

June 13, 2017

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND KATHRYN BARGER

Response to CEO Recommendations to Measure H funding for FY 17/18 and tentatively FY 18/19 and 19/20

On March 7, 2017, the voters of Los Angeles County (County) approved Measure H, a quarter-cent Countywide sales tax, with a specific purpose to prevent and combat homelessness within the County, including funding mental health, substance abuse treatment, health care, education, job training, rental subsidies, emergency and affordable housing, transportation, outreach, prevention, and supportive services for homeless children, families, foster youth, veterans, domestic violence survivors, seniors, disabled individuals, and other homeless adults, consistent with the 47 strategies developed by County Homeless Initiative and approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 9, 2016.

The approved strategies reflect the following key principles as identified in the Measure H ordinance:

- County-wide collaboration with cities and other public entities to establish a strong foundation for strategy implementation
- Strengthen and build upon current County efforts by
 - o Directing more services to proven strategies;
 - o Integrating existing programs and services more effectively;
 - o Enabling cities to join the county in combating homelessness; and

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- Identifying opportunities to leverage mainstream criminal justice, health, and social services

On May 10, 2017, the 50-member Measure H Revenue Planning Group (Planning Group) reached consensus on the Measure H funding allocation strategy recommendations, put forth by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and a number of lead County Departments, which fall into the following six areas:

- Prevent Homelessness;
- Subsidize Housing;
- Increase Income;
- Provide Case Management and Services;
- Create a Coordinated Entry System; and
- Increase Affordable/Homeless Housing

The Planning Group also solicited public comment, which resulted in requests from cities for financial support to help their impacted departments and agencies address the needs of homeless individuals in their respective communities. Without displacing homeless individuals from their familiar surroundings, some cities also seek to build the capacity of their front-line staff to engage in homeless services and prevention. There was also a request from a number of Councils of Government (COGs) for financial support for regional homeless coordination to help facilitate participation in the Coordinated Entry System and education of their member cities on best practices to identify and facilitate affordable housing opportunities.

On May 31, 2017, LAHSA, the lead agency in the Los Angeles COC that coordinates and manages federal, State, County and City of Los Angeles funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons, released LAHSA's Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count 2017 data, and the results were alarming. Nearly 58,000 homeless persons across the County were counted – an unfortunate 23% increase from the 2016 Homeless Count. Other significant increases included: 41% in the number of homeless children, 64% in the number of homeless transition-aged youth (ages 18 to 24), and 63% in the number of homeless Latinos. Notably, 40% of the total homeless population in the County is African-American. Service Planning Areas (SPA) 1 (Antelope Valley), 3 (San Gabriel Valley), and 7 (East and Southeast LA) had the greatest increases in the County, at 50%, 36%, and 50%, respectively.

Even with the enormous undertaking of the volunteer-driven LAHSA Homeless Count, there still exists a hidden homeless population that is underserved. LAHSA's Homeless Count standards and programs are restricted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of homelessness. Unfortunately, the limited scope of this strict definition may not account for many homeless individuals in the County. Certain organizations, including churches, food banks, and school districts are likely to encounter self-defined homeless individuals, who are not being served appropriately.

Furthermore, there are a number of County Departments and regional agencies that are impacted by the homeless crisis, including but not limited to Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Public Works who maintain our watersheds, and Metro where some homeless youth find a temporary, safe space to sleep at night. Additionally, hundreds of people live in the LA, Rio Hondo, and San Gabriel Valley Rivers, and it has been the Sheriff's Department who has taken the lead by bringing significant positive changes for improved coordination across departments, service providers and other multi-jurisdictional agencies to assist in saving lives in the river beds during torrential rain seasons and other hard-to-reach hot spots in the County.

The Sheriff's Department and other police agencies provide a high level of public safety related outreach services to the homeless population, particularly for encampments and severely impacted areas. An expanded Homeless Services Team will be able to collaborate with other County Departments, contracted service providers, and community-based organizations to assist the homeless population. This approach is consistent with the newly adopted Homeless Policy and the First Responder Homeless Training recently implemented within the Sheriff's Department.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to:

1. Use the latest data from the 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count as the basis for Measure H funding distribution of FY 2017/18, and use the most current homeless count data in FYs 2018/19 and 2019/20.
2. Report back in 90 days on:
 - a. The homeless population that is unaccounted for in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count and potential ways that this unaccounted population could be reflected in the future allocation of the Measure H strategy;

- b. County Departments and regional agencies, including but not limited to the County Library, Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Coroner, and Metro, who did not participate in the measure H funding allocation process but are fiscally impacted by the homeless crisis, and identify the appropriate Measure H strategies that could address the impacts they sustain; and
 - c. The total amount of funding allocated to Case Management within each of the approved Measure H strategies.
3. In FY 2017/18, enable cities to join the County in combating homelessness by:
- a. Allocating and administering from existing Homeless Initiative Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) funds in the amount of \$2 million to be used for regional coordination services at the COG level and homeless planning grants for cities in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care;
 - b. Allocating and administering \$1 million from existing PFU for non-Sheriff/non-Los Angeles Police Department Police Agencies to establish SPA law enforcement outreach teams;
 - c. Allocating and administering \$1 million from existing PFU for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to create an expanded Homeless Services Team that will collaborate with other police agencies, County Departments, and emergency response service providers; and
 - d. Including funding for these needs in the overall, final funding recommendations for Strategy E7, as well as in future fiscal years.

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