

MOTION

There is a growing senior homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles. According to the 2019 Point-in-time Homeless Count (PIT), on a given night there are approximately 36,300 homeless individuals in the City of Los Angeles out of which 3,146 are 62 and over. This is an increase of 5 percent from the 2018 PIT Count.

The City of Santa Monica established a pilot program in 2017 that offers between \$200 and \$660 a month in rental assistance to senior households living in rent-controlled apartments called "Preserving Our Diversity". The City of Santa Monica recently approved an expansion of this program from \$200,000 a year to \$2 million which will serve up to 400 seniors. The program helps seniors by subsidizing their rent so that they have enough money for other essentials like food and medical expenses. Seniors receive a cash subsidy based on their rent amount and on how much of their income goes towards their rent and other basic necessities.

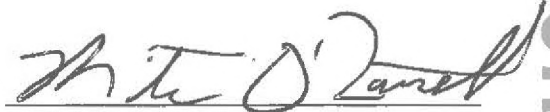
Similarly, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has a Problem Solving Intervention Unit that provides services and interventions to families to divert them from homelessness. This program can be potentially used as an opportunity to expand services to seniors who need similar interventions.

The City of Los Angeles, like the rest of the State, has an increasing elderly homeless population. A cash program such as Preserving Our Diversity can help seniors before they fall into homelessness. The City of Los Angeles should consider adopting a similar program that would prevent seniors from falling into homelessness.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Housing and Community Investment Department and Department of Aging with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst to report on programs that provide cash assistance to seniors for basic essentials like rent, food, and medical needs by Los Angeles County, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and other municipalities and to report on the feasibility of creating a pilot program in the City of Los Angeles that provides similar services to seniors; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council request the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to report on its Problem-Solving Program including how the program is implemented, who it serves, eligibility requirements, and if this program can be applied to seniors.

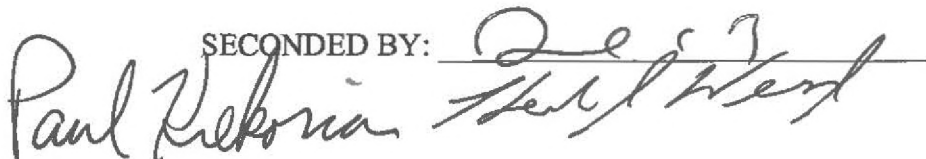
PRESENTED BY:



MITCH O'FARRELL

Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

SEP 18 2019

