

MOTION

In recent years, the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles have made great progress in developing a comprehensive strategy to combat homelessness. Government agencies, philanthropic organizations, businesses and individuals have all rallied behind the principle of "Housing First," and have worked together to develop a Coordinated Entry System to help move people from the streets and into housing and proper services.

The strategy is smart and promising -- but relies on an adequate supply of available housing, which does not exist. With an estimated 23,000 homeless people in the City of Los Angeles, the supply of housing cannot meet the growing demand. As a result, many neighborhoods in Los Angeles are seeing an increase in homelessness, even concerted efforts to house people are proving enormously successful.

Clearly, we need to create affordable housing -- but we also need to make sure that the affordable housing being created is available for programs that seek to move people from homelessness to housing.

In Los Angeles, affordable housing units are built in many neighborhoods. Some units are built by affordable housing developers. Others are built as part of larger residential developments in exchange for tax credits or to meet the demands of development agreements. Other units, in the coastal zone, are built in accordance with provisions of the Mello Act. In the past few years, hundreds of units have been built to secure SB1818 "density bonuses."

It would make sense for Los Angeles to incentivize or require that some new affordable housing units be filled by participants in the Coordinated Entry System. This would create a greater inventory of available units throughout the City, increasing supply to meet the growing demand, and helping end an over-concentration of housing for the formerly homeless in downtown Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Housing & Community Investment Department, the Planning Department, the Chief Legislative Analyst, and the Office of the City Attorney report to the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness, with an analysis of what opportunities exist for the City of Los Angeles to incentivize or require that certain affordable housing units be made available to the Coordinated Entry System.

I FURTHER MOVE that the departments report on whether state legislative remedies could be sought to enhance the City's ability to incentivize or require that certain affordable housing units be made available to the Coordinated Entry System.

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