

MOTION

Over the last few years, homelessness among women has dramatically risen in the City of Los Angeles. According to the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA), since 2009 there has been a 70% increase in the number of unsheltered women. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development ranks domestic violence as the third leading cause of homelessness for women and families. When women flee their homes to escape the violence, they often have nowhere else to go and become homeless. In addition to the violence experienced at home, these homeless women are particularly vulnerable to revictimization on the streets.

According to a 2016 survey of homeless women in downtown Los Angeles conducted by the Downtown Women’s Action Coalition, more than half of the women had experienced domestic violence, approximately 40% of the women had experienced sexual assault at some point in their lives (nearly twice the rate of the general population of women), and nearly half of the women had experienced violence just within the last 12 months.

In 2015-2016, there were 16,853 calls into the city’s domestic violence hotline. Domestic violence shelters were only able to provide assistance to 7% of all the victims who called the hotline. The lack of beds and services available exclusively to women who have experienced violence, therefore, is a significant contributing cause of increased homelessness among women.

In recognition of this problem, LAHSA created an Ad Hoc Committee on Women & Homelessness, and the County’s Measure H budget included approximately \$56 million in funding that can be used to enhance services for women who have experienced violence.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority, the Chief Legislative Analyst, and the City Administrative Officer report to City Council in 30 days on how Measure H funding will be utilized to enhance services to victims of domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, which report should include (i) a prioritized project list; (ii) an implementation and spending plan for the top priority projects; and (iii) an anticipated implementation timeline with short-, intermediate- and long-term goals.

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