

## MOTION

The City of Los Angeles must protect its residents from falling into homelessness by focusing on the root causes. Poverty is the issue of our time, the symptoms of which are clear: homelessness, job insecurity, and barriers to education and training. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2019, 20.4 percent of the population in the City of Los Angeles currently lives below the poverty line. With the cost of housing continuing to escalate in the City, this same population is at risk of becoming homeless and can contribute to the homelessness crisis in the City. According to the 2019 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, there are approximately 36,300 homeless individuals in the City, an increase of 16 percent from 2018 Count. While the number of homeless individuals increased, the City also placed more individuals in housing than ever before. However, the inflow of individuals falling into homelessness is severe and contributes to the increase in the Count numbers.

There are systemic and programmatic barriers that prevent many families and individuals from resolving their poverty, such as high rents and lack of employment opportunities, placing them at risk of falling into homelessness. While the City, with other partners in the region, have established programs to provide resources to people living under the poverty line, there continues to be a need for better coordination and partnership to more effectively continue this work. As local and national conversations around homelessness and poverty are gaining momentum, the City has the opportunity to take a leadership role and convene key stakeholders to have productive discussions on these complex topics.

A Summit on Poverty (Summit) will provide an opportunity for the City to demonstrate its leadership role in developing economic opportunities for residents of the City. The Summit will also lay the foundation to implement long-term strategies to improve the lives of the City residents, especially vulnerable populations who are at risk of falling into homelessness. It will provide an opportunity to hold meaningful discussions between the City and diverse stakeholders working on these issues. These stakeholders will include, but not be limited to, service providers, academic partners, government partners, non-profit housing developers, philanthropic partners, businesses, and educational partners. To this end, Council should instruct staff to develop and convene a Summit on Poverty.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council instruct the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID), in consultation with Council District 13, and with the assistance of other departments as needed, to host a Summit on Poverty and convene key stakeholders to discuss and collaborate on strategies to prevent and alleviate poverty; and

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Council instruct HCID to report to Council on the findings from the Summit and provide policy recommendations to prevent and alleviate poverty.

PRESENTED BY:

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SECONDED BY:

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