

# HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY MOTION

In February 2016 the City adopted the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy (CHS) to address and end homelessness. Among the wide range of strategies however, the CHS did not include a formal “reunification” program. Reunification programs work with a homeless individual to identify a permanent housing opportunity with that person’s friends or family. Such programs also include subsidized transportation, typically in the form of a bus ticket.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) advises that while a fully developed reunification program does not exist as a stand-alone program, reunification services are provided as one of several solutions through City funded programs such as Rapid Re-Housing and Diversion/Prevention. LAHSA informs that in the first quarter of FY 2017-18, 34 homeless individuals were placed into permanent housing with family and nine homeless individuals were placed into permanent housing with friends.

In addition, County Measure H has committed to fund an \$800,000 reunification program for Transition Aged Youth. LAHSA states that this program is in development, but that homeless youth in the City of Los Angeles will benefit from this program as all County Service Planning Areas, which includes the City of Los Angeles, will be provided two staff to assist homeless youth along with funding for travel assistance.

Reunification services were discussed by the Budget and Finance Committee during the City’s 2017-18 Budget hearings. The Committee requested (CF 17-0600-S39) that LAHSA report to the Homelessness and Poverty Committee on a process to distribute travel vouchers to homeless individuals to be connected to a legitimate housing opportunity. The report is to include how the process can be expedited.

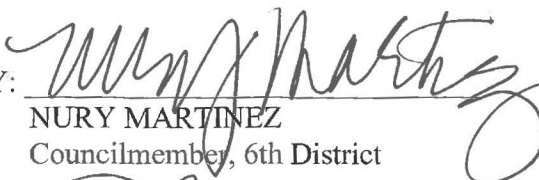
Given that the CHS does not include a formal “reunification” program, LAHSA should be further instructed to report to Council relative to formalizing a City reunification program with a budget for staff, street outreach and a public awareness campaign to assist homeless individuals and their families, and how a pilot program can be initiated in Council District 6 prior to the FY 2018-19 Budget deliberations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), with the assistance of the Housing and Community Investment Department, be requested to report to the City Council relative to the following:


- A full assessment of all reunification programs serving homeless individuals in the City;
- The feasibility of establishing a stand alone Family and Friends Reunification Program that would connect homeless individuals in the City to a permanent housing opportunity with that individual’s friends or family. The report should include a budget for staff (if needed), street outreach, and a public awareness campaign to address the reunification needs of all City homeless individuals; and
- The feasibility of establishing a pilot Family and Friends Reunification Program in Council District 6 prior to the FY 2018-19 Budget deliberations.

I FURTHER MOVE that Council request LAHSA and instruct the Department of Transportation to report relative to coordinating with Metro and other regional and national transit agencies to offer assistance in providing reunification services and resources.

PRESENTED BY:

  
NURY MARTINEZ  
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



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