

Motion

On April 3, 2020 Governor Newsom launched Project Roomkey, an initiative to secure hotel and motel rooms for isolating the most vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 public health crisis. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has agreed to reimburse state and local governments up to 75 percent of the costs of the rooms. At the launch of the program, the Governor set a goal of securing 15,000 rooms statewide.

Given the approximately 60,000 people experiencing homelessness in the County of Los Angeles, the City and County have set their own goal of securing 15,000 hotel and motel rooms during this crisis. As of April 20, 2020, the County has 13 hotel and motel sites that are serving 877 people. While more sites are coming online regularly, it's unclear what the strategy is to reach the goals of 15,000 rooms, whether the hotels and motels are distributed equitably, or how outreach is done to hotels and motels in the City and County.

For the last several years, the City has made a concerted effort to help build up the number of hotel rooms available, including providing financial incentives to encourage the growth of the industry. Over the last two months hotel occupancy rates have plummeted. In Los Angeles, the occupancy rate has declined by at least 65 percent from last year. To fill rooms some hotels have chosen to participate in Project Roomkey, but given the current occupancy rate, there is availability in the region to ensure more are engaged with the program and that sites are spread out in the City and County.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, in consultation with LA Housing Services Authority, to report on the status of Project Roomkey, how hotels and motels are being identified, what populations and subsets are being served, how meals, supportive services and medical services are provided at these sites, what the strategy is to reach the 15,000 room goal, how long are the rooms secured for, and a plan for Project Roomkey after the public health crisis.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the LA Tourism and Convention Board and Department of Building and Safety to report back with information on the hotel occupancy rates for the City of Los Angeles, with an inventory of the new and upcoming hotels and their room availability, and on the impact of COVID-19 on the industry.

PRESENTED BY:   
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SECONDED BY: 

  
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