

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

Each year, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) operates an Emergency Winter Shelter Program, providing temporary shelter to homeless persons at existing homeless shelters, California National Guard Armories, and large-group facilities. The program traditionally runs from December to March.

The program provides shelter, warmth, food and comfort to homeless individuals during the cold and wet weather season, saving lives and connecting people to the social service continuum. It is a vital and necessary program, given that two-thirds of Los Angeles' homeless population is unsheltered, and on most nights, close to 20,000 people sleep on our sidewalks, in our alleys, in our parks, in our canyons, and in our washes.

This year, forecasts predict extreme inclement weather for the Fall, Winter and early Spring. Recent reports indicate a greater than 90% chance of an El Nino event bringing significant and intense rainfall to the L.A. region, starting as soon as November and lasting into the Spring of 2016. We must offer shelter from the inclement weather to as many people as possible, as soon as possible. It is imperative that the Winter Shelter Program, which traditionally starts in December, begin operation no later than November 1.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority launch the Winter Shelter Program no later than November 1, and keep the program running through the end of the El Nino storm season.

I FURTHER MOVE that LAHSA, in coordination with the CAO and CLA, report within 14 days on the additional costs associated with the extended program, and identify potential funding sources.

PRESENTED BY:




MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District



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