

The City owns an enormous amount of land throughout its almost 470 square miles of territory. While much of this land is utilized for libraries, parks, police stations, and fire stations, a sizable amount of land is unused or underutilized. The city has done previous analyses to determine if land is suitable for homeless housing and staff reports have shown very little land that is available for use.

However, the city needs to look at this through a new lens that is focused solely on the technical and financial aspects of building homeless housing - not future uses or plans. Furthermore, while there are restrictions on how certain land can be used, temporary housing has been constructed on many sites and successfully housed homeless individuals.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, in coordination with the City Administrative Officer, Department of General Services, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Water and Power, and all other city departments who own land to report back on the underutilization of all city-owned properties and the feasibility of using them for temporary or permanent homeless housing; and,

I FURTHER MOVE that ability to use a property shall be based on technical, financial, and legal feasibility and not future uses for any given property; and,

I FURTHER MOVE that this report also analyze any previous studies of city yards and shops to determine which ones are under utilized, arranged poorly, or can be consolidated with other city yards; and,

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of General Services and other necessary departments evaluate all leases of city facilities to outside entities to determine if the leases can be modified to provide space for homeless housing; and,

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks report on all parcels owned by the department that are not deed restricted for park purposes and determine if under section 594(c),(d), and (e) of the Los Angeles City Charter any land is unsuitable for park usage.

I FURTHER MOVE that these aforementioned reports be transmitted back to Council within 30 days of the adoption of this motion.

JAN 13 2011



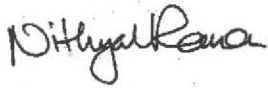
PRESENTED BY:



---

KEVIN DE LEÓN  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



---

NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

Committee Meeting Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

Board Meeting Date Thursday, March 4, 2021

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| File # :     | CF 21-0113   |
| Title :      | Requesting reports from various agencies on how to utilize new federal funds for Project Roomkey |
| Type :       | Motion   |
| City/State : | Los Angeles City Council   |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Summary : | On Thursday, January 21, President Biden issued an executive action directing FEMA to reimburse cities for 100% of what they spend on non-congregate shelters through September 2021. Previously, the reimbursements were 75%, leaving cash-strapped cities to cover the difference. The executive memorandum goes on to direct FEMA to expedite reimbursement for eligible emergency work projects and, as appropriate, provide an advance of the federal share on a percentage of the expected reimbursements from approved projects. |
|-----------|---|

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Motion : | I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council instruct LAHSA, the CLA, and CAO to report back on opportunities for renewing and expanding Project Roomkey, with a goal of providing interim non-congregate shelter for tens of thousands of people; as well as the opportunities for additional uses for these reimbursable funds for non-congregate shelters, including master leasing of hotels and motels, including those with fewer than 100 rooms, and vacant apartment units. I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to consult with members of the unhoused community and service providers and report back on ways in which Project Roomkey operations could be improved and made more successful. I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct LAHSA to report back on Project Roomkey program requirements that could be modified to induce greater participation from hotels and motels. I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Attorney to report to the City Council on what steps need to be taken, and by which agency, body, or person, to begin commandeering hotels and motels for use as homeless housing. |
|----------|---|

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| HC Position : | Homelessness Committee |
| Vote :        |                        |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| “YES” Vote: | A “YES” vote would be <b>in favor of the CIS to support the motion</b> to request reports from various City agencies to identify ways to utilize federal funds for Project Roomkey<br><b>YES = YES</b> |
|-------------|--|

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| “NO” Vote: | A “NO” vote would be <b>in opposition of the CIS to support the motion</b> to request reports from various City agencies to identify ways to utilize federal funds for Project Roomkey<br><b>NO = NO</b> |
|------------|--|

## HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

Ad Hoc COVID

### MOTION

Tens of thousands of people, without opportunity for housing and shelter, fend for themselves in a growing number of makeshift encampments on our sidewalks. It is imperative that we provide a genuine alternative to sidewalk encampments – appropriate, long term housing. But as the deadly COVID-19 virus continues to spread, it is an urgent priority that we follow public health protocols and provide non-congregate shelter for people currently living on our streets and in congregate shelters.

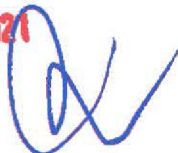
Early in the pandemic, the City, the County and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority quickly organized a multi-agency effort that brought more than 7,000 vulnerable people indoors in a period of a few months. Project Roomkey, the central initiative of this effort, secured more than 4,000 rooms in 37 hotels between the City and County of Los Angeles, which served more than 6,000 people. Project Roomkey was primarily reimbursed and funded with federal CARES Act relief money. With a December 2020 deadline to spend those funds, the City and County transitioned away from Project Roomkey to more long-term solutions.

On Thursday, January 21, **President Biden issued an executive action directing FEMA to reimburse cities for 100% of what they spend on non-congregate shelters through September 2021.** Previously, the reimbursements were 75%, leaving cash-strapped cities to cover the difference. The executive memorandum goes on to direct FEMA to **expedite reimbursement** for eligible emergency work projects and, as appropriate, **provide an advance of the federal share** on a percentage of the expected reimbursements from approved projects.

In recent weeks, COVID infection rates among our unhoused population have soared, tracking with the increase in the general population. After averaging about 60 new cases each week through the fall, infections among the unhoused doubled in the week after Thanksgiving and have since continued to climb. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health showed 4,578 total cases among people experiencing homelessness as of January 4, 2021.

While the City must move aggressively to purchase as many hotels and motels as possible through additional or forthcoming state or federal Project Homekey funds, which will provide housing for the long-term, it is essential that the City also avail itself of the renewed opportunity to get tens of thousands of people off the streets immediately through FEMA funds for non-congregate shelters. Many property owners may be unwilling to sell their buildings and land, but may well be interested in leasing buildings through September 2021. This new federal assistance creates tremendous opportunity to expand use of motels and hotels, and potentially vacant apartment units, for programs like Project Roomkey and other master leasing efforts that can move people off the streets, at no cost to the City and in a matter of days, instead of at substantial cost and after lengthy delays.

JAN 26 2021



07/20/20 3:01:15 PM

While negotiated lease agreements or purchases are optimal, the situation is so dire, it is important that the City consider exercising its authority to commandeer hotels and motels for just compensation to help us meet this crisis. Legal analysis by constitutional scholar Erwin Chemirinsky, by the firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson, and by the City Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco have affirmed the legal authority of cities to take such actions during this public health emergency.

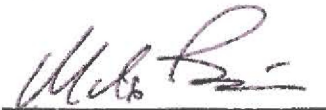
**I THEREFORE MOVE** that City Council instruct LAHSA, the CLA, and CAO to report back on opportunities for renewing and expanding Project Roomkey, with a goal of providing interim non-congregate shelter for tens of thousands of people; as well as the opportunities for additional uses for these reimbursable funds for non-congregate shelters, including master leasing of hotels and motels, including those with fewer than 100 rooms, and vacant apartment units.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to consult with members of the unhoused community and service providers and report back on ways in which Project Roomkey operations could be improved and made more successful.

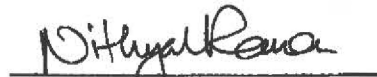
**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council direct LAHSA to report back on Project Roomkey program requirements that could be modified to induce greater participation from hotels and motels.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council instruct the City Attorney to report to the City Council on what steps need to be taken, and by which agency, body, or person, to begin commandeering hotels and motels for use as homeless housing.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

