

Motion

The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to count everyone living in the country every 10 years. Census data define our voice in Congress and shape the future of our community. In addition to determining congressional seats, the 2020 Census will provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually, to support vital community programs nationwide related to health care, education and housing programs, including Section 8 housing vouchers for low-income families.

Accurately counting the homeless population is difficult. The issue is particularly urgent for the City of Los Angeles as the 2020 Census approaches. Undercounting Angelenos experiencing homelessness could affect political representation and lead to reduced federal funding for low-income and homeless families, especially in urban areas with large homeless populations.

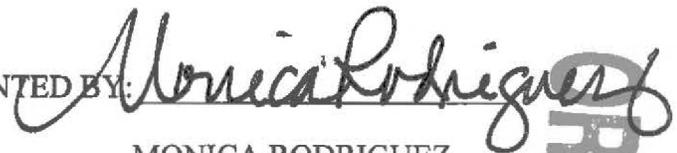
The Census Bureau has two approaches for counting homeless individuals—sending census workers to service-based locations (shelters, mobile food vans, etc.), and counting people in non-sheltered, outdoor locations. The Census Bureau plans to devote three days to counting people who are experiencing homelessness across the country. With such a brief timeframe, the City should explore opportunities to do what it can to expand Census outreach to make sure homeless Angelenos are counted.

Funded through sources such as Measure H, the General Fund, and other discretionary resources, specialized teams of outreach professionals are deployed daily throughout the city to connect homeless individuals to services and build the trust necessary to successfully transition them into housing. The relationships that outreach workers have with their clients could play a critical role in facilitating more robust census participation from some of our most difficult to reach constituents. Therefore, the City should consider ways to involve existing city-funded outreach teams to support in the 2020 Census outreach efforts.

I THEREFORE MOVE that The City Council request that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to work in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of the Census, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the City Attorney to develop the necessary steps for engaging City-funded homeless outreach staff into the City's Census outreach and administration.

I FURTHER MOVE the aforementioned entities provide recommendations, and a funding strategy if necessary, for training existing city-funded outreach workers as official U.S. Census Enumerators to participate in the three day Census count of homeless individuals.

PRESENTED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ

Councilwoman, 7th District

JAN 28 2020



SECONDED BY:



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