

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

May 26, 2020

Piloting a Comprehensive Crisis Response and Ensuring Post-Pandemic Housing for Homeless Older Adults in Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) has long recognized that a comprehensive crisis response is required to counteract the complex and multi-factorial reasons that cause people to fall into homelessness across the County and State. The framework for such a response was articulated in a “Comprehensive Crisis Response Strategy to Address Homelessness Statewide” (Strategies), which was advanced to Governor Newsom by his Council of Regional Homeless Advisors in early January 2020.

Based on the Board’s direction on January 21, 2020, County departments, led by the Chief Executive Office’s Homeless Initiative and Office of Emergency Management, have developed a prioritized strategy for implementing or scaling up the recommended Strategies, where feasible, and advocating, where appropriate. On January 21, 2020, the Board also requested that the departments propose a legal framework and implementation strategy to pilot an effort to ensure shelter or housing for those ready and willing to receive such services.

On March 24, 2020, a report-back was issued that included recommendations from a workgroup of multiple County departments, including a subgroup that included representatives from the Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Department of Health

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Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. With the concurrence of the larger workgroup, the subgroup identified people experiencing homelessness who are aged 65 years or older as the recommended target population, should the County wish to pilot an effort to ensure shelter or housing for everyone in a target population who were ready and willing to receive such services.

On April 14th, the Board unanimously approved a follow-up motion to pursue the recommendations in the March 24th report, and further directed the CEO to also ensure post-pandemic housing for all homeless seniors who have been prioritized and brought indoors to protect them from contracting COVID-19. The motion directed the CEO to provide the Board with several written reports. The CEO convened the subgroup referenced above but also included the Los Angeles City's Department of Aging, the United Way of Greater Los Angeles and Professor Culhane from the University of Pennsylvania to complete the first report-back which was issued on May 15, 2020. As the County diligently works to prepare to respond with short-, medium- and long-term housing options to implement a Comprehensive Crisis Response, it is prudent for the Board to hear directly from the CEO as it charts its way forward and builds on this first report to create a comprehensive post-pandemic housing framework.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Office, Homeless Initiative Director to place the May 15, 2020 report on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for the meeting of May 26, 2020.

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