

January 10, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS**

**Greater Los Angeles Youth Homeless Count 2023**

An estimated 2,822 young people in Los Angeles County on any given night experience homelessness according to the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Youth Count. This number, which includes both young adults ages 18 to 24 and unaccompanied children under 18, is a 40% decrease from 2020. Among these young people, 15% report current or previous involvement in the child welfare system and 68% report previous or current involvement in the juvenile or criminal justice systems.

These numbers derive from the annual Greater Los Angeles Youth Homeless Count (LA Youth Count). The LA Youth Count is administered differently than the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, but it is just as critical to ensuring that there is accurate and current data regarding one of our most vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness: youth. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), University of Southern California, youth service providers, and volunteers partner to complete this count yearly. It is important to note that the Omicron variant spike in Winter 2022 led to fewer transition aged youth surveys collected. This may have accounted for the substantial decrease in youth homelessness from 2020 to 2022. It is more important than ever to get an accurate tally of TAY in the 2023 homeless count.

While trying to survive on the streets, youth are exposed to countless dangers, with an

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increased likelihood of substance use, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and a vulnerability to being trafficked. Furthermore, being unhoused at a young age increases the risk of prolonged and chronic homelessness. These risks and the overwhelming harm to young people compel Los Angeles County to continue establishing stable housing for youth, as well as supportive connections to caring adults and access to services.

In addition to supporting the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, it is necessary to focus efforts and attention on the LA Youth Count to ensure young people are represented in estimates of those experiencing homelessness in our community. The longer someone is unsheltered the harder it becomes to obtain permanent housing. It is crucial that we count youth experiencing homelessness to identify the causes of youth homelessness and connect youth to services. Ultimately, this data should inform the County's homeless services system to eliminate youth homelessness.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors: 1. Proclaim the Greater Los Angeles Youth Homeless Count (LA Youth Count) from January 21 to January 31, 2023; 2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in partnership with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), to encourage County employees to volunteer for the LA Youth Count.

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