

MOTION

The City recently adopted a Comprehensive Homeless Strategy (CHS) to address the severe crisis of homelessness in Los Angeles. Ultimately, the plan calls for providing significantly more affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing of the homeless. The CHS also recognizes that, over the next several years, while housing and resources are being created, there is a need for a "street strategy" that assists those living on the streets, and mitigates the impacts encampments and street living have on our residential neighborhoods and business districts.

One of the priorities identified for a street strategy in the CHS is the need to provide more access to public restrooms around the clock. Currently, people living on the streets have no access to public restrooms for large parts of the day. As a result, many people are forced to urinate and defecate outdoors. In Venice, many residents have reported finding human waste near or on their properties. In Venice, the situation is also exacerbated by the large number of tourists, who also have no access to restrooms during parts of the day.

The CHS Strategy 6F ("Expand Access to Public Restrooms") advises that the inability to address daily hygiene needs can exacerbate isolation experienced by homeless individuals and can further disconnect them from society by not allowing them to apply for housing or interview for a job. Additionally, denying restroom access to homeless individuals results in public health concerns as the streets and other public areas, by default, are used as hygiene facilities by individuals who have no other options.

Restrooms at Venice Beach are currently open from 6 a.m. to sometime between 9 p.m. and midnight, depending on cleaning schedules. Consistent with Council's adoption of the CHS and Strategy 6F, Expand Access to Public Restrooms, it would be prudent to determine what resources are needed to open the restrooms around the clock. It would also be prudent for City staff to determine whether other public restrooms could be opened at other city facilities, or whether temporary public restrooms could be installed at other locations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to identify what financial and personnel resources would be required to open and maintain the public restroom facilities at Venice Beach around the clock.

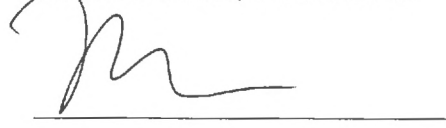
I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of General Services survey City properties in Venice, and throughout Council District 11, to determine where additional restrooms facilities can be provided.


APR 15 2016

PRESENTED BY:


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL