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Assembly California Legislature



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October 16, 2013

Honorable Jose Buscaino, Chair
Subcommittee on Public Works and Gang Reduction
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St., Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairman Buscaino & Members:

I strongly support the motion by Councilmember Tom LaBonge (4th District) to draft legislation on non-commercial meal distribution, also known as food lines for the homeless, in the public rights of way to address public health and safety concerns generated by the Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition's nightly food line.

In June, residents near the corner of Romaine and Sycamore contacted my office regarding their concerns related to the Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition's (GWHFC) nightly food line operation to feed the homeless. In the weeks that followed, my staff visited the area during the food line hours of operation.

GWHFC's commitment to serving the needs of homeless individuals by providing free meals is admirable. However, I strongly believe that the location of service is substandard and should be relocated. Indoor, sanitary facilities that respect human dignity and co-locate supportive services are strongly preferred.

As the former Mayor and Councilmember of the City of Santa Monica for over 13 years, I developed considerable experience and am well known for my work on the issue of ending homelessness. In fact, Santa Monica has successfully transitioned several food line operations to indoor facilities connected to services. This effort took great skill and determination by all involved. But, it has resulted in lasting, positive change for the community and, most importantly, the homeless individuals who deserve and need our assistance in helping to end their homelessness.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this motion proposed by Councilmember LaBonge. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my office if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BLOOM
Assemblymember, 50th District

Date: 10-16-13
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Deputy: public

