

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has more than 34,000 residents experiencing homelessness, and one of the highest rates of unsheltered homelessness in the nation. On any given night, more than 25,000 people sleep with no roof over their head. While Los Angeles and its residents have taken tremendous steps in recent years to reduce homelessness, none of those programs and projects is going to house 25,000 people tonight, next week, next month, or even next year.

Where should people sleep in the meantime? On cold, hard pavement, in thousands of encampments in nearly every neighborhood of Los Angeles? Or in emergency shelters, crisis housing, transitional or bridge housing, shared housing, and other options?

Even though people are dying on our streets, and tens of thousands of people are living in tents in front of schools, residences, playgrounds, and businesses, the effective answer from the City of Los Angeles for the past decade has been “sleep on the sidewalk.” That’s cruel. That’s wrong. And that was supposed to change.

When the City of Los Angeles approved its Comprehensive Homelessness Strategy in February 2016, Strategy 7A called for an expansion and a dramatic transformation of our existing and inadequate shelter system into crisis and bridge housing opportunities that provided low-barrier 24-hour shelter and a genuine access point to the continuum of care. That has not happened. In fact, there is scant evidence of any progress, no apparent plan or strategy to make progress, and no evident sense of urgency or attention to any efforts to make progress. Even though public officials have repeatedly declared a “state of shelter emergency,” there is no institutional or organizational sense of urgency to move thousands of people off the streets immediately, or even in the next several weeks or months.

Los Angeles must provide genuine alternatives to sidewalk encampments -- urgently. During recent fires, officials announced the location of emergency shelters within hours of deploying first responders to burning homes. Victims of natural disasters are not left to sleep under tents and cardboard on our streets, but refugees from economic hardship, gentrification, a housing shortage, domestic violence, sexual abuse, addiction, and mental illness are left to fend for themselves in the elements. That is unacceptable and intolerable.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority be requested to prepare a report within 14 days detailing:

- How many people and what percentage of Los Angeles’ homeless population are currently being provided shelter or housing, and what number and what percentage of our homeless population LAHSA aims to shelter or house by the end of the current fiscal year, and the next three fiscal years? The report should include the number and types of shelter beds available during the past two fiscal years and during the current fiscal year.
- What steps have been taken to replace barracks-style emergency shelters with low-barrier, 24-hour crisis housing and bridge housing beds that provide a genuine first step from the streets to long-term housing, as called for in Strategy 7A of the Comprehensive Homelessness Strategy? The report should include the number of beds, number of facilities, and percentage of the homeless population in Los Angeles being served.

- What steps have been taken to encourage or recruit houses of worship, nonprofit agencies, and others to offer shelter on their premises? The report should include the number of beds, number of facilities, and percentage of the homeless population in Los Angeles being served.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority be requested to prepare within 14 days the framework of an Emergency Response to Homelessness Plan, outlining what steps and what funds would be required to provide an alternative to encampments for 100% of the Los Angeles homeless population by December 31, 2018.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Coordinator, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer, and other departments and agencies as appropriate, prepare within 14 days a comprehensive list of every public facility in the City of Los Angeles legally eligible to be used to provide shelter, temporary housing, or safe parking.

PRESENTED BY:



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SECONDED BY:



FEB 20 2013