

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](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

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

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Mid City WEST Neighborhood Council

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

Date of NC Board Action: 02/09/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 02/11/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0113

Agenda Date: 02/11/2021

Item Number:

Summary:



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[www.midcitywest.org](http://www.midcitywest.org)

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February 9, 2021

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**The Honorable Members of the Homelessness and Poverty  
Committee**

**% Office of the City Clerk  
Los Angeles City Hill**

**200 N Spring Street, Rm 1010**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**[Clerk.HomelessnessandPovertyCommittee@lacity.org](mailto:Clerk.HomelessnessandPovertyCommittee@lacity.org)**

Re: Project Roomkey Expansion

Dear Councilmembers,

Mid City West Community Council supports City Council Motion 21-0113 to instruct Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to report back on opportunities for renewing and expanding Project Roomkey to address the current needs of Los Angeles's unhoused residents as well as modify the program to include greater hotel and motel participation.

Project Roomkey (Roomkey), a collaborative effort by the State, County and LAHSA to secure hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, was launched to provide shelter options for unhoused persons over 65 or with health risks and co-morbidities, as they are especially susceptible to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the program was discontinued due to budgetary reasons.

Under the Biden Administration, *per Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States*<sup>1</sup> (01/21/2021), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will now cover the entire cost of LA's non-congregate



Steven Veninga  
Don Whitehead  
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shelters through September 2021. This would provide a fully funded reiteration of Roomkey at no cost to Los Angeles County.

Roomkey was an effective bridge for homelessness, and a method to offset the enormous risk to the unhoused posed by an airborne pandemic. COVID-19 deaths have surpassed 41,000 in Los Angeles County,<sup>2</sup> positive cases in LA have remained steady, and outbreaks among the unhoused population are soaring.<sup>3</sup> Further, factors such as winter storms put the unhoused residents of Los Angeles at increased risk.

Reinstating Roomkey would place unhoused residents in hotels, allowing caseworkers to offer them consistent care, which would help with healthcare treatment and vaccine distribution for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Mid City West Community Council supports the re-launch of Project Roomkey. The budgetary concerns which discontinued the program are no longer relevant. Roomkey represents an opportunity to mitigate losses in the face of the dual crises of homelessness and the ongoing pandemic, utilizing existing resources to build a bridge for the unhoused while supporting public health efforts.

Sincerely,

Mid City West Community Council

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<sup>2</sup> <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/data/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2021-01-03/homeless-shelters-coronavirus-surge-hospitals>



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Month XX, 20XX

[letter continued]