

MOTION



In communities across our region there are thousands of homeless people living on the street. And yet, there are very few facilities, each with one or two stalls at most, where the homeless can shower.

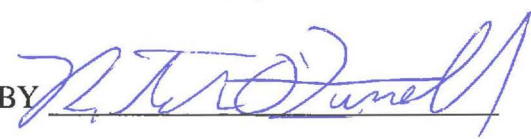
Inspired by the mobile food movement, there is a concept to put showers and toilets on wheels. This effort utilizes decommissioned buses which are transformed into fully functioning shower and sanitation services that enable assistance groups to reach the thousands of men, women and children who struggle to find access to either.

Under this program the buses are gutted and retrofitted with two showers — each with its own private changing area — and two toilets. The retrofitted buses are driven by volunteer bus drivers and they move around the community making stops at partner organizations serving the homeless. The program can provide 100 - 125 showers per bus per day. In San Francisco, the organization called Lava Mae (a play on words for "lavame" which means "wash me") is in its third year of operation and has a total of 4 buses providing 400 – 500 showers every day. In San Francisco, the local government donated buses and provided free use of water for the buses. A nonprofit was formed to raise money for the retrofits of the buses, and to operate the program with private donations. Here in Los Angeles, LA Metro and the Department of Transportation have both expressed a willingness to donate surplus buses to a nonprofit agency for the program if private donations could be identified to retrofit the buses and operate the program.



The potential application and benefit of this mobile bus shower program for the homeless should be explored further for applicability to Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) with the assistance of the Housing Department be requested to report on the feasibility of establishing a program of refurbished decommissioned buses to serve as mobile / portable shower facilities for the homeless.

PRESENTED BY    
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SECONDED BY 

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