



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Fwd: Response to City Plan on Homelessness and Poverty -- Please forward and Share

2 messages

Martin Schlageter <martin.schlageter@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 19, 2016 at 10:38 AM

To: Geoff Thompson <geoff.thompson@lacity.org>, Cielo Castro <cielo.castro@lacity.org>, Jack Reef <jack.reef@lacity.org>, "Eric (Roderico) Villanueva" <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Cc: Rachel Brashier <rachel.brashier@lacity.org>

I'm forwarding public feedback on the draft Comprehensive Homeless Strategy heard at Committee on 1/13. See below. Eric, could you also add this to the Council File? Thanks.

Martin

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elissa Kuykendall** <elissa.kuykendall@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 18, 2016 at 4:55 PM

Subject: Response to City Plan on Homelessness and Poverty – Please forward and Share

To: martin.schlageter@lacity.org

Martin,

The volunteer group working on S.P.A. (Safe Personal Access), free, open-to-all hygiene centers with toilets, showers and laundry, is pleased to see the city's thoughtful work on a plan to meet needs for people experiencing homeless and poverty.

Below is our response to the city plan. Will you please share this with Miguel Santana, Sharon Tso, and others on the city's team who are crafting this plan?

High-level responses:

1. - Include a process and official point-of contact to fast-track zoning and government support for efforts to implement housing and services strategies, projects, development or pilots that meet the city's published plan.
2. - Add language around what "Short-term" (is this highest priority, beginning in X Month, or within 1 – 5 months), "Medium-Term" and "Long-Term"
3. - Include Support for including hygiene services in storage service locations, or in stand-alone locations

Contextual response:

This citywide comprehensive process began in response to the *Homelessness and the City of the Los Angeles* report. In the same time frame, a new group of concerned citizens formed through the February Town Hall for Human Rights in Skid Row attended by 250 people. The focus of this group was street hygiene for the homeless in Skid Row with a meeting in Seattle with Urban Rest Stop one key research experience.

From a series of meetings and interactions involving those who live in Skid Row, those who live downtown and

volunteer in Skid Row, residents of other parts of L.A. concerned about homelessness, emerged SPA (Safe/Secure Personal Access). Tours of the Lamp Community and Downtown Women's Center hygiene facilities were invaluable.

We have followed the Homelessness and Poverty Committee meetings, including the August 28 report on other homeless services, which recommended Storage Facilities be built around the city. These services, including the Coordinated Entry System, echo the "regional service centers" proposal of ten years ago (see Steve Lopez column in the Los Angeles Times, March 3, 2015).

As the City decides how to prioritize and implement the strategies in the report, hygiene should be at the forefront. The Skid Row community has spoken on this topic through the "Our Skid Row" development plan. Released on November 4th, as the product of 27 design workshops including over 350 participants, homeless hygiene services are listed as the number one priority in a list of ten *Immediate Physical Improvements* needed.

The August 28th report presented The Bin in Skid Row as the model for mandated citywide Storage Facilities. The S.P.A. holistic proposal of bathrooms/showers/laundry/drinking water in Skid Row could similarly be a model for homeless hygiene access elsewhere. It should be seriously examined and discussed as we move forward in creating a new reality.

Best regards,

Elissa Kuykendall, Michael Unton & Tom Grode

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Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 19, 2016 at 10:43 AM

To: Martin Schlageter <martin.schlageter@lacity.org>

Cc: Geoff Thompson <geoff.thompson@lacity.org>, Cielo Castro <cielo.castro@lacity.org>, Jack Reef <jack.reef@lacity.org>, Rachel Brashier <rachel.brashier@lacity.org>

Will add it to the CF.

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