

MOTION

According to the 2017 Homeless Count released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the City of Los Angeles has a homeless population consisting of 34,189 individuals, with approximately 25,237 of those individuals considered to be unsheltered on any given night. The issue of homelessness is exacerbated by a worsening housing shortage, particularly in affordable and permanent supportive housing.

In declaring a shelter crisis pursuant to LAMC Section 12.80, shelters (as defined by Section 12.03) may be established and operated on property owned or leased by the City of Los Angeles in any zone as a matter of right without regard to the number of beds or numbers of persons served. Additionally, pursuant to LAMC Section 12.81, if the City declares a shelter crisis, shelters may be established on non-governmental properties and operated in specific land use zones (R3, RAS3, R4, RAS4, R5, C2, C4, C5, CM, M1, M2 and M3) without regard to the number of beds or number of persons served. The declaration of a “shelter crisis” under LAMC Sections 12.80 and 12.81 shall not exceed a period of 365 days from the date of declaration.

By declaring a shelter crisis, the City could create more immediate and short-term shelter for the unsheltered population by:

1. Allowing non-profit organizations and faith-based institutions the right to provide shelter without an onerous and costly process; and
2. Authorizing the use of city-owned property and facilities for emergency shelters.

According to the 2017 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) released by LAHSA, the City’s current shelter inventory is approximately 7,646 beds, which includes emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. The limited number of shelter beds within the City, in conjunction with the current unsheltered population of approximately 25,000 individuals on any given night, demonstrates that there is currently a demand that surpasses the supply of the City’s shelter inventory.

The declaration of a shelter crisis helps provide for additional shelters to be established in the City to alleviate the shortage of shelter beds that currently exist. The combination of an increasing homeless population, an affordable and permanent supportive housing shortage, and significant risks to public health and safety demonstrate that the City needs to take immediate action to declare a shelter crisis in order to alleviate the amount of unsheltered individuals on the streets and increase the housing inventory. As a result, the City should use its broad powers to take immediate action to locate a broad range of housing options for homeless individuals.

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I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council, pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 12.80 and 12.81, take the following actions to declare a homeless shelter crisis: 1) recognize and declare a homeless shelter crisis pursuant to Government Code Sections 8698, et seq.; and 2) allow for the declaration to last for a period not to exceed 365 days from the date of declaration.

PRESENTED BY: Jose HUIZAR
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

Mike Bonin
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: Monica Rodriguez for Harris Dawson
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Councilmember, 8th District

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