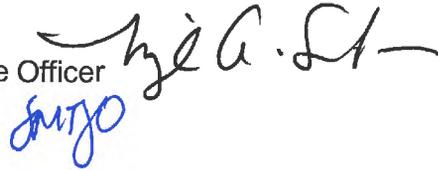


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: January 7, 2016

To: The Mayor
The City Council

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst



Subject: **COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS STRATEGY**

Summary

Pursuant to Mayor Eric Garcetti's request dated September 21, 2015, and Council direction (C.F. 15-1138-S1), the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of various City and County representatives, submits the attached Comprehensive Homeless Strategy report. The report represents a shared approach of system-wide change with mutual responsibility and aligned goals between the City and County of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles continues to face growing numbers of homeless individuals and families, even as national trends show homelessness decreasing across the United States. The City's elected leadership has taken important steps and actions to address homelessness. Mayor Garcetti included a Priority Outcome to prevent and reduce homelessness in the 2015-2016 Budget and Policy Goals. Council President Wesson created the standing Homelessness and Poverty Committee. The Committee itself, led by Councilmembers Harris-Dawson and Huizar, has introduced and passed a series of Motions on a range of topics from safe parking and rapid rehousing to winter shelters. Councilmembers Bonin, Buscaino, Koretz, O'Farrell and Price have also submitted separate motions related to homelessness. At this critical juncture, the City recognizes the need to address homelessness in a comprehensive and collaborative manner.

Concurrent with City efforts, Los Angeles County launched a Homeless Initiative and held a series of 18 summits this past fall on topics ranging from homeless employment, land use, and Affordable Care Act opportunities. An unprecedented meeting was held October 20, 2015 with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, the five County Board of Supervisors, Mayor Garcetti, and the co-chairs of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee. The County released its Draft Recommended Strategies to Combat Homelessness for public comment today.

This report is not a \$100 million expenditure plan. Rather, it is a blueprint for a comprehensive strategy to address homelessness in the short term and long term. Given the City's financial constraints due to extraordinary expenditures for liability claims, it is unlikely that we will be able to identify a significant amount of additional funding on an interim basis beyond the \$15

million already appropriated in prior Financial Status Reports. Future funding considerations should be included in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget cycle based on the priorities and strategies included in this report as well as the others approved by the Mayor and Council. The report also identifies potential new funding sources the Mayor and Council may wish to consider to fund priority initiatives.

Public Hearing Process

It is our understanding that the Homelessness and Poverty Committee plans to hold meetings on the Comprehensive Strategy Report on Wednesday, January 13 and an additional future date. The County is also expected to hold a public hearing on its report on January 13. The County Board of Supervisors is expected to hear their full report at its Tuesday, February 9, 2016 meeting. The City Council may wish to consider the Homelessness and Poverty Committee's recommendations on the attached report within the same time frame. The Council may also wish to refer elements of this report to the appropriate committees in advance of full Council consideration.

Immediate Assistance for the Homeless – El Niño

As this report is released, unusually severe El Niño conditions are anticipated to bring inclement weather to southern California this winter season. The Mayor and Council, in preparation for high-levels of heavy precipitation and low temperatures, have proactively mobilized various City assets and directed departments to ensure precautions are taken and contingency plans are in place to provide emergency shelters and services to the City's homeless community. Close coordination efforts between the City's Emergency Management Department and the County of Los Angeles' Office of Emergency Management are active and remain vigilant. Under direction of the City, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) will have approximately 440 Winter "Surge" Beds, in addition to the City's already existing (861) Winter Shelter Program beds, ready for operation in the case of an adverse weather incident. The City understands the vulnerability of its homeless community during the winter season and stands committed to provide them with resources to avoid injury or loss of life. Therefore, the CAO and CLA recommend that Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, make \$2.1 million in funds available from the original balance of \$15 million in funding for anticipated costs associated with El Niño related inclement weather shelters and other matters. This allocation was discussed but an action to transfer funds was not included in the Second Financial Status Report.

Recommendation

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, authorize the Controller to transfer \$2.1 million from the Unappropriated Balance Serving and Housing LA's Homeless account to a new account to be established in the General City Purposes Fund, entitled "El Niño Response" to fund El Niño related services for the homeless. The Mayor and Council further authorize the Controller to expend, encumber, and/or transfer these funds, at the direction of the Homeless Strategy Committee discussed in this report, without further approval from the Mayor and Council so that these funds may be directed and expended as expeditiously as possible.

Fiscal Impact Statement

There is no fiscal impact related to the recommendation in this report. Existing funds have been set aside in the Unappropriated Balance that will be used to support the El Niño related activities. The fiscal impact associated with pursuing strategies presented in the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy report will be identified in a future report back to the Council and Mayor.