



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held September 16, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“Since 1987, the Los Angeles Winter Shelter Program (formerly known as the Cold/Wet Weather Program) has provided overnight beds and services for over 2,000 homeless people during the winter months. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has administered the program since 1994 with funding primarily from the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds. The winter shelters provide approximately 1,255 beds in the City and 782 beds in the County, along with hotel vouchers for families and case management services, from December 1st through March 15th of each year.

“This year, for the first time, the City of Los Angeles decided to keep its shelters open year-round. The City shelters have been operating at 102% capacity on average and turning people away. Homeless people from as far away as the Antelope Valley have come to the City shelters. In order to support the continuum of care for the homeless population, it is critical that the County also create year-round homeless shelters. According to the LAHSA’s 2002 Continuum of Care gap analysis, there is a shortfall of 10,000 emergency shelter beds in the County.

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“The provision of year-round shelters offering case management services can also help end the cycle of homelessness. The homeless shelter population typically does not avail itself of assessments or services. However, in 2002, the County’s winter shelters offered case management to over 6,000 clients, 1,993 of whom accepted assessment and referral services. Of the 1,993, 511 clients were placed in treatment, transitional or permanent housing.

“LAHSA estimates that the cost of operating the 782 County shelter beds year-round, plus hotel vouchers for families and case management services, is \$5.2 million. The County should partner and leverage funds with other cities to create its year-round shelters. The County should also consider the experience of the City of Los Angeles, which found that not all of its winter shelters were able to operate year-round.

“The County faces an additional problem with respect to financing its homeless shelters. Eight hundred thousand dollars have been provided by FEMA annually for the winter shelters, but we anticipate a \$500,000 funding shortfall this year. This shortfall could create a crisis situation for the County homeless clients needing shelter and services during the winter months. It is imperative that the County prevent the winter shelter funding gap.

“In light of the City’s experience with operating year-round shelters and the County’s desire to partner with cities to create such shelters, an appropriation of \$2.5 million should be sufficient to cover both the FEMA shortfall and the cost of operating County homeless shelters year-round. The Board of Supervisors had set aside several million dollars into the Designation for Budgetary Uncertainties to cover the costs of the Valentin lawsuit. Those funds are no longer needed because the case has been resolved.”

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Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion that the Board:

1. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate and transfer \$2.5 million from the Valentin line item in the Designation for Budgetary Uncertainties to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority for the purpose of covering any shortfall in funds for the Winter Shelter Program and providing year-round homeless shelters in the County; and
2. Request Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to take the following actions:
  - a. Create a plan for year-round homeless shelters serving Los Angeles County outside of the City of Los Angeles, including identification of potential sites and a process for selecting providers, and submit the plan to the Board within 45 days;
  - b. Collaborate with cities and existing organizations, such as the Cities of Long Beach, Glendale and Pasadena, and organizations such as the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition and the East San Gabriel Valley Homeless Consortium, in order to leverage County funds and coordinate efforts in the creation of year-round homeless shelters, with preference for year-round shelter sites to be given to locations where there is city support and financial contribution; and
  - c. Collaborate with the Auditor-Controller to create and implement an evaluation plan for the County's year-round homeless shelters, which includes performance measures and outcomes to determine the effectiveness of such shelters in addressing homeless issues.

Mitchell Netburn, Executive Director, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and Brenda Wilson and David Candy, representing New Image Emergency Shelter addressed the Board.

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After discussion, Supervisor Knabe made a suggestion that Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion be amended to allocate \$500,000 to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to cover any shortfall in funding for the coming Winter cycle only; and instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back on the additional long-term funding options to sustain the year-round Homeless Shelter Program.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky further modified Supervisor Knabe's amendment to instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate and transfer \$2.5 million to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, disburse only \$500,000 immediately to cover any shortfall in funding for the coming Winter cycle and instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to freeze the remaining balance (\$2.0 million) until the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reports back to the Board at the meeting of January 13, 2004, with a list of proposers that have been approved and a map of what areas are going to be covered for the year-round Homeless Shelter Program.

Further, Supervisor Antonovich requested that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority include in their report to the Board at the January 13, 2004 meeting, a plan on how they will use a portion of the \$2.5 million to assist those agencies that are not capable of operating a year-round shelter, including the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, was unanimously carried.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- County Counsel
- Auditor-Controller
- Director of Public Social Services

Letter sent to:

- Executive Director, Los Angeles Homeless  
Services Authority

(ALSO SEE BOARD ORDER NO. 53 THIS DATE)

September 22, 2003

Mr. Mitchell Netburn, Executive Director  
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority  
548 South Spring Street, Suite 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Mr. Netburn:

At its meeting held September 16, 2003, on motion of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors requested the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority to take actions as indicated in the enclosed Minute Order relating to the Los Angeles Winter Shelter Program.

Very truly yours,

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Enclosure

c: Ms. Robin Conerly, Contact  
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority