

## MOTION

As homelessness in our region has increased in recent years, Los Angeles has become a City of encampments. In neighborhoods throughout the City – from the Harbor to the San Fernando Valley, from the coastal communities to the Eastside, mini Skid Rows are proliferating. Encampments exist in commercial districts, in residential neighborhoods, and in our parks – offering a constant and stark reminder of the City’s failure to properly address homelessness.

A recent CAO report found that 15 departments, agencies and one program interact with the homeless regularly, and that the annual estimated cost of those interactions exceeds \$100 million. The study found no consistent process across departments in interactions with homeless individuals, homeless encampments, or other issues related to homelessness, and no systematic efforts to connect the homeless with assessment and case management.

The City’s lack of a cohesive approach on homelessness is daunting at a time when, according to the 2015 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, 25,686 people are homeless in the City of Los Angeles – and on any given night, more than 17,687 or 69% unsheltered – meaning they sleep on sidewalks, in makeshift encampments, or in vehicles. Not even the most optimistic estimates predict short-term success in dramatically reducing the number of unsheltered homeless people in Los Angeles.

Specifically, the number of encampments countywide jumped 85% from 2013-2015. Governing a City with so many encampments poses tremendous challenges and creates a series of public policy imperatives. The City has an obligation to keep its streets clean and healthy, its sidewalks passable, and its parks free for recreational use. At significant cost and with mixed success in the face of legal challenges, the City has struggled to meet those obligations by spending millions of dollars on cleanups. It must continue to do so, and cannot shirk this responsibility to the millions of residents of neighborhoods who deserve clean and safe places to live, work and play.

Most recently, the City Attorney has proposed amended language for LAMC Section 56.11 and LAMC Section 63.44 which prohibits the storage of personal property in public areas and within the limits of any parks. While the intention of both ordinances have merit, the policy on which both of these ordinances are based on lacks a concrete plan pertaining to regional storage. Without a comprehensive strategic approach on regional storage, the City once again continues to fall short of a coordinated approach on how to handle homelessness citywide.

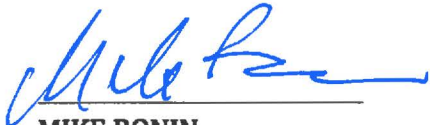


While the City has provided storage facilities in downtown Los Angeles and to a limited extent in Venice, while some social services agencies provide showers or storage opportunities, while there a handful of 24-hour toilets in areas like skid row, and while various agencies and council offices have created outreach and service programs for the homeless, the City lacks a coordinated, strategic plan to provide these services. Providing these services would offer humane relief to those sleeping on our streets while the city works to strategically address homelessness by creating more housing opportunities and transitional programs. It would also significantly reduce blight, debris and hazardous waste on public property, and *eventually* reduce municipal costs for clean-ups.

The City remains committed to genuine solutions to homelessness, such as building more housing and permanent supportive services. While these long-term solutions are being developed and until we provide sufficient housing or shelter, people will live on our sidewalks and streets. In the meantime, the City must continue to strike a balance between providing dignity to people living on the streets and preserving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer, the Housing & Community Investment Department, and other agencies as appropriate, report to the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness, with a preliminary report outlining the steps and resources necessary to provide, *throughout the City of Los Angeles*, storage facilities, services such as public restrooms and showers for the unhoused and unsheltered homeless population of Los Angeles, in a manner that offers the homeless community dignity and access to basic necessities while additionally minimizing the impacts of encampments on our neighborhoods.

**CO-PRESENTED BY:**



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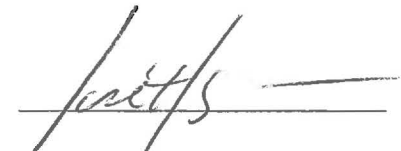
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**ORIGINAL**

**JUN 10 2015**