

MOTION

On April 19, 2017, the City declared an emergency shelter crisis to help provide for additional shelters to be established in the City and to alleviate the current shortage of shelter beds. The combination of a growing homeless population, a shortage of affordable and permanent supportive housing, and significant risks to public health and safety from people forced to live without shelter demonstrate the need for immediate action to expand the inventory of crisis shelter beds.

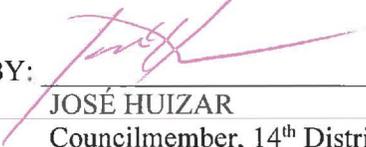
Expanded shelter capacity, as outlined in the City’s Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, is a temporary means to alleviate the number of unsheltered individuals on the streets while the City works to expand long-term housing solutions, including those created through the construction of Permanent Supportive Housing funded through Proposition HHH. Accordingly, it is a best practice to operate temporary crisis shelter as Bridge Housing, where participants are actively case-managed toward long-term stabilization, the full range of available services and permanent housing.

In Council District 14, the Mayor’s Office, City Attorney’s Office, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the City’s Homeless Coordinator, and various City departments are examining a publicly-owned parking lot at the El Pueblo Monument as a possible site for temporary emergency shelter, with an expected operational cost of \$1.4 million annually.

Emergency solutions at a much larger scale must be urgently sought to address the crisis of people forced to live on the streets. While such immediate actions are needed Citywide, the Skid Row area of Downtown Los Angeles is the epicenter of homelessness, where on any given night almost 2,000 people can be found sleeping unsheltered. Conditions in Skid Row are deplorable and inhumane, even noted so in a recent report by the United Nations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council instruct the City Homeless Coordinator, with assistance from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Chief Legislative Analyst, Housing and Community Investment Department, Fire Department, Department of Building and Safety, General Services Department, the City Attorney, and other appropriate departments, to report with recommendations for expanding emergency shelter and crisis housing options in sufficient volume to address the unsheltered population living on the streets of Skid Row, including but not be limited to the following:

1. The number of shelter beds currently available and an estimate of the number needed to meet the need in this area;
2. Cost estimates and potential funding sources to ensure an appropriate level of services and security;
3. City-owned properties that may be suitable for temporary emergency shelter to address the Skid Row population;
4. Strategies to ensure that participants in emergency shelter are being readied for long-term housing;
5. Near-term actions needed to establish the first sites, ensure community input, and prepare for the scaling of emergency shelter sufficient to address the current need; and
6. Recommendations for storage and other services needed to augment shelter and address street conditions.

PRESENTED BY: 
 JOSÉ HUIZAR
 Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: 


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