

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL
AND KATHRYN BARGER

AGN. NO. _____
October 3, 2017

Sylmar Bridge Housing

On February 21, 2017, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to explore the feasibility of improving the Sylmar National Guard Armory in order to provide year-round crisis housing. In April, LAHSA reported back to the Board that it was feasible for the National Guard to lease the building on a year-to-year basis to LAHSA and open it year-round for crisis housing. LAHSA also recommended opening the Armory as a Navigation Center to help individuals access and sustain permanent housing and other services.

In May, Supervisorial District Three began convening a Community Input Board to review LAHSA's recommendations and provide input into the future use of the building. My office also met with neighboring businesses and held community presentations about the proposal in August and September. Simultaneously, LAHSA released a report about the unique needs of women experiencing homelessness in the County. The report found that high rates of women have experienced physical and

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sexual violence, human trafficking, poverty, and poor physical and mental health.

LAHSA recommended an improved delivery of interim and permanent housing and gender-informed supportive services.

LA Family Housing is the lead agency for the coordinated entry systems for both families and single adults in Service Planning Area 2. The organization currently operates a successful year-round bridge housing site in North Hollywood. At this location LA Family Housing manages a network of partners to connect homeless families and single adults to a full range of services and housing options.

At this time, there are no other shelters in the immediate Sylmar area. According to data collected during the 2017 Homeless Count, Sylmar has 225 unsheltered individuals. Service Planning Area 2, which includes both the Third and Fifth Supervisorial Districts and where Sylmar is located, has 2,762 women experiencing homelessness. The Sylmar Armory is an ideal facility for year-round bridge housing for women experiencing homelessness.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct LAHSA to use Measure H funding available through strategy E8 to contract with LA Family Housing to operate a bridge housing program for women for up to 85 beds at the Sylmar Armory and to negotiate an agreement with the National Guard for use of the facility for this purpose;
2. Direct LAHSA to include funding for operations, start-up costs, and capital improvements in the contract with LA Family Housing to operate the Sylmar Armory, and include funding in the contract for 24-hour security for the facility and immediate area, transportation, and staff to coordinate a Community Input

Board in order to ensure that LA Family Housing is a good neighbor; and

3. Direct the CEO to work with the County's Sacramento Advocates to pursue legislation that would facilitate the sale of the facility to the County or LAHSA.

S:MR/Sylmar Bridge Housing