

MOTION

The results of the 2023 Point-In-Time Count from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) revealed a devastating increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles. This increase, which amounted to 10 percent, occurred in spite of billions of dollars spent, much of it from measures approved by compassionate voters who believed that, by taxing themselves, there would be a meaningful reduction in street encampments across our City.

Measure H is one such measure. Approved by a two-thirds supermajority of Los Angeles County voters in March of 2017, Measure H is a .25 percent sales tax designed to fund homeless services and prevention in the County. Projected to raise approximately \$335 million annually over a ten year period, Measure H funds are allocated to programs that increase permanent housing placements, improve flow through the rehousing system by moving people from the streets into housing, and provide supportive services to help people exit and solve their homelessness.

In spite of these goals, there is growing concern among voters about the effectiveness of various tax measures to address homelessness, with one survey showing a majority would support the repeal of certain initiatives if they failed to make a visible impact. This is in addition to recurring concerns about lack of tangible progress and cooperation, coordination, and information sharing between the County, the City, LAHSA, and other stakeholders.

With the imminent end of Measure H in 2027 and discussions of its renewal just underway, it's imperative that Angelenos have full faith that the City is receiving a share of revenue proportionate to its need and that these resources result in a decline in homelessness. Therefore, the City should use this opportunity to negotiate new provisions for itself in Measure H so that we can secure resources for services in dire need of funding in the City, such as programs and services for people experiencing homelessness with mental health and substance use disorders.

This is not unprecedented. In 2018, another ballot measure, Measure W, the Los Angeles County Safe, Clean, Water Program, a parcel tax measure, was on the ballot for Los Angeles County Flood Control District voters. This ballot measure had special provisions to ensure an allocation of funds to municipalities in the County. The passage of Measure W resulted in the establishment of an ordinance that allocated the revenues of the Measure to three sub-programs, one of which was for municipalities who then received the revenues in the same proportion as the amount of revenues collected within each municipality. The City then established a special fund which is administered by City departments that receive, administer, and disburse the funds. The City should explore Measure W as a potential model for the next phase of Measure H should it be presented to the voters in an upcoming election. If the County places the Measure H renewal on an upcoming ballot, the City should consider that the structure of the measure reflects the Measure W program structure so that the City can receive resources proportionate to the need of the City's homeless population.

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I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to work with the County of Los Angeles to seek revised terms in any renewal of the County Measure H to ensure equitable allocation of resources and greater oversight and accountability by cities to address homelessness in the region; and report quarterly to the City Council on the status of its negotiations.

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park
TRACI PARK
Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY: Keith Hull
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