



**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**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
22.		<b>Favor</b>	Daymond R Johnson	This a common since move and I support this item. we have for to long relied on LAHSA to help with our homeless population and we not see results. Dr. Kellum has done a good job since taking over but this is a long time coming



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22.		<b>Favor</b>	Heather Varden	<p>Good afternoon, My name is Heather, and I'm a proud employee at LAHSA, represented by SEIU Local 721. I want to begin by recognizing the incredible work of the LAHSA team. Many of us not only serve the unhoused community but have also experienced homelessness ourselves. Our lived experience allows us to connect with those we serve in ways that are truly invaluable. We've been on the front lines of this crisis, and we cannot allow this proposed restructuring to displace those who have given so much in the fight to end homelessness. The recently released feasibility report claims there has been "ongoing" consultation between the County and SEIU Local 721. However, as someone directly impacted, I can tell you that this consultation has not included union stewards or the workers who will be most affected. Many of us have been left completely in the dark about what's going on. We demand that further discussions include SEIU, LAHSA employees, and union stewards, who are essential voices in representing worker concerns and ensuring transparency in this process.</p> <p><b>TENURE AND REPRESENTATION</b> It is crucial that no LAHSA worker be required to compete, reapply, or retake tests for their position in the new County entity. We have already demonstrated our skills, dedication, and expertise in our current roles. We've proven our value and should not be subjected to unnecessary hurdles just to keep our jobs.</p> <p>While we understand the County's goal of improving homeless services, it is essential that any transition prioritizes the stability and experience of the current workforce. The dedication and institutional knowledge of LAHSA employees are invaluable in continuing to serve the community effectively. Moreover, all workers must retain their union representation under SEIU 721. We have fought hard to protect our rights, wages, and working conditions, and we expect these protections to continue. Our years of service and tenure must be recognized, without being reset by a new probationary period. Our dedication to this work should not be erased.</p> <p><b>STABILITY AND CONTINUITY</b> The need for stability in our workforce is paramount. LAHSA employees, especially those on the front lines, like the Homeless Engagement Teams—provide essential services to our most vulnerable residents. We've been there through emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires, risking our own health and safety to bring people inside and protect them. Any transition must not jeopardize our livelihoods or the trust we've built with those we serve. The unhoused residents of LA County cannot afford to lose the expertise, commitment, and lived experience of LAHSA employees. We are open to meeting with the County CEO to discuss a transition plan that protects workers and ensures no disruption to the essential services we provide. If we cannot guarantee the protection of our rights through this transition, we should pause the process and explore alternative solutions that safeguard both workers and the vulnerable communities we serve.</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
22.		<b>Favor</b>	helen M eigenberg	
			Hernan G Molina	The City of West Hollywood supports the motion by Chair Barger and Supervisor Horvath to establish a County Homeless Department.
			Steven Tran	By creating a Department of Homelessness, the County will be more accountable to the voters who passed Measure A and expect results. Streamlining LAHSA and creating a new, consolidated County department will provide the County with the opportunity to create a functional and accountable infrastructure responsible for implementing a countywide response to homelessness. This is a chance for the County to learn from past mistakes and build a system of care that is set up to succeed and better serve those in need. The County Department will offer a transparent, efficient system overseen by one entity, directly responsible to the Board of Supervisors and held accountable to clearly defined performance-based outcomes. It will also help to ensure that all 88 cities are a part of the solution to homelessness, that providers are paid on time, and that the homeless system is responsible to the needs of all stakeholders. I urge the Board to vote yes on Item 22.
		<b>Oppose</b>	Anonymous Worker	I'm submitting this comment in strong opposition to the proposal for Los Angeles County to create a new department to absorb responsibilities currently managed by LAHSA.  This proposal is not a real solution—it's a distraction. Creating another county department will only add layers of bureaucracy, divert funding away from frontline services, and further fragment a system that desperately needs coordination, not duplication.  In fact, we've already seen what works—and what gets in the way.  In 2019, LA County launched a system that gave stakeholders like DMH, CalFresh, and other County agencies the ability to work together and reduce the fragmentation that delays housing people. This was in line with Assembly Bill 210, which became effective in January 2018 and created section 18999.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. AB 210 authorized multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) to share confidential information across agencies to expedite assessment and linkage to housing and services.  When COVID hit, those systems came to life. Barriers that previously took years to resolve were bypassed overnight. Agencies collaborated. Data was shared. People were housed quickly because coordination finally became a priority—not a paperwork issue. But once the emergency passed, the roadblocks returned.  Instead of creating an entirely new department, we should be expanding and



