

MOTION

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

Located within walking distance of Los Angeles City Hall, Skid Row contains one of the largest unsheltered populations within the United States of America. According to the most recent 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, the area of Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles experienced an 11% increase in homeless individuals. In response to the increase of homelessness in downtown Los Angeles, Councilmember Jose Huizar introduced a series of motions before the Los Angeles City Council calling on the City of Los Angeles to develop the Committee on Homelessness and Poverty, draft a Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, and the hiring of Homeless Coordinator to coordinate initiatives between city and county departments. In order to pivot the City from a reactionary, lawsuit based- informed policy making posture, these actions warranted a need to create a coordinated response to the most confronting crisis of our time - homelessness. Recent Homeless Count data presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in June of 2019 suggested that there was an 11% percent increase of homelessness within the Skid Row area of Los Angeles. There are an estimated 3,000 people living on the streets of Skid Row. Six million dollars is not enough funding to sustain ground zero for one of the largest homeless populations in America.

In February 2019, the Los Angeles City Council approved the emergency expenditure of \$20 million dollars in Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) from the State of California. The focus of these expenditures included a focus on storage, hygiene programs, homeless outreach and services, and temporary crisis and bridge housing. Through a partnership with community stakeholders and City departments, Councilmember Jose Huizar Called for an emergency response focused on getting emergency resources immediately to Skid Row. Within a year, all of the funding for the triage response has been spent, but there continues to be an urgent need to get unsheltered individuals off of the street and on a path to permanent housing.

The Point-In-Time Count of homeless individuals determined that there are more than 36,000 homeless residents in the City of Los Angeles, of which 27,000 are unsheltered currently living on the streets. Within the unsheltered population, almost 5,200 or 20 percent reside throughout Council District 14. The first round of emergency funding from the State of California only provided housing for an estimated 220 people with 219 beds in the pipeline for a total of 439 beds.

In response to the availability of funding, Councilmember Jose Huizar introduced CF:19-1419 (Huizar-Buscaino-Harris/Dawson-Martinez-Ryu), instructing the CAO and CLA to evaluate potential housing sites at 2426 East Washington Boulevard, 433 Wall Street, 14441 East 16th Street, 2313-2317 South Santa Fe Avenue and also requested additional resources to expand the number of shelter beds at 1426 Paloma Street (Paloma Phase II). There is an urgent need to identify and determine the feasibility of utilizing these locations mentioned in CF:19-1419 to serve the immediate need in or around Skid Row.




DEC 10 2019

The HHAP grant program was authorized by AB101 (Chapter 159, Statutes of 2019), which was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on July 31, 2019. Since it was signed by the Governor, the City has been working diligently with community and municipal stakeholders to categorically determine the most appropriate manner for the City to spend state block grant monies on the homelessness crisis.

In a joint report from the Chief Legislative Analysts and Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Los Angeles, the Skid Row Community was recommended to receive a total amount of \$ 6 million dollars in categorical funding. The proposed \$6 million dollar designation represents a \$14 million dollar decrease in resources to the area of the City that has one of the highest concentrations of unsheltered individuals in the United States. It is imperative that the City identify additional resources to get residents off of the street.

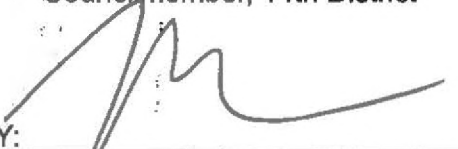
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, Los Angeles Homeless Services to identify \$14 million dollars in funding to provide temporary shelter and services for individuals facing homelessness throughout the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles.


PRESENTED BY:



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:



MITCH O'CONNELL


ORIGINAL

DEC 10 2019