

MOTION

Included as part of the 2015-16 Adopted Budget, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) was provided funding for twenty new Emergency Response Team (ERT) workers. The ERTs were provided to perform outreach to homeless individuals exclusively in the City and to connect those homeless individuals to housing and services. ERTs also play a critical role in homeless encampment cleanings, by informing the homeless individuals of the pending cleanings and to assist them in obtaining supportive services. ERTs respond to calls from the public, City departments and offices of elected officials. LAHSA advises that the additional ERT staff allows them the opportunity to conduct outreach throughout the City.

Currently, all ERTs are based and operate out of LAHSA's downtown office. Therefore, the ERTs who serve the areas of the City outside of downtown, including areas most distant from the central office, have to commute back and forth on a daily basis. As a result, ERTs waste valuable time driving and being delayed by traffic, rather than performing the outreach that is greatly needed.

Given that vacant City office space exists throughout Los Angeles, and LAHSA conducts homelessness interventions on behalf of the City, the Council should request staff to review the feasibility of utilizing vacant City office space to house ERTs. Furthermore, LAHSA advises such a decentralized approach to staffing will enhance responsiveness and provide the best opportunities for ERTs to coordinate outreach and engagement efforts to assist homeless individuals.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council Instruct the General Services Department (GSD) and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report on the feasibility of LAHSA Emergency Response Teams (ERT) utilizing vacant City office space located throughout the City.

I FURTHER MOVE that, if feasible, GSD with the assistance of LAHSA, be instructed to identify and report with vacant City office space that may be able to house ERTs.

PRESENTED BY:


FELIPE FUENTES
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:





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