

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

The 2020 Homeless Count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) in January found more than 41,000 persons experiencing homelessness living in the City of Los Angeles. Among other data points, the results indicated that every day in 2019, an average of 207 people exited homelessness while 227 people became homeless.

Some of those exiting homelessness did so of their own accord. Others were housed by the combined efforts of LAHSA, the City, the County of Los Angeles and numerous hard-working nonprofit and community service agencies and organizations.

According to the outreach specialists who work directly with the unhoused on the streets of the city, earning the trust of people so as to be able to provide them with the services they need and move them to shelter or housing can take weeks or months under the best of circumstances. And the various statutes, court orders and court decisions relative to homelessness, mental health and related issues make it impossible to move people off the streets without their permission or agreement.

As the City works to respond to the Los Angeles Alliance for the Homeless litigation settlement, the willingness of persons living in encampments and elsewhere on the streets of the city to be relocated into housing or shelter, reunited with family members or friends, or other options, will be a crucial component of any success the program achieves. The City Council should learn more about the experience of LAHSA and its community partners in winning the confidence of persons experiencing homelessness.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council, as soon as possible, request that officials from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority make a presentation to the full City Council on its outreach experiences with persons living unsheltered or unhoused in the city in terms of establishing lines of communication, providing services and relocating them to appropriate shelter or housing, including the number and percentage of persons who reject services or housing or both.

PRESENTED BY: _____

PAUL KORETZ (verbal)
Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY: _____

JOE BUSCAINO (verbal)
Councilmember, 15th District