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				<p>enforcing tools like AB 210 and continuing to build cross-department coordination. We don't need to wait on another piece of legislation or a state of emergency to do what's already permitted—and effective.</p> <p>Here are real solutions LA County and LAHSA should focus on:</p> <p><b>Invest in System Integration and Accountability, Not Fragmentation</b> AB 210 gave us a legal framework to share information and work collaboratively to serve our most vulnerable. The County already started building on this in 2019—yet five years later, the system still isn't fully adopted. Every department and provider should be trained on it and using it consistently. We need more of this, not less—more MDTs, more real-time collaboration, and more enforcement of existing coordination structures. We must stop waiting for legislation to do what's already within our power.</p> <p><b>Fund Frontline Services, Not Administrative Bloat</b> Our tax dollars need to go where they're needed most: to the people living in encampments, shelters, and temporary housing. That means supporting case managers, housing navigators, behavioral health teams, and rental assistance—not new six-figure salaries for more management roles that don't move the needle.</p> <p><b>Preserve and Prioritize Affordable Housing</b> The true crisis is in retention and supply. We're losing affordable housing units every month, and without urgent policy changes and preservation efforts, no new department will change that reality. We need to focus our resources on keeping people stably housed, not building a new department from scratch.</p> <p><b>Fix Policy Bottlenecks and Strengthen Partnerships</b> We need streamlined contracting, consistent performance standards, and shared tools—along with strong, accountable leadership that knows how to foster collaboration, not competition.</p> <p>We don't need a new department. We need to fix what we already started, empower those on the frontlines, and commit to long-term, coordinated solutions. Please reject this proposal and invest in progress, not more paperwork.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
		<b>Other</b>	Carey Grier	<p>Say that BOS want to hear from Constituents as I personally have experienced homelessness in the past more than once. While in the past had been an CHW with LACDMH and other fellow peers. When was invited to speak before the BOS on my experience of homelessness. Was denied by program mgmt. Experienced homelessness in the past with a parent whom is a veteran. Including other family members. Crickets from within if you're an employee and experiencing homelessness no support, resources or anything. I no longer work for LACDMH to care for my parent whom is a veteran.</p> <p>I've heard from individuals that there's such a turn over rate amongst these agencies that you don't find out anything for awhile. Starting all over from square one. Brilliant Corners - I've also heard the complaints regarding high turn over clients don't hear back from anyone for a long period of time. Also there's property owners just don't want to deal with all that Bureaucracy from</p>

			agencies. There's no follow up house individuals and families and leave them hanging dry.
		Dennis Feitosa	
		Sarah Rascon	
		Sarah Rascon	
		Wendy Wang	<p>Sycamores strongly supports the Board of Supervisors' goal to establish "a functional and accountable infrastructure responsible for the implementation of a countywide response to homelessness". We also want to see improvements in the continua of care to ensure timely response, services and supports to residents in need. The creation of a new department and the magnitude of shifts envisioned must continue to be done carefully and in a thoughtful manner and with full understanding of the implications across all county departments/units and impacts on the stakeholders.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing the comprehensive fiscal and budgetary landscape of the existing funding streams that may be transitioned to this new proposed department. Under the Directive, steps #5 and #6 (referencing page 5 and 6 of the motion) are especially important; the comprehensive budgetary analysis of the current funding streams that may be transitioned to the new department must be shared with stakeholders.</p> <p>Lastly, Sycamores appreciates the language in the motion calling for ongoing meaningful engagement with stakeholders and the steps proposed to prevent, as much as possible, disruptions to the financial payments delivered to nonprofit service providers or disruptions to the vital services provided to residents.</p>
		<b>Item Total</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>11</b>



# City of West Hollywood

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## **CITY COUNCIL**

CHELSEA LEE BYERS  
*Mayor*

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*Councilmember*

March 28, 2025

Hon. Kathryn Barger, Chair  
Hon. Lindsey P. Horvath  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **Board Agenda item #22: Implementing the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Report Recommendation No. 1 (Establish a County Entity Dedicated to Homeless Service Delivery) and No. 3 (Streamlined LAHSA) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Barger and Supervisor Horvath,

The City of West Hollywood supports your proposal to establish a new County Department dedicated to serving people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. As currently organized, the system for delivering services to the above-referenced population is ineffective.

