

MOTION

The Citywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), approved in 2019, is a five-year economic planning tool whose goal is to ensure equitable growth in the City, with priorities on reversing historic underinvestment in five focus areas across the City. One such area is the Eastern San Fernando Valley, a residential and industrial area covering 83 square miles and home to approximately 582,000 people. This area faces numerous barriers to economic growth, including a lack of job opportunities, little new real estate investment, and an auto dependency required to travel to distant jobs. The hardships experienced by Eastern San Fernando Valley residents is evident in the data, with a per capita income of \$18,405, 38 percent of households severely rent burdened, and 32 percent of children living in poverty. Families often find themselves one missed paycheck away from homelessness, and often have to make painful choices on where limited dollars can be spent to ensure their well-being.

The City Council recently approved Phase I of a homelessness prevention program, which aims to provide families who are at imminent risk of homelessness with financial and housing assistance. As a complement to that program, the City should explore a revolving loan program that could be utilized by families in need to help bridge financial emergencies. Funds could be used to pay for such things as utilities, food, and rent. A revolving loan program could prevent households from reaching the crisis point that triggers homeless prevention services. Such a lifeline could be the difference between a warm bed and homelessness.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Housing and Community Investment Department, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, be directed to report within 60 days on the feasibility of piloting a revolving loan program at the Van Nuys FamilySource Center to help families pay for necessities during a financial emergency.

PRESENTED BY:

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