

Community Homelessness Education and Engagement Effort Motion

Over the past year Los Angeles County and communities across the County have taken unprecedented steps to address the homeless crisis. On February 9, 2016, the County and City of Los Angeles adopted coordinated and comprehensive strategies to address homelessness. On June 30, 2016, the California state legislature passed the No Place Like Home initiative, which will dramatically increase permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and suffering from mental illness. On November 8, 2016, City of Los Angeles voters overwhelming approved Proposition HHH, which will create 8,000 to 10,000 new units of permanent supportive and affordable housing in the City. Two weeks ago this Board voted unanimously to ask voters to approve a ¼ cent sales tax to fund the Homeless Initiative and associated strategies.

With singular unanimity, the County and local city governments, nonprofit service providers, business leaders, and voters have forcefully expressed their resolve to assist people experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible.

The County and our partners have embarked on an unprecedented collaboration. It is now up to the County, our 88 cities, and our community partners to find appropriate locations

MOTION

SOLIS _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

for permanent supporting housing, bridge housing, and other facilities that are critical components of our effort to reach our shared goal of “functional zero” homelessness.

It is my firm belief that the County's constituents will rise to the challenge of siting and designing these critical housing developments and service sites, provided public education and engagement strategies keep residents informed and engaged. Community organizations, homeowner associations and neighborhood councils can be critical ground-level partners in this effort. To work towards this goal and to support our communities in the work of successfully incorporating these sites into their neighborhoods, the County will need to develop a set of strategies and process guidelines for facilitating healthy dialogues about locating housing and service facilities. The County needs to increase our capacity to engage local groups in these dialogues, including engaging neighborhood councils, other organized neighborhood groups and homeowners associations, as well as exploring the role of social media and online platforms, such as Nextdoor, in facilitating dialogue.

Our neighborhoods will be stronger and healthier if we succeed in integrating our homeless neighbors into communities where they are supported and embraced as members of these communities. Building inclusive communities does not occur without effort. It takes education, engagement, organizing and countless hours of dialogue.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to retain a consultant to research and identify best practices for facilitating community dialogues about siting permanent supportive housing and homeless service sites, including conducting research and focus groups on current attitudes about these sites, education that is helpful to communities about homelessness and solutions to homelessness, and community preferences on platforms and opportunities for dialogue on these issues. Research should also include lessons from other jurisdictions and efforts across the country to facilitate similar dialogues and build community support for similar efforts.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to consult with representatives of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Community Development Commission, the City of Los Angeles, smaller cities in the County, faith communities, the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing, philanthropy, and representatives of business and community based organizations and provide quarterly reports to the Board for one year outlining best practices for engaging communities in dialogues regarding the siting of permanent supportive housing and service facilities, educational materials that may be needed to facilitate dialogue and education, and opportunities for the County to play a proactive role in facilitating these dialogues.

S:MR/Community Homelessness Education and Engagement Effort