In 2017, and in response to our community's demand for a more robust, local response to chronic homelessness, the City of West Hollywood launched its own Homeless Initiative (HI). The initiative has worked collaboratively with the County's HI and other Westside Cities to address homelessness in West Hollywood and at a regional level. As part of the City's commitment to end homelessness in West Hollywood, the City initially committed more than \$1 million in funding to retain the services of local agencies to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

The streamlining of systems and the consolidation of human and other needed resources under the oversight of one County Department will maximize operational efficiencies, increase transparency and bolster accountability by having dedicated, experienced leadership at the Department's helm.

The City of West Hollywood appreciates your leadership and thanks both you and your colleagues for tackling this important issue in such a bold and innovative manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Byers', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chelsea Lee Byers

**MAYOR**

C: Hon Hilda Solis, Supervisor 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Hon Hollie Mitchell, Supervisor 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Hon Janice Hahn, Supervisor 4<sup>th</sup> District



April 1, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Street, Room 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Items 18 and 22, proposals for establishment of a county homeless services department; restructuring of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)**

Dear Chair Barger and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

By turning away from the old way of doing things over the last two years, we have united the City and the County by delivering a 10% decline in street homelessness in L.A. City – the first decrease in homelessness in many years. While homelessness rises across the country, we are driving it down and have dispelled the myth that people want to live on the streets – saving lives and restoring neighborhoods. We locked arms, each declaring a state of emergency, and have moved with unprecedented urgency. We are making forward movement. We must keep building on this and confronting our challenges, together.

Today as the Board of Supervisors considers going backwards into a silo by dismantling the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA), we ask you to keep in mind how we got here. In the 1980s and 90s there were a series of lawsuits on behalf of unhoused Angelenos alleging that they were restricted from accessing County services. LAHSA was born out of a fragmented City and County system that was siloed and broken. Although it is clear that the joint powers authority has not lived up to its promise, it is also clear that an isolated approach has not worked – and produced even more dire results. Time and



time again, when confronting our homelessness crisis, instead of focusing on people, officials focus on infrastructure. In this move replacing one bureaucracy with another, history repeats itself.

Dismantling LAHSA will deprive the City of Los Angeles of essential resources, including recent voter-approved Measure A funding, and would severely stunt the City's ability to oversee existing programs that provide holistic solutions to individuals with complex needs. Real people rely on these resources every day and this move puts that life-saving care in jeopardy. This action would create a monumental disruption in the progress we are making and runs the serious risk of worsening our homelessness crisis, not ending it. It will signal a surrender that street homelessness is a permanent fixture in Los Angeles – and as leaders here in the City, we disagree with that assumption.

Instead, we believe that we must work together on this issue. Homelessness is not only a housing issue; it is tied to physical, mental, and behavioral health. The current City-County partnership through the Joint Powers Authority of LAHSA is meant to reflect the fact that our jurisdictions have vast overlap, with the significant majority of people experiencing homelessness in the County of Los Angeles residing within the borders of the City of Los Angeles. The only way we can solve homelessness is through an integrated approach - one that aligns homeless services with housing and includes health and social services. This integrated approach inherently requires an enhanced partnership between the City and County.

The Executive Committee for Regional Homelessness Alignment is a crucial tool for driving collaboration, setting shared goals, and ensuring coordinated decision-making. This committee should play a central role in developing a unified strategic plan with measurable goals, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing data transparency across agencies. Clear definitions of LAHSA's decision-making authority will ensure alignment between the City and County, prevent duplication and enhance accountability. As the City continues to navigate how to respond to the County's potential dismantling of LAHSA, collaboration with the City, and any other entity that may be created, will be necessary to ensure transparent resource allocation, performance evaluations, and public trust in the system is maintained.

The City of Los Angeles represents 60% of Los Angeles County's homeless population, and we have invested in tens of thousands of shelters and permanent housing units for the homeless – your decision will have an impact that is impossible to overstate. The City must be a full and equal partner in any future decisions that will impact our ability to get people off the streets.

As LAHSA is a joint powers authority, your vote today is not just about transitioning to a new County Department of Homelessness, it is also about the County unilaterally changing how the City and County work together to address homelessness. As you consider this decision, we urge you to keep working with the City to reimagine a homelessness system that truly puts unhoused people first with an eye towards ending the homelessness crisis. We must go forward, not backwards – and we will press on with meaningful and necessary reforms that enhance accountability, improve outcomes, and ultimately end homelessness across our region.

We know that our shared goal at the end of the day is to help people off the street for good. We look forward to continuing that work together.

Sincerely,



KAREN BASS  
Mayor



NITHYA RAMAN  
Chair, Housing and Homelessness Committee