



**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
Public Comment		Other	Monisha Parker	<p>The term "Homeless Industrial Complex" is a critical phrase used to describe the network of government agencies, non-profit organizations, contractors, and service providers that profit from homelessness funding in Los Angeles County—often with little accountability for reducing homelessness itself.</p> <p>Key Aspects of the Homeless Industrial Complex in LA County</p> <p>1. Massive Spending, Minimal Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA County and the City of Los Angeles have spent billions on homelessness (e.g., Measure H, Proposition HHH), yet homelessness has continued to rise. • Critics argue that funds are absorbed by bureaucracy, high salaries, and administrative costs rather than effective solutions like permanent housing. <p>2. Non-Profit & Contractor Dependence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many homelessness services are outsourced to non-profits and private contractors, some of which have been accused of inefficiency or mismanagement. • Reports (e.g., from the LA Controller or LAHSA audits) have found cases of wasteful spending and lack of transparency. <p>3. Incentivizing Temporary Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system often prioritizes shelters and "interim housing" (which keeps people in the homelessness system) over permanent affordable housing. • Some activists argue that keeping people homeless ensures continued funding for service providers. <p>4. Political & Bureaucratic Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected officials, advocacy groups, and agencies (e.g., LAHSA—Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) benefit from the perception of "fighting homelessness" without delivering measurable declines in homelessness. • Some policies (like "Housing First" without sufficient housing supply) are seen as ideological rather than practical. <p>5. Corruption & Mismanagement Cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scandals like "Skid Row Now & Then" (non-profit fraud) and audits showing misuse of funds have fueled distrust. • Developers and landlords sometimes exploit subsidies without providing long-term solutions. <p>Critics vs. Defenders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critics (like activists, journalists, and some politicians) say the system is broken, bloated, and rewards failure. • Defenders argue that homelessness is a complex crisis requiring sustained investment and that systemic underfunding (not corruption) is the real issue.



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Bottom Line

The "Homeless Industrial Complex" critique highlights how LA's homelessness response may be more about managing homelessness than ending it—with many stakeholders financially benefiting from the crisis continuing.

Ending the "Homeless Industrial Complex" in Los Angeles County requires dismantling the bureaucratic inefficiencies, profiteering, and systemic failures that perpetuate homelessness rather than solving it. Here's a strategic approach:

1. Audit & Defund Ineffective Nonprofits & Contracts

Demand transparency: Require nonprofits receiving public funds (e.g., through LAHSA) to disclose spending, outcomes, and executive salaries.
Redirect funds: Shift money from bloated administrative overhead to direct housing solutions (e.g., tiny homes, modular housing).
Performance-based funding: Only renew contracts for organizations that prove measurable reductions in homelessness.

2. Streamline Bureaucracy & Cut Red Tape

Consolidate agencies: LAHSA, HACLA, and other overlapping entities should be merged or restructured to eliminate waste.
Fast-track housing: Reduce permitting delays for shelters, supportive housing, and affordable units.
Reform CEQA: Limit lawsuits that block homeless housing projects under environmental pretexts.

3. Prioritize Permanent Housing Over Temporary Solutions

Expand "Housing First": Focus on permanent supportive housing rather than costly shelters that cycle people back onto the streets.
Convert vacant properties: Use eminent domain or incentives to repurpose empty hotels, motels, and commercial spaces.
Tiny home villages: Rapidly deploy cost-effective, dignified transitional housing with wraparound services.

4. Enforce Accountability & Public Safety

Ban encampments near schools & shelters: Enforce laws against public drug use and crime while offering real housing alternatives.
Mandate treatment for severe cases: Expand conservatorships for mentally ill and addicted individuals who cannot care for themselves.
Crack down on fraud: Investigate nonprofits and contractors misusing funds meant for homeless services.

5. Address Root Causes: Affordability & Mental Health

Upzone for density: Allow more affordable housing near transit and jobs.
Expand mental health & addiction services: Fund county psychiatric beds and

				<p>sober living facilities. Preventative measures: Strengthen eviction protections and rental assistance to stop people from becoming homeless.</p> <p>6. Public Pressure & Political Will Demand audits: Support investigations (e.g., by the LA County Auditor-Controller) into homeless spending. Vote out complacent leaders: Hold officials accountable for failed policies. Mobilize community groups: Grassroots efforts (like People Concern or Ktown for All) can push for real reform.</p> <p>Key Obstacles to Overcome NIMBYism: Local resistance to shelters and housing. Corruption: Nonprofits and contractors benefiting from the status quo. Ideological gridlock: Debates over "criminalization" vs. "enabling" often stall action.</p> <p>Final Thought The Homeless Industrial Complex thrives on endless funding with little results. To dismantle it, LA must shift from managing homelessness to ending it through efficiency, housing-first policies, and ruthless accountability.</p>
		Item Total	1	
Grand Total			1	