

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/07/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/11/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0769-S2

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, representing more than 60,000 stakeholders, supports this Motion [Exhibit 1] to review and alter the healthcare service delivery contract between LA County and LA City to more thoroughly monitor and provide healthcare services to Angelenos. We appreciate that this motion places particular emphasis on reaching unhoused residents through the development of proactive relationships. As the motion outlines, the number of deaths, reports of substance abuse, and need for mental health services within the unhoused population have risen drastically since 2019. The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council firmly believes that every Angeleno has the right to proper and adequate healthcare, particularly our vulnerable unhoused neighbors. We support this motion under the impression that it will result in improved healthcare programming, improved proactive outreach between city agents and unhoused encampments, and improved public data collection of program outcomes. Solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis in Los Angeles rest on tackling the underlying causes of the issue, including the dire lack of proper transitional and permanent housing options. We ask that housing provision be included in the definition of “healthcare” as it applies to this motion as shelter is a proven way to improve the health and well-being of our unhoused neighbors. The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council supports Motion CF 20-0769-S2.

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Arts Ad Hoc Ramona Mikelson
Public Comment Duncan Gregory

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HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

April 7, 2022

Attn: Council President Nury Martinez, Councilmember Kevin De Leon, Councilmember Gil Cedillo

From: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

RE: County of Los Angeles / Health, Mental Health, and Social Services Delivery / Unsheltered Residents / Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority / Los Angeles City Health Commission ([Council File: 20-0769-S2](#))

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, representing more than 60,000 stakeholders, supports this [Motion](#) [Exhibit 1] to review and alter the healthcare service delivery contract between LA County and LA City to more thoroughly monitor and provide healthcare services to Angelenos. We appreciate that this motion places particular emphasis on reaching unhoused residents through the development of proactive relationships. As the motion outlines, the number of deaths, reports of substance abuse, and need for mental health services within the unhoused population have risen drastically since 2019.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council firmly believes that every Angeleno has the right to proper and adequate healthcare, particularly our vulnerable unhoused neighbors. We support this motion under the impression that it will result in improved healthcare programming, improved proactive outreach between city agents and unhoused encampments, and improved public data collection of program outcomes.

Solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis in Los Angeles rest on tackling the underlying causes of the issue, including the dire lack of proper transitional and permanent housing options. We ask that housing provision be included in the definition

of “healthcare” as it applies to this motion as shelter is a proven way to improve the health and well-being of our unhoused neighbors.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Neighborhood Council supports Motion CF 20-0769-S2 and proposes the following recommendations:

1) Given the unprecedented nature of the COVID crisis, and the urgency of the existing and worsening homelessness crisis, the reports that this motion requests from County Public, Mental Health and service providers should proceed on an expedited timeline and should establish measurable, time-sensitive goals to include the needs and perspectives of people experiencing homelessness.

2) Request that the LA City Health Commission provide data about the numbers of people experiencing homelessness who need medical and mental health care in the City of Los Angeles, and the length of time those individuals experiencing homelessness have been living on the streets of Los Angeles. Acuity levels of these individuals rise the longer they are living without shelter. Immediate solutions are needed to provide care for these individuals.

3) Report the number of people experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness who are arrested and jailed with limited/no access to mental health treatments. Such individuals are better served by effective health care instead of incarceration.

4) Establish clear communication with the public regarding how the County Public and Mental Health agencies are addressing these issues and how concerned community members can help unhoused neighbors experiencing a physical/mental health crisis. Presently residents are referred from one agency to another with very little information about process and solutions, and people experiencing homelessness are left to languish on the streets with severe physical and mental health challenges.

Sincerely,

Duncan Gregory
President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

MOTION

As of the last Los Angeles Homelessness Service Authority's (LAHSA) point-in-time count, there were over 41,000 people experiencing homelessness in the City. This statistic was captured *before* the COVID-19 Pandemic forced changes to everyday life. From March to August of this year, 84% of all calls to the city LA311 system were about public health, social services, or directly related to homelessness. However, by contractual agreement with the City, the County of LA provides direct services for the vast majority of these requests.

The delivery of health services today is shaped by a major change that drastically modified health programming citywide. In 1964, the City and County of Los Angeles finalized a merger of health focuses: the City chose to eliminate its own health department and adopted the county health code, with both jurisdictions agreeing to a contract for service delivery and code compliance within the City limits. Over the past 56 years, this arrangement has survived multiple changes to public health county-wide, such as the creation of the County Department of Mental Health (1978), and the County Department of Public Health (2006). In 1993, in response to a lawsuit filed against the County by the City of Los Angeles, LAHSA was established to manage the federal continuum of care and assist in the management of shelter, housing and outreach efforts. In 2014, the LA City Health Commission was established, with the goal of determining the health needs of City residents, and whether those needs were being served. This Commission functions in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council.

The City Council should understand why the City chose to eliminate its health department, and review the process that led to the adoption of the county health code and contractual relationship with Los Angeles County. In addition, the Council should be provided a comprehensive evaluation of health and mental health services delivered by the County of Los Angeles to unsheltered Angelenos residing in the City of Los Angeles, through the coordination of those services from LAHSA and nonprofit partners. It should describe data collected in regards to outreach and case management, services delivered, housing provided, and resources necessary to ensure individuals are receiving adequate care for their needs.

The CLA and CAO should provide an initial report with recommendations on the health services delivery system as a precursor to an in-depth analysis. Additionally, the City Health Commission should be requested to hold hearings focused on services meant and provided for people experiencing homelessness, giving further context to the in depth analysis.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council DIRECT the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and the office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), with the assistance of the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID), and all relevant City departments, to review the delivery of health, mental health, and social services by the County of Los

Angeles, to the over 41,000 unsheltered residents within the city limits, including the coordination of those services between the County, LAHSA and non-governmental partners, and report to Council with recommendations as outlined in the body of the motion.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council REQUEST the Los Angeles City Health Commission, with the assistance of the CLA, CAO and City Clerk, to hold hearings focused on people experiencing homelessness and the delivery of health, mental health and social services by the County of Los Angeles, LAHSA and other non-governmental partners.


PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

ORIGINAL


GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:


HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District


DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District