

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

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Reducing Homelessness by Decreasing Late Night Releases from the Los Angeles County Jail System

Throughout the country, it is not unusual for jails to release individuals late at night or in the early morning. Many individuals are released without phones, money, or transportation plans, and some are released in areas with which they have little familiarity. In Los Angeles, men and women let out at night are likely to find their way to nearby Skid Row¹, perpetuating the cycle of incarceration and homelessness.

Late night releases can also prove deadly. In 2010, the high-profile and tragic case of Mitrice Richardson showed just how dangerous late-night releases can be. Mitrice Richardson was released from the Lost Hills Sheriff’s Station in the middle of the night and went missing for several months. Her body was later found buried in Malibu Canyon².

On May 21, 2019, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Office

¹ [Getting Out of Jail After Dark Can Be Dangerous—and Sometimes Deadly – Mother Jones](#)

² [What Happened To Mitrice Richardson? Los Angeles Magazine \(lamag.com\)](#)

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Homeless Initiative (HI) to collaborate with County Departments that work with people experiencing homelessness to assess how to strengthen homelessness prevention efforts within County Departments. HI convened a workgroup comprised of County Department representatives to develop and design interventions to assist persons at-risk of homelessness. The workgroup came up with 15 action items for implementation³. Item 3.7 tasks the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) to explore the possibility of reducing the number of persons being released from County jail incarceration between 7:00pm and 7:00am. At the most recent meeting of the Homeless Prevention Workgroup, on May 25, 2021, LASD shared that people who are incarcerated are now being offered the option to voluntarily stay longer in the jail to avoid a late-night release. More needs to be done to reduce late night and early morning releases and to ensure that individuals released from LA County custody are provided necessary services to exit safely and prevent falling into and/or returning to homelessness.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors requests the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Public Defender (PD), Alternate Public Defender (APD), the District Attorney (DA), and Chief Executive Office Homelessness Initiative (HI) in collaboration with service partner agencies to report back in 75 days with:

1. An outline of existing strategies to reduce or eliminate late night releases from the Los Angeles County Jail system including:
 - a. The number of individuals who are released between the hours of 7pm and 7am, and

³ [5.12.20 BM Comprehensive Homelessness Prevention Assessment Action Plan.pdf](#)

- b. Data showing the efficacy of existing efforts (i.e. reductions in the number of late-night releases).
- 2. A proposed plan and recommendations to further decrease late night releases and connect those who are released between 7pm to 7am to services including:
 - a. Collaboration with the PD, APD, and DA to ensure individuals are not being held longer than necessary,
 - b. Review of court processes to assess factors that can lead to a late-night and early morning releases,
 - c. Service needs to ensure safety and prevent homelessness in individuals released between 7pm and 7am, and
 - d. Engagement with County and community-based service providers who can provide services, including transportation, to those who are being released.

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