

MOTION HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

There is a homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles. According to the 2018 Point-in-time Homeless Count there are approximately 31,500 people experiencing homeless of which approximately 23,000 residents are left unsheltered on any given night. The largest concentration of unsheltered residents is in Skid Row. There are approximately 4,300 homeless individuals in Skid Row of which approximately 2,150 are unsheltered, and the crisis in this area has recently been exacerbated by the recent typhus outbreak.

Expanded shelter capacity, as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, is a means to alleviate the number of unsheltered individuals sleeping on the sidewalk every night. A best practice of shelter operation is to ensure participants receive a full range of case-management services to achieve long-term stabilization while they await connection to a housing solution such as Proposition HHH financed Permanent Supportive Housing.

To address the unsheltered crisis, at Council's direction the City Homeless Coordinator and the City Administrative Officer reported on Motion (Huizar / Blumenfield - Bonin) (CF 15-1138-S31) relative to the needs and strategies for expanding crisis housing options and other services needed to address the needs of the unsheltered population living on the streets of Skid Row. This report found a scarcity of City-owned sites for shelter in the Skid Row area, and in response, the City directed staff to review possible lease arrangements with privately owned sites. Staff was also instructed to work with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to address expiring leases relative to the following Skid Row homeless service operations:

- a. The Bin, which provides voluntary storage of property; and
- b. The Skid Row Refresh Spot, which provides hygiene facilities.

Funding for crisis bridge housing is provided in this year's budget as part of the \$20M Bridge Home Program as well as \$45M through the State's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), and additional funding is available to address the conditions on Skid Row, through shelter, hygiene stations, storage and other service oriented investments.

To continue the City's efforts to address the needs of Skid Row, which has included the establishment of the El Pueblo Bridge Home site, four new locations have come to the attention of Council District 14 and should be assessed by staff for the feasibility of establishing shelter and/or crisis response services on site:

NOV 20 2018



1. 442 South San Pedro Street

The Downtown Women's Center currently operates housing and supportive services and is interested in adapting its day-center to provide 24 shelter beds for women experiencing homelessness. The City should explore potential funding options to enable this project.

2. 2426 East Washington Blvd

The owner of the property has expressed interest in entering into a lease with the City to provide crisis bridge housing at the location.

3. 606 East 6th Street

A former church is centrally located in the Skid Row community and could provide space for hygiene and/or drop-in services.

4. 540 Towne Ave:

The property is centrally located in the Skid Row community and the owner of the property has expressed interest in entering into a lease with the City to provide crisis bridge housing at the location.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, the Bureau of Engineering, Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority, and any other City department or affected stakeholder as necessary, to evaluate the four properties listed above to determine the suitability for providing crisis bridge housing and/or other crisis response facilities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the General Services Department be authorized to identify an on-site homeless service operator, negotiate the terms of a lease with potential service providers, and to report to Council on these actions.

I FURTHER MOVE that if the properties are determined to be suitable as crisis bridge housing and/or as a crisis response facility, the City Council instruct the City Homeless Coordinator to coordinate with Los Angeles County to identify funds for operation at the sites, including, but not limited to County Measure H revenue.

PRESENTED BY: _____

JOSE HUIZAR

Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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