

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

In response to the forecast of harsh weather this week, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) activated the Augmented Winter Shelter Program, to provide emergency shelters along with motel vouchers to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness across Los Angeles County. The Augmented Winter Shelter Program is in effect until Wednesday, December 14, 2022 in response to the severe winter weather.

Winter Shelter sites are made available from November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, and can be accessed through LAHSA Homeless Engagement Teams (HET) who can reserve a bed for a person experiencing homelessness they encounter or the person can directly call 2-1-1 to be connected to a Winter Shelter site. During an Augmented Winter Shelter activation, if a Winter Shelter bed is not available, motel vouchers can be accessed to provide immediate shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

On December 12, 2022, Mayor Bass issued a Declaration of Local Emergency concerning homelessness to address the projected acute shortage of winter homeless shelters, with fewer than half of the number of shelter sites available as in the winter of 2021-22 and nearly two-thirds fewer shelter beds. The local emergency directs all City Departments to take necessary steps for the protection of life, health and safety in the City of Los Angeles, and a Citywide planning and response to homelessness.

Through outreach and street engagement conducted within the Third Council District this week, calls to 2-1-1 to access Winter Shelters can take hours to reach a community resource advisor and Winter Shelter sites are often at capacity. Given the winter weather and the need for more emergency shelter beds, the City of Los Angeles needs to immediately open up more Winter Shelter sites to quickly bring people indoors to protect individuals from hypothermia, pneumonia and other conditions caused by cold weather.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer identify funding to increase support for LAHSA's Winter Shelter Program and Augmented Winter Shelter Program.

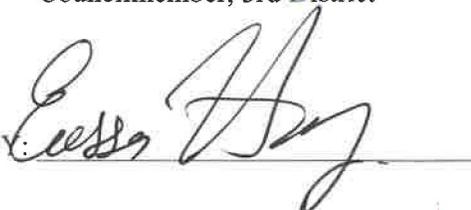
I FURTHER MOVE to instruct the Emergency Management Department to review the Adverse Weather Annex and report back with recommended updates and opportunities to better serve the needs of the City.

I FURTHER MOVE to request LAHSA to report on increasing the bed capacity and expanding Winter Shelter sites, and ensuring equitable access to the Augmented Winter Shelter Program across the City.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



DEC 13 2022

ORIGINAL

