

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH
AND KATHRYN BARGER

October 3, 2023

**Updating the County's Implementation of the Proclamation of a Local Emergency
for Homelessness in the County of Los Angeles**

In response to the humanitarian crisis of homelessness in Los Angeles County, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion on January 10, 2023, to proclaim a local emergency for homelessness. The “Proclamation of a Local Emergency for Homelessness in the County of Los Angeles” (Emergency Proclamation) created expedited and streamlined processes targeting contracting and procurement; hiring; housing; services; spending; communications and messaging; and public outreach and education.

In their report back dated January 23, 2023, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI) organized the implementation of the Emergency Proclamation into three distinct Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) missions: encampment resolution, housing, and mental health and substance use disorder services, a framework adopted by the Board on February 7, 2023.

MOTION

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There are significant and meaningful investments being made across County departments to address homelessness, and the Emergency Proclamation has provided tools that maximize the funding's impact. However, one critical piece missing from the existing PEH missions is stopping the inflow into homelessness. Real, visible, lasting reductions in people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County must include eviction prevention, including ~~homelessness and eviction prevention~~, tenant protections, legal support and representation, ~~supportive services when needed~~, and rental assistance. This is critical because over the last several years tens-of-thousands of individuals have been permanently housed and thus are no longer experiencing homelessness: however, at the same time just as many, if not more individuals, have become homeless. We cannot solve the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County without investing in ~~prevention interventions~~, ~~which~~ that help to ensure that individuals are able to stay in their homes. Additional investments and policy have been developed to keep people in the housing they can afford in the neighborhoods they call home. The work to prevent evictions ~~homelessness~~ must also be included in the Emergency Proclamation implementation to maximize its impact through the tools provided.

Additional review of the County's implementation of the Emergency Proclamation also has made clear that the County requires additional tools to implement and support the PEH missions, including expediting the use of leased property to house, shelter and provide services to PEH.

The most effective response to a crisis in a County the size of Los Angeles is a coordinated, systemic, and strategic response. Such a coordinated effort requires leadership concentrated in one entity empowered to oversee, direct, and coordinate the

complex network of jurisdictions, departments, and programs. As directed and adopted by the Board in its January 10, 2023 motion, CEO-HI is to lead the overall coordination of the emergency response, and CEO is to “enable the HI to immediately assume a leadership role in managing the local emergency proclamation until the County entity responsible for homelessness is finalized. . . .” Although the Board has provided additional investments to the HI to increase their capacity as the County homeless service response system leader, the task is monumental. There must be a unified understanding among County departments of the need for one clearly defined vision and collective response to steer the County departments’ efforts to address homelessness and to implement the goals of the Emergency Proclamation. Dispersed and diverse investments, staff, programming, solutions, engagement strategies, and access administered across the complex network of County departments mitigate the impact of these thoughtful, well-crafted, though extremely siloed, programs.

The launch of the Executive Committee, as adopted by the Board on August 8, 2023, in the motion “Establishing a Regional Governance Structure for Homelessness,” seeks to “develop one plan to address homelessness, establish a common set of performance indicators, align resources, and provide oversight.” This collaborative regional response, partnered with the County and other jurisdictions’ proclamations of local emergencies for homelessness, will both empower the County to act and hold the County responsible for delivering on a county-wide, integrated, and effective response to homelessness. Addressing and preventing homelessness cannot simply be listed among a litany of priorities on each County departments’ extensive to-do lists, leaving each department tasked with delivering on impossible outcomes that no single department can achieve.

The power and impact of the County of Los Angeles is in its size, and piecemealing the response to this devastating crisis cannot be the status quo.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Designate “~~Homelessness and~~ Eviction Prevention” as the fourth People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) mission, in response to the "Proclamation of a Local Emergency for Homelessness in the County of Los Angeles," proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on January 10, 2023 (Emergency Proclamation). Apply the delegated authorities and processes already approved by the Board on February 7, 2023, (Declaration of Local Emergency for Homelessness – Implementation Actions) to the agencies implementing this fourth PEH Mission.
2. To expedite the leasing of property to implement or support the four PEH missions, authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or her designee, to negotiate, execute and amend leases or other agreements for the use of real property, approved as to form by County Counsel, after compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the notice requirements of Government Code section 25351 for real property located within incorporated cities, provided:
 - a. The CEO, or her designee, confirms in writing that there is good cause justification for the execution of the lease, agreement, and/or amendment, in that it implements or is in support of a PEH mission in response to the Emergency Proclamation;

- b. The CEO, or her designee, confirms in writing that funds have been approved by the Board or by a Board office in its County Homeless Prevention Initiative - Homeless Services Fund, or are otherwise budgeted federal, state or local funds that can be used to implement or support a PEH mission in response to the Emergency Proclamation; and
 - c. The term of the lease or agreement, including all amendments, shall expire no later than two years after the Board terminates the Emergency Proclamation, unless the CEO has obtained Board authority to extend the agreement for a longer term.
- 3. Direct all County departments charged with implementing the Emergency Proclamation to utilize the streamlined hiring and procurement processes, delegated authorities, and all additional tools afforded to the departments to implement the Emergency Proclamation and directives of the Board in response thereto, and to provide timely written updates to the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI) for use in their monthly reports on the Emergency Proclamation's implementation.
- 4. Direct the leadership of County departments identified as integral to the County's homelessness response to convene in-person monthly meetings to better coordinate and collaborate on the County's response to homelessness, including funding, outreach, streamlining processes, removing barriers to implementation, and aligning tracking and metrics used to measure our response.
- 5. Direct the HI and the leadership of County departments that are a part of directive four, to provide monthly verbal updates to the Board, as a set matter on the board

agenda, starting on October 3, 2023, on implementation of the four PEH missions, including each department's utilization of the Emergency Proclamation's tools and delegated authorities in support of the PEH missions using metrics such as staff hired, contracts executed, and programs created and implemented. The updates should also include updates on the response time to answer and resolve encampments reported by constituents, and updates on the County's RV encampment pilot and expansion into other Supervisorial districts.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO and HI to provide a condensed written report back, not-to-exceed five pages, in 60 days that includes the following:

1. An assessment of the HI's capacity and authority to coordinate, align, and steer each Department's work to address homelessness and support the Emergency Proclamation, moving the County toward an integrated, unified, cross-departmental homelessness response.
 - a. Include analysis of the opportunities and challenges of the existing County structure, culture, and funding mechanisms and their impact on the HI's ability to influence and carve out a distinct, defined County of Los Angeles response to homelessness, minimally impacted by dispersed investments across multiple departments.

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LPH:ap