

Prioritizing the Needs of Los Angeles County Frontline Healthcare Workers

Throughout communities across Los Angeles County (County), we hear applause and cheers for our healthcare workers every evening. Our buildings light up blue in their honor and we pay our gratitude forward to them in every way we can. Healthcare workers are on the frontline every day. They have risen to a challenge of a global pandemic and have shown grace under extreme pressure.

Frontline healthcare workers have and continue to put their own lives at risk for the well-being of their communities—they are giving comfort and healing to people of every walk of life. Like so many others, they have been forced to be nimble in treating patients, whether this means making quick decisions on emergency room floors or re-tooling their practices to telemedicine to provide care wherever it is needed. We applaud the healthcare workers of Los Angeles County for their tremendous show of will.

Just as these healthcare workers fulfill their mission of keeping the people of Los Angeles County well, we have a duty to take care of healthcare workers. Like the rest of us, they depend on having a safe home for themselves and their families. They need places to rest after a long day of hard work, prepare wholesome meals, and keep their

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families out of harm's way. We have asked them to make a tremendous sacrifice for the well-being of Los Angeles County, and we must reciprocate.

To this end, we intend to provide safe housing for the healthcare workers of Los Angeles County. This will serve two purposes. First, it will protect their families from an insidious virus that has proven its ability to affect everyone. Second, it will ensure that those who are providing care to the most vulnerable in these unprecedented times can press forward with one fewer worry on their minds. Los Angeles County will accelerate its current response in order to address this need. Following Governor Gavin Newsom's leadership to keep the heroes of this moment safe, Los Angeles County will put its full weight behind doing the same.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Emergency Management, County Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Departments of Public Health, Health Services and Mental Health to report back in 14 days with a comprehensive plan outlining

1. Assessment and collaboration with the State of California regarding housing and reasonable accommodation needs for all first responders and frontline healthcare workers who are engaged in COVID-19 Countywide response efforts, including, but not limited to, serving at County hospitals, County leased/partnered clinics, medical centers, Drive/Walk Thru COVID-19 testing sites, COVID-19 Medical Sheltering Sites, Project Room Key and/or related efforts; and
2. Chief Executive Officer Legislative Branch efforts, in collaboration with the County Office of Emergency Management, to engage the State of California in leasing these facilities across Los Angeles County prioritizing unmet needs

and equitable access for all first responders and frontline healthcare workers, including but not limited to physicians, nurses, social workers, as criteria for selection and coordinating these sites with the State of California.

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