

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** For 40 years now, PATH has proudly partnered with the City to bring thousands of our neighbors home every year. In the spirit of that partnership, we wish we could come to you with a better outlook, but you are owed the plain truth: these bed rates put us on track for closing three sites and several hundred beds by the end of the fiscal year. For many years, PATH, like other providers, heeded the call of our elected leaders to jump into the breach even while bed rates fell short of the actual cost of service provision. We tolerated this disparity because we feel compelled to serve, and because LAHSA was able to make us whole via underspend elsewhere in the system. That model is inherently unsustainable. As we experienced this year, the City and County's renewed urgency, while welcome, stretched our and LAHSA's capacity past the breaking point. More importantly, consistently low bed rates constrained our ability to pay and support frontline staff like they deserve. Burning out staff destabilizes our shelter residents, limiting each site's throughput to permanent housing. To be crystal clear: we are already compensating the City out of our own reserves to offer adequate services, safety, and nutrition. We are already in discussion with multiple Council offices about demobilizing sites in their districts. Continued underfunding will mean the City has hundreds of fewer beds by the end of this fiscal year, both a moral tragedy and a legal liability. From our fiscal standpoint, committing to \$89/night by January at least allows us to remain open, although it is still far from the rates recommended in the Abt report. As always, we remain an eager partner to advise on potential solutions and are grateful for your partnership. Thank you.