

MOTION HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

HOUSING

The homelessness crisis is a moral, humanitarian and public health crisis that affects every resident of the City of Los Angeles. Suitable and permanent shelter is a basic need, and the lack thereof can have a damaging effect upon physical and mental health. Groups who have historically been discriminated against, such as ethnic minorities, disabled persons, persons with mental illness, women, children and youth, have been disproportionately affected by the city's lack of affordable and suitable housing.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 the Homelessness and Poverty Committee was created to act immediately and boldly in addressing homelessness. The Homelessness and Poverty Committee has directed City staff to develop a strategic plan for homelessness, which it expects to hear this December. Among the issues being heard in Committee and expected to be incorporated into the plan are cost-effective housing strategies and the gap between supply and demand for housing for the homeless; expanded outreach and services; strategies to improve City interactions with individuals experiencing homelessness; programs to divert people from homelessness at the time they are in the care of emergency responders and health care providers; and opportunities to better coordinate with County and other partners.

In responding to the challenges of homelessness, it is of critical importance that the City maintain and improve upon its collaboration with the County of Los Angeles, which is generally responsible for social services. A stronger collaboration with the County of Los Angeles would make it possible for people to receive regular medical and mental health care, as well as provide assistance for substance abuse and addiction among other much-needed services that would address the root causes of homelessness.

The City of Los Angeles has weathered the national recession and today stands on significantly improved financial footing. It can now claim the highest budget reserves in the city's history. In order to ensure that the Homelessness and Poverty committee is able to put forth an effective strategy for providing housing options for those living on our streets, the City of Los Angeles should capitalize on the fiscally responsible actions taken in recent years and work toward providing additional resources to be used to take people off the streets and into homes.

These additional resources could be used to fund a number of successful models to move people from the streets and into housing or permanent shelter. A universe of potential options could include: construction of permanent supportive housing; creation of a city program to provide vouchers for rapid rehousing or interim housing; improvements to existing programs that could expedite the process of moving people into housing; financing of an expanded system of emergency or specialized shelters and safe parking; and the provision of storage facilities and restrooms for people without shelter. This one-time investment can also leverage other government or philanthropic funding.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Controller be authorized and instructed to create a new account in the Unappropriated Balance (UB) entitled Serving and Housing LA's Homeless;

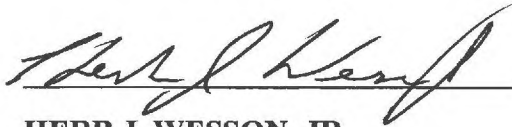
SEP 22 2015

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) be instructed to develop and report to the Council a multi-year spending plan to reduce homelessness in the City of Los Angeles by using a number of funding sources with the goal of committing up to, but not limited to, \$100 Million of city-accessible funds. The plan should be developed under the direction of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee, in consultation with the Mayor's Office, County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Homeless Authority and appropriate City Departments by January 1, 2016. The Plan should prioritize providing permanent supportive housing, shelter and services to persons experiencing homelessness, including homeless persons with disabilities, and should identify ways to leverage this investment to ensure an on-going revenue stream to support the program.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the CAO report back in the mid-year financial status report or sooner with the identification of any un-budgeted and un-allocated revenues that may be transferred and/or deposited on a one-time basis to the Serving and Housing LA's Homeless UB account;

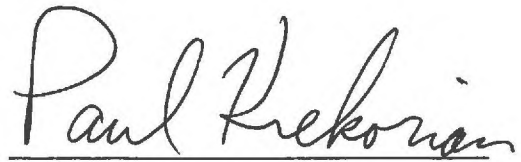
**I FURTHER MOVE** that the CAO report back in the mid-year financial status report or sooner with the identification of existing appropriations within the FY 2015-16 Budget that the City Council and Mayor may consider to re-program and re-appropriate towards the Serving and Housing LA's Homeless UB account.

**PRESENTED BY:**



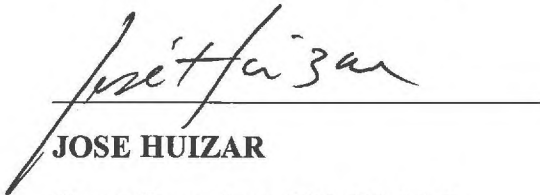
**HERB J. WESSON, JR.**

**Councilmember, 10th District**



**PAUL KREKORIAN**

**Councilmember, 2nd District**



**JOSE HUIZAR**

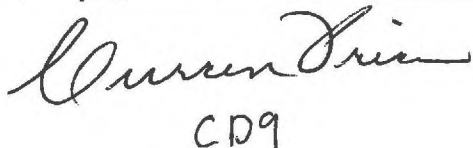
**Councilmember, 14th District**



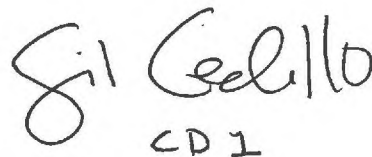
**MIKE BONIN**

**Councilmember, 11th District**

**SECONDED BY:**



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**ORIGINAL**