

TO BE CLEAR FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED #581

~~HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY~~

~~Roll #16~~
HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

Homelessness is in a state of crisis that requires long term strategies and investment coupled with immediate action. Last week the Council appropriated \$12.9 million for rapid rehousing, technology upgrades, and an expansion of the winter shelter program, among other things.

This action comes on the heels of a new report by the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center announcing this year's El Niño is still on track to be one of the strongest on record.

It is critical to do all things possible to prepare for upcoming weather and provide dry shelter for the thousands of people currently sleeping on the street. In the Northeast, specifically in Council Districts 1, 13, and 14 – there is a lack of homeless shelters available to meet this need.

Councilman Gilbert Cedillo is currently working with LAHSA to seek approval of a new winter shelter at All Saints' Episcopal Church located at 5619 Monte Vista St. in Highland Park. While this new location will provide some shelter, it falls short of the high demand during the upcoming winter months.

During the 1987 El Nino, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a program to open California National Guard armories during cold weather if there was a shortage of homeless shelters. The county also approved for armories to be opened to accommodate the homeless from local cities.

The Bridewell Armory, located in Highland Park, has since then transferred ownership to the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks and remains vacant. Any long term plans for the site should not preclude its immediate use to provide shelter and safety for those on the street of the communities of the Northeast.

The "Serving and Housing LA's Homeless" account in the UB currently has a balance of \$2.1 million, and should be used for minor upgrades to the Armory that would allow for it to be used as temporary shelter.

I THEREFORE MOVE for the City Council to instruct CLA and CAO to work with Recreation and Parks, LAHSA, and any other relevant departments to immediately open the Bridewell Armory at 111 Bridewell Street as a Winter Shelter.

PRESENTED BY: Gilbert Cedillo
GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilman, 1st District

SECONDED BY: _____

ORIGINAL

DEC 15 2015