In March 2019, the City Council and the Mayor declared an ongoing shelter crisis in the City of Los Angeles. According to the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Point in Time Count released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), 36,165 homeless individuals reside in the City, 27,221 of whom are unsheltered. To respond to this crisis and the immediate need for shelter, the Mayor and Council allocated $39 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-19 and 2019-20 Budgets to establish temporary crisis and bridge housing facilities, with the goal of adding 50 to 100 new beds per Council District. In addition, $54 million has been committed within the City of Los Angeles' Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) allocation and $50.4 million has been reserved in the City's pending Homeless, Housing, Assistance, and Planning (HHAP) Program allocation from the State of California to construct and operate A Bridge Home sites.

On December 12, 2019, the City Council approved a Motion instructing City staff to evaluate and report on the feasibility of the property at 1479 S. La Cienega Boulevard to be used as bridge housing as part of the A Bridge Home program. At this time, the City Administrative Officer, in cooperation with Brilliant Corners, through a contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (C.F. 18-0628) has determined that the property is suitable to establish bridge housing for up to 17 families with on-site supportive services. People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), the Family Coordinated Entry System lead for this Service Planning Area, will lease the site and provide services with existing funding from LAHSA for interim housing for families.

In order to establish this new bridge housing site, funds in the amount of $2,039,994 are needed to support leasing costs for three years. The City of Los Angeles expects to receive $117,562,500 from the State of California Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) grant; however, these funds are not anticipated to be available until March 2020. The State of California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, the agency that administers HHAP, has confirmed that pre-award capital costs may be reimbursed with HHAP. A Reserve Fund loan is needed to ensure that the establishment of the bridge housing facility at 1479 La Cienega Boulevard is not delayed. This loan will be repaid upon receipt of the City's HHAP allocation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council:

1. Authorize the Controller to process Reserve Fund loan(s) in a cumulative amount up to $566,665.00 to support the security deposit and leasing costs for the bridge housing facility at 1479 S. La Cienega Boulevard for nine (9) months, which will be reimbursed through State of California Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) grant receipts; and
2. Instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to reimburse the Reserve Fund upon receipt of the City's HHAP grant award.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Instruct Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA) to contract with People Assisting the Homeless to lease the property at 1479 La Cienega Boulevard; and
2. Authorize the Controller to:
   a. Transfer up to $566,665.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Special Fund HHAP, Department 10, Account FC-1: A Bridge Home Capital and Operating Gap, as authorized by CF 19-0914;
   b. Establish new account entitled A Bridge Home – 1479 La Cienega, Account No. TBD, and transfer up to $566,665.00 from HHAP Account FC-1: A Bridge Home Capital and Operating Gap within the Special Fund HHAP; and
   c. Upon receipt of HHAP funding from the State, transfer the balance of the leasing costs up to $2,039,994, from Special Fund HHAP, Account FC-1: A Bridge Home Capital and Operating Gap to the Account A Bridge Home – 1479 La Cienega, Account No. TBD.

I FURTHER MOVE to authorize the General Manager of Housing and Community Investment Department, or designee, to execute an amendment to the City’s contract with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, number C-133697, to increase the compensation by $2,039,994 to support PATH with leasing the property at 1479 La Cienega Boulevard, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer be directed to prepare any additional Controller instructions or make any necessary technical and/or accounting corrections or clarifications consistent with the Mayor and Council action in this matter, and authorize the Controller to implement these instructions.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Homeless Coordinator to coordinate with Los Angeles County to identify funds for interim housing operations at this site, including, but not limited to County Measure H revenue.

PRESENTED BY:  
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY:  

ORIGINAL