



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Support for Today's Item #4 Homelessness & Poverty Committee

1 message

Joseph Chicas <joseph.chicas@gmail.com>

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To: Clerk.HomelessnessandPovertyCommittee@lacity.org, David Giron <david.giron@lacity.org>, monica.rodriguez@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, Christine Jerian <christine.jerian@lacity.org>, MITCH.OFARRELL@lacity.org

Greetings,

I would like to express my strong and unwavering support in favor of item #4 today to be discussed at the 3pm Homelessness and Poverty Committee.

As a former social work professor at the University of Southern California and prior Executive Director for a shelter for unaccompanied minors, I witnessed first hand the complex needs that confront this population of young people. They leave their country fleeing extreme levels of poverty, violence and economic insecurity. They flee to our country because they have no other choice - for them it is a matter of life and death.

Upon arriving in the U.S. the barriers they face are unimaginable. Trauma, homelessness, unemployment, and gang violence finds them here too. Though they are safer than in their home country, there remains a great need for comprehensive services to ensure their social and economic welling. It takes a full, comprehensive approach from legal support to case management, to housing to mental health care to put them on a path to success. Our city and nation are lacking in these resources for this group, but the city can take a big step and lead the country today by taking action.

Thank you for your support of this group and showing your commitment to our young migrant people. They need us now more than ever.

Thank you,
Joseph Chicas

Casa Libre - Board Member
USC Social Work - Field Faculty
Breaking Through Barriers to Success - Board Member