

Thank you City Council members for allowing me to speak.

Item No 17-1432 : Hotels and motels would be an excellent solution for the temporary homeless and should be enacted immediately. However the number of people that live, sleep, and walk the streets every day and night in LA is at 30,000. This is a humanitarian and health crisis beyond belief. And this crisis is why our citizens have approved Measures H and HHH into law. The citizens trusted that you would act forcefully and swiftly to make a huge improvement. The citizens have allocated you with \$1.3 billion to solve this crisis and the County of LA with another \$2.3 billion. Thus far your results are very poor. We don't want to hear that you have found new housing for four homeless families in Reseda, or that you just opened a 20-unit low income seniors building in San Pedro, or that you have located fifteen homeless people in some public parks and taken them to shelters. That is a pathetic declaration. We see the tens of thousands of homeless right in front of our car windshields, in front of markets, and under the freeway overpass every day..... and you doing nothing.

We want to hear that you have erected city-wide fifty or more temporary tent structures (like San Diego has) and are moving people off of the streets and in to these shelters at the speed of light. These structures contain a staff of substance abuse counselors, employment counselors, social workers, meals and more. They also contain portable showers/restrooms, washer/dryers, computers, etc. And meals are provided. Transportation is provided to those who cannot get to appointment by other means.

We want to hear that you are quickly moving these people from temporary shelters into affordable housing. We want to hear that you have changed laws and are enforcing them to keep the homeless off of the streets and public land for living and sleeping. We want those homeless that are offered a place to go are taken there immediately, and not given a promise and a voucher. It may take many months for outreach workers to earn a homeless person's trust. The offer of help must be immediate and workable for that person (eg. pets allowed, private property storage, accessible to public transportation, etc.).

We want to hear that you are making excellent use of vacant public buildings and land which City Controller says number about 8,000. What a tragic waste.

Upon my inquiry about making use of vacant public buildings when I called Councilman Curran-Prices' office and was told by a staff member "just because a building is vacant doesn't mean it has proper showers, etc." I asked her if she has heard of the portable showers. She then got frustrated and ended the conversation.

Perhaps two- one hour meeting per month are not enough to solve the homelessness issue in Los Angeles. Thirty ~~five~~ thousand homeless and two hours per month are being dedicated to moving solutions forward. Are you serious?

All of you have a staff of twenty or more that could be working on this issue. Many citizens find adding more and more government staff revolting....but if you need a Homelessness Czar to oversee you and work more hours than you do on this issue then state your case and go find that person please, and continue to work like dogs on assisting the Homelessness Czar.

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Submitted in

Homelessness + Poverty Committee

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Communication from the Public