

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND HILDA SOLIS June 9, 2015

The fight to end homelessness has not been lacking in good ideas or resources. But it is clear that our work is far from done. The latest Homeless Count showed that – despite housing over 7000 veterans over the past two years, an estimated 4,700 homeless veterans remain on the streets of our County on any given night.

The City of Los Angeles has joined Los Angeles County in a determined effort to house every homeless veteran in the region. “VASH vouchers” are federal rental subsidies that come with comprehensive supportive services that allow homeless veterans to enter and retain housing. The US Department of Veterans Affairs has committed a significant number of these vouchers to our region; over 1,400 VASH vouchers have been issued so far. However, it takes veterans an average of 78 days to find a rental unit that will accept them. We can do better than this.

Homes for Heroes is a partnership of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, LA City Chamber of Commerce and the United Way, as well as both the City and County Housing Authorities. This partnership is coming together to encourage landlords across the region to rent to homeless veterans. Los Angeles County should join this partnership, and we should bring our significant resources to bear in order to connect veterans who have a VASH voucher in hand with a stable, permanent home in the shortest time possible.

- M O R E -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors support the Homes for Heroes effort and instruct Department of Military and Veteran Affairs to work in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, the Department of Mental Health, the Community Development Commission and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on a Countywide strategy to expeditiously connect homeless veterans who have a housing voucher with a stable, permanent home, and report back in 30 days.

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