

MOTION

There is a growing family homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles. According to the 2018 Point-in-time Homeless Count (PIT), on a given night there are approximately 31,516 homeless individuals in the City of Los Angeles with 5,111 in family units. While the City saw a 6 percent decrease in homelessness overall in the 2018 PIT count - displaying the impact of increased targeted resources - homeless families increased by 13 percent. Council District 6 experienced the greatest increase in homeless families, a total of 1,242, indicating a 293 percent increase from 2017 to 2018. To address this need, the City of Los Angeles has received \$85 million in direct allocation from the State of California through the statewide Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). The City Council adopted an \$85 million proposed budget for funding eligible activities. Consistent with Council action (C.F. 18-0628) any HEAP funding request will be reviewed by the Homeless Strategy Committee and submitted to Council for approval.

Due to the large and growing number of families experiencing homelessness, motels are utilized as shelter overflow. In Council District 6, there are estimated 300 families living in motels. Although this intervention is intended to be temporary, due to the lack of affordable housing supply city-wide, many families have stayed beyond one year. The limited number of motels participating in the program often results in homeless children having to travel long distances to school. Motels that do participate are in areas that may expose families and young children to unsafe situations such as human trafficking, illicit drug abuse, and gang violence. In addition, according to California Civil Code 1940, residents gain tenant rights if they stay beyond 30 days. For this reason, families are required to move often. This disruption in housing and the accompanying challenges also disrupt families from pursuing employment and permanent housing. This physical and emotional distress keep families in a cycle of poverty and homelessness. Data shows that high levels of transiency impacts not only the children, but their classrooms and their schools' academic outcomes.

The motel program does not currently provide an appropriate level of case management or coordination with the school district, service providers, or motels owners to address the specific challenges of those living in motels. Council District 6 is requesting funding for a Motel Shelter Enhancement Program, a demonstration project, to expand and enrich the motel shelter program from its current form into a program that combines expertise, and leverages resources from Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and the City. Through multi-disciplinary wrap around teams that will work with every family placed in the program, one can ensure safety, promote family stability, maintain school enrollment and attendance stability, and accelerate skill and support based on foundations for the family to build upon as they seek to return to permanent housing.

The Motel Shelter Enhancement Program ("Program") could serve 500 families in or in close proximity to Council District 6 with school-aged youth in LAUSD or LAUSD authorized Charter Schools. The Program would both expand and enrich services for families currently sheltered in motels around the Sepulveda Boulevard corridor and design a new program delivery system for an additional 250 families in or around Council District 6 who are currently unsheltered, facing eviction or otherwise qualifying for homeless services. Coordination with City Departments and the City Attorney's Office, including an assessment of opportunities through the Interim Motel Conversion Ordinance, will ensure motel policies and facilities are meeting needs. The Program would form a partnership delivery system with various organizations including, Council District 6, the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity, LA Family Housing, and LAHSA contracted motels in Council District 6.



To address the needs in Council District 6 the Council should allocate HEAP funds to the activity described below:

- From the \$11.5 million Capital and Operating Support for Short Term Housing Interventions, Homeless Prevention, and Diversion Programs line item, allocate:
 - \$1.75 million per year or \$5.25 million dollars for a 3-year Motel Shelter Enhancement Program to expand and enrich the motel shelter program from its current form into a program that combines expertise, and leverages resources from LAUSD, LAHSA, and the City.

<u>Budget Estimate</u>	<u>Annual Estimate</u>	<u>3-Year Estimate</u>
Program Staffing	\$ 470,000	\$ 1,410,000
Direct Resources for Families in Motels	\$ 484,400	\$ 1,453,200
Motel Incentive Improvements	\$ 600,000	\$ 1,800,000
City Coordination	\$ 194,600	\$ 583,800
Total Demo Project Estimate	\$ 1,749,000	\$ 5,247,000

Approximately \$11.4 million remains available in this category, pending Council approval of outstanding requests.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to submit to the Homeless Strategy Committee (HSC) for review a funding request for \$1,749,000 per year or \$5,247,000 for three years to utilize State Homeless Emergency Aid (HEAP) funds for a Motel Shelter Enhancement Program to expand and enrich the motel shelter program in Council District 6, as further detailed in the text of this Motion;

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the CAO to submit HSC's recommendation to Council relative to the use of HEAP funds for the funding requests stated above.

PRESENTED BY: Nury Y. Martinez
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: _____

NOV 16 2013

ORIGINAL