

MOTION

There are numerous causes and ongoing contributors to the region's homelessness crisis. A substantial and longstanding, but historically under-recognized component of this political, social, and economic failure is the relationship and interplay between carceral systems and homelessness.

Systems involvement can be a major driver into homelessness — research indicates that individuals who have been previously incarcerated are upward of ten times more likely to fall into homelessness than the rest of the population, whether as a result of reduced job opportunities, housing discrimination, or severed social connections with friends and loved ones. Those who are unhoused are then more likely to have additional engagement with law enforcement and carceral systems, pushing personal stability even further out of reach.

As of July 1, 2023, 26% of the nearly 14,000 Angelenos currently held in custody by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) were unhoused prior to their detention; for female-identifying incarcerated individuals, 36% of them lacked stable housing prior to entering the carceral system. These facts render the Sheriff's Department as one of the single largest de-facto homeless shelter providers in the county.

The 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count further magnifies this crisis within a crisis. Of the 44,060 unsheltered individuals residing at that time within the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, 70% had experience with the criminal justice system, with over 28,000 individuals — 64% of unsheltered individuals — having spent time in jail.

While the City of Los Angeles has no formal control over the relevant county and state agencies that oversee sentencing, incarceration, or re-entry services, there is still a major role that it can play — both in its control of pre-arraignment detention and its inclusion in the joint powers agreement (JPA) overseeing the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) — in fostering increased regional collaboration between the homeless response and carceral systems, and ensuring that municipal policies are not perpetuating outcomes that either contribute to more Angelenos falling into homelessness or keeping them trapped in cycles of instability.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), with requested input from LAPD, the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (LAC-HI), Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Gender Responsive Advisory Committee (GRAC), Los Angeles County Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department (JCOD), Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), TransLatin@ Coalition, HOPICS-SSG, A New Way of Life, and the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP), report back within 120 days on the status of jail in-reach programs, the level of engagement and service connection with PEH as they move through the justice and carceral systems, the degree of coordination between law enforcement

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and homeless services when PEH exit carceral settings, recommendations for how to increase coordination, and the rate of warm hand-offs;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) report back within 120 days on annual data since 2018 concerning the number of People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) held within the Department's custody and the number of arrests of PEH, with a breakdown by type of crime, average length of time held by type of crime, and average amount of fees associated with the crime; the number of crimes committed against PEH; and starting in 2024, for this data to be published annually;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to report back within 120 days on annual statistics since 2018 on the number of PEH served and what metrics are used in serving PEH for each of the following programs: Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART), Clean Slate, LA DOOR, and Project Lead, an analysis of whether there are any significant PEH subpopulations that are not currently being served by programs administered by the office of the City Attorney, and recommendations on the coordination necessary with law enforcement entities to engage and divert PEH towards community based solutions and programs earlier on or before their systems involvement;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), with requested input from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), to report back within 120 days on the criminal background requirements, if any, tied to the major federal, state, and regional funding sources for affordable and supportive housing development;

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council direct LAHSA to report back within 120 days on the role criminal background checks play in the supportive housing tenant matching and lease up process, and to provide recommendations on improving integration of record clearing/expungement programs earlier in the process.

PRESENTED BY:


Eunisses Hernández
Councilwoman, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



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