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 Deputy: Communication from the Public

May 1, 2018

Budget & Finance Committee
 Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair
 Councilmember Mitch Englander, Vice Chair
 Councilmember Paul Koretz
 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
 Councilmember Mike Bonin
 City Hall, Room 340
 200 N. Spring Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Consideration of the Mayor's 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

Dear Councilmembers,

Through advocacy, influence and engagement Central City Association supports Downtown's vibrancy and increasing investment in the region. We represent approximately 400 organizations who employ about 350,000 people in region and are committed to working with the City, the County, and other organizations to end homelessness. We are writing this letter to share our thinking on the Mayor's proposed budget regarding homelessness to ensure that resources are enhanced across the City.

We appreciate the Mayor's \$20 million allocation for interim housing but we need to understand it comprehensively. We have several questions on how this program will be brought to scale citywide and complement current efforts. For example, how are services and operations for each interim housing site being funded? We know shelters currently receive \$60 per day for each individual from LAHSA and that does not include operating costs. To provide the level of services shelters provide now it is approximately \$22,000 per year, per individual. CCA supports interim housing solutions advanced by the City and have been working closely on the El Pueblo site, but we want to make sure this program is comprehensive. We could use the \$20 million just in Downtown to house the unsheltered homeless population.

CCA also wants to understand how services will be enhanced in areas that develop interim housing. How will this impact existing services and what is the current baseline of services? This is important information to be able to measure progress citywide. It is unclear how enhanced services are being integrated with outreach workers brought online by the County with Measure H funds. It is also unclear how services are being coordinated amongst various City departments.

We are also pleased to see that the Mayor's budget contains funds for increased Clean Streets LA and Hope teams but concerned that funding is not available until January 2019. If this means hiring of new staff will not begin until January 2019 then we will likely not see increased resources until January 2020. It can take one year to bring on new City staff. We need this increased funding and hiring to start immediately with adoption of the budget this July.

CCA knows increased outreach, sanitation resources and interim housing are necessary now, but that the long-term answer is getting people housed. According to the 2017 LAHSA count, there are approximately 4,216 unsheltered homeless individuals in Council District 14, which represents 17% of the city's unsheltered population. Clearly, Downtown experiences homelessness like no other place in the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Lall', written in a cursive style.

Jessica Lall
President & CEO