

MOTION

The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, advises that since 2014 over 200,000 unaccompanied immigrant children (minors under 18 years of age) were taken into custody by immigration authorities and then released to a sponsor (typically friends or families) living the United States. EDSOURCE, an educational advocacy organization, states that approximately 28,000 of these children are living in California and ORR states that an estimated 2,200 of these children were released to sponsors in Los Angeles County just this year.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) recently released the 2019 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of homeless individuals conducted in the City of Los Angeles and throughout the County. The PIT Count provides comprehensive statistics on a variety of vulnerable populations who have become homeless. One such population is unaccompanied minors.

Unaccompanied minors account for a very small percentage of the homeless individuals identified in the region. In 2019, there were an estimated 66 unaccompanied minors in the County of which 54 were in the City, a slight increase countywide, since 2018. The total estimated homeless populations in the County and City are approximately 59,000 and 36,000 respectively.

LAHSA has advised that unaccompanied minors are difficult to identify because, unlike homeless adults, youth prefer to hide-in-plain-site as they do not like the social stigma of being characterized as homeless. LAHSA further advises that they do not keep data on immigration status, either as part of the homeless count or as part of the Coordinated Entry System. However, EDSOURCE has reported that some immigrant children do in fact become homeless.

Given the Federal Government's purposeful immigration policy to separate children from their parents, and in light of the increase of unaccompanied homeless minors throughout Los Angeles County as identified in the 2019 PIT Count, the lack of a coordinated effort to conduct outreach and provide services to unaccompanied homeless minors should be addressed, LAHSA and the County Office of Immigrant Affairs should provide an analysis with necessary recommendations to resolve this matter.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority in coordination with the assistance of the City's Immigrant Affairs and Civil Rights Advocate, and the Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs to report with an analysis of policies to address homelessness amongst unaccompanied homeless immigrant minors, and that the report provide recommendations to address this matter in light of the 2019 Point-In-Time Count of homeless individuals and the Federal Government's purposeful policy to separate immigrant children from their families.

PRESENTED BY:


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Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



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