



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
7.		Favor	Amy Wiwuga	
			Carmen Moncayo	
			Felipe Cadena	I go to Lennox Library and have seen staff de-escalate incidents with unhoused people where they are called names and threatened, they need more support.
			Isabel Moncayo	
			Jesus Castellanos	It is important for libraries to have the aid and support necessary to serve unhoused patrons. With support libraries can be utilized to effectively aid unhoused patrons.
			LaKisha G Camese	
			Lisa C Cleri Reale	As a member of the LA County Library Commission, I have seen firsthand the benefits of having social workers assigned to Libraries to support unhoused individuals and those with mental health needs. Not only did this pilot program provide high-quality resources to our most vulnerable populations but it relieved our dedicated County Librarians of having to deal with very challenging situations that they are not equipped to deal with nor should they deal with. Many of us have encountered individuals on the street, in libraries and in other public spaces who need help. Providing this type of help is critical and it should be at the top of everyone's list. Having these resources available in Libraries where nobody is turned away is the most effective way to disseminate these resources. This Motion by Supervisor Mitchell is a no-brainer -- the pilot worked; there is data to reflect its success until it was cut short during COVID. Let's reinstate this valuable program and get social workers where they are most needed -- in our public Libraries.
			Melody Taylor Stark	
			Michael Che	Our libraries desperately need this support, which will help people who are in need of mental care, and also take pressure off of librarians.
			Paul Stansbury	



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
7.		Favor	Reba Stevens	Subject: Strong Support for Motion to Enhance Library Services for Unhoused Patrons with Mental Health Needs I am writing to express my staunch support, for Supervisor Mitchell's motion regarding "Enabling County Libraries to Better Serve Their Unhoused Patrons." Los Angeles County libraries have become essential sanctuaries for a growing number of unhoused individuals; too many of them are struggling with mental health challenges. The data presented in the motion clearly illustrates the immense burden placed on library staff who are not equipped to manage these complex situations. The partnership between libraries and social workers yielded positive results. Social workers provide vital support, resources, and crisis intervention for unhoused people while also offering valuable training and guidance to library staff. Restoring this program, with modifications based on the lessons learned, is a critical step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of both patrons and staff. I urge the Board of Supervisors to approve this motion for social workers to connect our unhoused neighbors with essential services including housing assistance, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment. Reduce the burden on library staff. Alleviate the pressure and allow them to focus on their respected duties. Trained professionals can de-escalate unwarranted situations, and this will ensure a safe environment for everyone! I am excited that this motion will identify high needs. Investing in social worker support in our libraries is not only cost effective with a compassionate approach but it is most needed for our vulnerable neighbors. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Reba Stevens, Mental Health Commissioner, SD 2
			Ricardo M Pulido	Good morning Honorable LA County Board Members: My name is Rick Pulido I'm a Mental health Advocate & Organizer. I'm totally in favor of this motion for the following reasons: Our Library staff are doing a great job providing resources for the Unhoused/Homeless and need the support of DMH/Clinicians & Social workers on site on a regular drop in service basis! Please approve this vital motion! Thank you, B. o S. from the community.... peace, Ricardo Pulido & family Advocate/Voice of the Community....rp
			Rose Mitchell	I strongly support providing our county libraries with mental health clinicians to help the thousands of people experiencing homelessness who find County libraries to be a safe harbor. Thank you Supervisor Mitchell and Hahn for recognizing that Our libraries provide a safe place from extreme heat and cold weather and physical safety for the unhoused, the library staff also provide a welcoming and supportive environment where unhoused patrons can read, use restrooms, charge their phones and more. We cannot place all this burden on our librarians. We need to help them with resources and mental health specialists so they can focus their energy on library tasks they are assigned while our unhoused neighbors receive the care they need. Please vote yes on this important motion today!"
			Stephanie DeVore	Support for item 7.

