

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, there were 41,290 individuals in the City of Los Angeles experiencing homelessness on a given night in 2020, which was an increase of 16% from 2019; and

WHEREAS, every tool and resource available must be utilized to combat this crisis and create a more effective homeless services delivery system, including engaging individuals with lived experience of homelessness as advocates and consultants; and

WHEREAS, individuals with lived experience of homelessness have unique expertise and provide a critical lens for the homeless services delivery system; and

WHEREAS, these individuals provide valuable input which has been used, and will continue to be used, to improve homeless services delivery systems across the country; and

WHEREAS, it is best practice and morally right to compensate these individuals fairly for their time and only adequately values their expertise and knowledge when they are fairly compensated; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals also rely on public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), to pay for living expenses such as housing, food, transportation, and medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, SSI has extremely restrictive income disregard amounts which result in sharp benefit reductions when an individual on SSI receives compensation or other payments; and

WHEREAS, these benefit reductions can not only cause additional trauma to people with lived experience by forcing them to make difficult decisions about essential needs and money, but can also deter these individuals from providing services that can help better homeless services delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, organizations should be able to encourage and incentivize the provision of lived experience advocacy services, especially in the homeless services delivery system, without fear of penalizing these individuals for their participation; and

2021-2022

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its ~~2022-23~~ Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT and/or SPONSORSHIP for legislation that work to abate benefit reductions for lived experience advocates, in SSI or other programs, when receiving compensation for providing services to better the homeless services delivery system.

PRESENTED BY: Bob Blumenfeld
BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

Kevin de León
KEVIN DE LEÓN
Councilmember, 14th District

Marqueece Harris-Dawson
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY: Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District