

Communication from Public

Name: Lizeth Hernandez

Date Submitted: 03/20/2024 08:09 AM

Council File No: 23-0670-S2

Comments for Public Posting: One of Los Angeles County's largest housing and social services agencies, The People Concern is an expert in connecting with people on the streets, bringing them inside and then keeping them inside. The People Concern's programmatic principles are centered on housing first, trauma-informed care, and harm reduction. We provide and connect our clients to substance use treatment options, and harm reduction is a vital component of the continuum of care as we accompany clients on their journey to pursue greater health – especially with accidental overdose being a leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. Through a harm reduction approach to long-term wellness, we work with all program participants, regardless of where they are in their recovery process. We support the CLA's recommendations in the Opioid and Tobacco Settlement report for an annual process to review available settlement funds and explore potential uses. This proactive, planful approach will help effectively deploy much needed resources to combat the opioid epidemic, keep community members safe, and give people the support they need, while also providing the opportunity to pilot and adjust as needed as circumstances on the ground evolve. We urge the City to deploy these vital resources as quickly as possible to support our community members in crisis.