		The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:		
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
7.		Favor	Tiyonia Morgan	
			Valerie Ribinson	
		Oppose	Paul Charles C Burt	Bearing in mind that no professionally conducted psychiatric and or psychological assessment services have been conducted - for determining the TRUE "mental state" of vagrants drifting about Los Angeles County - this "great idea" strikes me as another in a growing line of taxpayer fund waste. When someone walks into an Los Angeles County library, and said person is acting strangely, wildly, or otherwise out of control, whose to say the person just isn't loaded on fentanyl, alcohol, or some other illicit substance, substance(s) they were able to procure do to the enabling of County Officials by way of taxpayer provided funding. This cycle of waste needs to stop, and stop now! Not only has the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors let down their "unannounced neighbors" by not conducting professional psychiatric and psychological assessments of the taxpayer fund beneficiaries drifting about our streets sidewalks alleyways beaches and parks, but the blatant disservice to the taxpayers carries on by such negligence....
		Other	Ana R Arias	
		Item Total	18	
Grand Total			18	

September 23, 2024

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

As Secretary of the Board for the Los Angeles County Library Foundation, I am writing on behalf of myself and the undersigned board members and executive director to express our strong support for the motion titled “Enabling County Libraries to Better Serve Their Unhoused Patrons.” Los Angeles County Public Libraries are not just repositories of books—they are vital community hubs that serve as pathways to imagination, citizenship, and greater engagement with our diverse county. Our libraries have earned national recognition for their innovative programs and commitment to inclusivity, and they continue to be a source of pride and inspiration for the communities they serve.

However, we must acknowledge the reality that many community members who are in dire need of help also rely on our libraries. For some, these spaces are a refuge—a place to find not only knowledge but also safety and a sense of belonging. Unfortunately, this creates a complex situation where the needs of unhoused patrons and the general public can sometimes seem at odds. We have a collective responsibility to address these challenges with both compassion and practical solutions that do not pit one group against another.

Our dedicated library staff strive every day to maintain an environment that is welcoming and safe for all visitors. But it is unreasonable to expect them to act as social workers without the appropriate resources and training. They are doing everything in their power, yet the scope and complexity of the issues they face exceed what should be asked of any library professional. It is imperative that the County steps in to support these efforts by providing the specialized help that is needed.

The motion put forward by Supervisor Mitchell is a necessary and compassionate response to this need. By identifying high-need libraries and exploring the feasibility of assigning clinicians and/or licensed social workers to these locations, the County can provide critical support that allows our libraries to continue their essential work. This motion not only seeks to address immediate needs but also sets a model for how other communities can thoughtfully and effectively respond to similar challenges.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to approve this motion and demonstrate that Los Angeles County is committed to addressing the complex needs of all its residents with both brilliance and compassion.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

With Gratitude,

Amy Wiwuga

Secretary, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Katherine Hennigan Ohanesian

Chair, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

John Erickson, PhD

Chair, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Albert John Donner

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Shelbi Augustus

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Stephanie DeVore

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

David A Ford

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Brandon Hoffman

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Joanne Kumamoto

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Laura Zahn Rosenthal, PhD

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Jake Stevens

Director, LA County Library Foundation Board of Directors

Andrea Carroll

Executive Director, LA County Library Foundation



The South Bay's Voice on Mental Illness

September 24, 2024

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

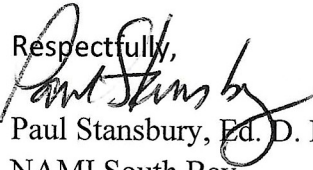
Re: Item 7- Motion n Enabling County Libraries to Better Serve Their Unhoused

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the members of NAMI South Bay I am submitting comments to support the approval of Item 7 on Enabling County Libraries to better Serve their Unhouse Patrons with mental health clinicians to help the thousands of people experiencing homelessness who survive by finding respite and safety in our County libraries. Our NAMI South Bay programs look forward to working with the libraries to address the mental health needs of our South Bay communities. From our support groups and programs we know about the need and importance of this type of effort.

Thank you Supervisors Mitchell and Hahn for recognizing that Our libraries provide a safe place from extreme heat and cold weather and physical safety for the unhoused, the library staff also provide a welcoming and supportive environment where unhoused patrons can read, use restrooms, charge their phones and more. We cannot place all this burden on our librarians. We need to help them with resources and mental health specialists so they can focus their energy on library tasks they are assigned while our unhoused neighbors receive the care they need. Please vote yes on this important motion today!

Respectfully,


Paul Stansbury, Ed. D. President
NAMI South Bay