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HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

## MOTION

On February 28, 2025, the County of Los Angeles (County) Homeless Initiative (HI) released a report in response to the County Board of Supervisors' motion to report on next steps to implement the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Report Recommendation No. 1 to establish a new County Department dedicated solely to serving people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. The County motion also instructed the HI to report on streamlining responsibilities of Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) by pulling all County funding from LAHSA and having them only retain the function of being the Continuum of Care lead.

The County HI report includes three phases of implementing the recommendations of the Blue-Ribbon Commission's report on establishing a department for homelessness services. The Report states that Phase I of the implementation plan would establish a consolidated County department by July 1, 2025 which would merge the County's Housing for Health program and Homeless Initiative. Phase II of the plan would transfer LAHSA funding and related staff to the new department by July 1, 2026. Phase III would include the integration of programs and services from all other County departments beyond HI and Housing for Health.

As the County contemplates these plans to transition funding from LAHSA and create an in-house homeless services department, there will be impacts to the homelessness services in the entire region, but especially on the City. LAHSA has been operating in the region as the administrator of City, County, State, and federal funding sources. It is imperative to understand what the implications of LAHSA losing a large part of their funding, if the County approves the plan in the HI Report. The City needs to do an independent analysis on how the homeless response system would be impacted as a whole, how the City's programs would be impacted, and alternative organizational solutions for the City. It will be important to evaluate what options the City has if the County were to take this step. The City will need to determine whether an agreement needs to be made with the County if it assumes the role of the administrator of the homelessness services system, instead of LAHSA, whether LAHSA should continue to administer programs for the City, or whether the City should administer its own programs, for example. These options become particularly important if County becomes the entity that holds all data on homeless services Countywide, or alters service requirements that are not consistent with City needs, or establishes criteria for the distribution of resources in a way that disadvantage homeless residents in the City.

The County's actions call into question the jurisdictional relationships of the region's Homelessness Response System, including the role and need for all of its institutional components, including LAHSA, the Continuum of Care, and other organizing bodies, as well as service providers, health care providers, educational institutions, philanthropy, and all of the other participants in the system. The City must be prepared to engage with the changes that may emerge in the system to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are not harmed by changes in administrative systems and that the City's resources are able to help them.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer to report on the implications of the establishment of a new County Department for homelessness and its impacts on the City's homelessness contracts with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; and

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**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Council instruct the CLA and the CAO to report on options for pathways the City can take if the County were to establish the department, especially in terms of coordinating services, sharing data, and managing a regional homelessness response system without the participation of LAHSA.

PRESENTED BY:

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SECONDED BY:

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