

Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
200 S. Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, California 90012

June 23, 2016

Dear Council President Wesson,

Thank you for your work to permanently break the cycle of poverty for tens of thousands of Angelenos. Your leadership helped awaken Los Angeles to this state of emergency, and now we need your help in saving the measures that could end chronic homelessness for individuals and families in Los Angeles. We agree with your statement that we must proceed with the option that has the best chance of success. Based on our experience —and recent polling — we are confident that **a bond measure at \$1.5B that prioritizes and requires the creation of 10,000 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) has the best chance of succeeding at the polls.**

PSH is the most effective solution to ending chronic homelessness, and polling results are clear that voters are willing to invest in this solution. The City's own Comprehensive Homeless Strategy calls for investing in 10,000 units of PSH. We are thrilled that the conversation around the affordability of housing in general has begun, and we hope that conversation continues. **Adding multiple layers of affordable housing without clear prioritization of PSH, however, will not draw more voter support.** Instead it risks fueling the skepticism of voters who stated clearly they want to support solutions to homelessness.

We need your help ensuring the bond is adequately funded to create an enduring legacy for this Council's actions on homelessness. **The bond must be at least \$1.5 billion, with at least \$1.1 billion dedicated to PSH (at 0-30% AMI) to fulfill the promises of the City's Homeless Strategy.** A bond issue of \$1.5 billion allows for additional investments in affordable housing in addition to the PSH units needed. We'd recommend this additional affordability component only be included if the bond is larger than \$1.1 billion, should not exceed 10% of the total use, and should target households up to 50% AMI.

We believe the Parcel Tax is also an important option, but is missing a clear, compelling deliverable for voters. As such, we'd suggest ballot language that commits to the permanent housing placement of a concrete number of homeless individuals and families through the services and housing created, based on the goals of the City's Homeless Strategy. At its current size, we'd also note that the housing allowance in the Parcel Tax should focus the majority of housing for those at 30% AMI and below in order to deliver on that promise. We would also caution against a sunset date.

Thank you for considering our recommendations, and we look forward to working with you to make these visions a success at the ballot box in November.

Sincerely,

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