

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority’s (LAHSA) 2017 Homeless Count, the City of Los Angeles has experienced a 20 percent increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness since last year, including 25,237 residents without a roof over their head on any given night. Particularly concerning is the uptick in the number of women, children and families on our streets. The City’s population of homeless families increased nearly 30 percent since last year and homeless youths which made up the fastest growing homeless age group increased 64 percent, followed by those under 18 at 41 percent - meanwhile the number of shelter and bridge housing beds for families, women and unaccompanied minors has struggled keep apace.

The City has one of the nation’s largest homeless populations, but its ratio of shelter or crisis housing for people experiencing homelessness is among the nation’s lowest – according to federal housing data, approximately one bed for every four homeless residents. By comparison, there are three shelter beds for every four homeless individuals in the nation’s 402 homeless services areas.

Even as the City’s homeless population has surged – and public support to address the problem has been galvanized around two separate tax measures and a County budget that projects more than 11,500 additional people would receive housing annually – the amount of readily available funding and the current rate of construction for permanent supportive housing may have only a small immediate effect on the City’s street population.

In order to further address the urgency of the problem, the City should work proactively to expand its bridge and crisis housing capacities – namely, the number of facilities for women and youths in the Hollywood area. Of particular importance is the need to provide safe, comfortable, inclusive environments that create a pipeline of eligible candidates for permanent supportive housing and provide residents with the services needed to make successful transitions. The abandoned Gardner Street Library, with its existing aesthetic, could provide the immediate community and City of Los Angeles with such an opportunity.

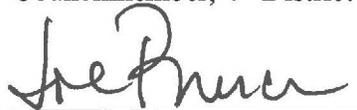
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, the Bureau of Engineering and Department of Sanitation be directed to initiate a review of the city owned property located at 1403 N. Gardner Street, Los Angeles, CA 90046, to determine if the property is suitable for development as women’s crisis or bridge housing, with 50 beds or less, without changes to the exterior of the existing building, and in conformance with the procedure set forth in the City’s Asset Evaluation Framework.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of other City Departments as needed, complete an assessment of the site, a site plan, cost estimate, and if eligible, include this property on the Proposition HHH Project Expenditure Plan to be considered for funding.

PRESENTED BY:


DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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