

MOTION

Homelessness is an ongoing issue that is challenging in several ways: for those who become homeless when faced with financial issues or mental illnesses, for loved ones who are left to care for them, or for third parties who offer services for the betterment of this population.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness states that there are 633,782 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in the US. 142,168 (22.1%) are children, 62,619 (13%) are veterans, and 269,991 (42.6%) are disabled and unable to work. In Los Angeles, the last Homeless Count in 2013 found 22,992 homeless people, with 73% of them unsheltered compared to a national average of only 35% unsheltered.

The Obama administration is committed to ending homelessness among some of society's most vulnerable groups within the next decade. In 2009, President Barack Obama and Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced the goal of ending Veteran homelessness specifically by the end of 2015. In 2014 Mayor Eric Garcetti accepted the challenge and joined the Obama administration in pledging to end veteran homelessness in the City of Los Angeles by 2015, and chronic homelessness by 2016.


The City of Los Angeles has always been committed to assisting the less fortunate. The City works in partnership with the County through the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), established in 1993, in supporting, creating, and sustaining solutions to homelessness by providing leadership, advocacy, planning, and management of program funding.


According to LAHSA, the City is contributing approximately \$21.2 million in grant and General Funds in Fiscal Year 2014-15 towards LAHSA's total budget of nearly \$71 million. Additionally, several departments outside of LAHSA interact regularly with the homeless, and contribute resources to assisting the homeless population.

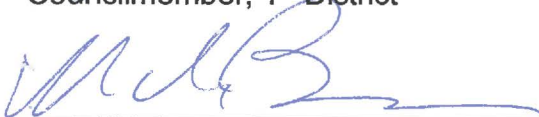
However, homelessness actually rose 9% between 2011 and 2013 in Los Angeles, suggesting that there needs to be a better assessment of the City's overall investment on homelessness in order to maximize resources, coordinate across departments, and budget accordingly.

In order to get a complete picture of how City funding and resources are being used to address homelessness, including LAHSA, the CAO should conduct an accounting of current resources being used to serve this population. Understanding different roles played by different departments will help inform any decision policymakers need to make to better structure the delivery of homeless services, cleanups, and enforcement.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the CAO to conduct a review of the resources being used by various departments on activities related to homelessness, and the budgetary impact on our General Fund; this should include an analysis of the LAHSA budget and/or any other relevant outside entity.


FEB 20 2015

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SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL