

MOTION

The City must consolidate and focus its efforts to address homelessness. That the City’s homelessness policy is currently dispersed among its many departments, bureaus, agencies, and offices makes it impossible for the City to apply lessons learned from successful approaches, and to eliminate unsuccessful ones. Further, the diffusion of the City’s policy response across so many entities prevents the development of extensive, coordinated knowledge and experience among City staff.

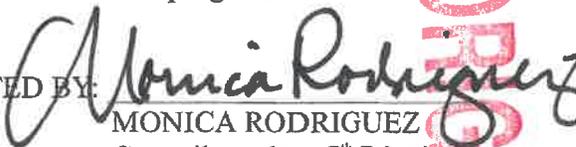
The City needs to apply lessons learned from programs such as the Paxton-Bradley Encampment Resolution, the CD-7 RV Pilot Program, as well as from similar such programs piloted across the City, in order to bring about better results for the City’s Homelessness Response System as a whole. However, systemic factors pose challenges to institutionalizing these or any new models governing the City’s \$1.3 Billion investment into its homelessness response.

Currently, the City Administrative Officer (CAO), the Housing Department (LAHD), and the Mayor’s Office each dedicate significant staff time and City resources to coordinating and managing overlapping homelessness interventions. While the CAO and Mayor’s Office engage more in service coordination and delivery of services, LAHD administers the City’s contractual relationship with LAHSA. Within this system, determined efforts to evaluate City-funded homelessness programs often run aground, as the providers of services produce irregular and imprecise reporting on contractually-obligated metrics and outcomes. In effect, this system has placed a barrier between City oversight and the service provision occurring under the auspices of City funding. Further, monthly revisions to programs and budgets result in on-going, exhaustive contract amendments that slash departmental capacity to monitor contract compliance.

Overall, City departments are tasked with managing individual components of the City’s homelessness response but are removed from actual program delivery. The City Clerk holds contracts on behalf of Council Offices related to homeless-outreach efforts within respective Districts. The CAO holds contracts related to Citywide, geographically diffuse, Street Medicine efforts. The Department of General Services holds contracts on behalf of the Mayor’s Office related to Booking and Occupancy Agreements for Inside Safe. Likewise, the Mayor’s Office holds contracts related to Citywide unarmed response on behalf of City departments tasked with public safety. In each case, the City’s designated contract holder is not positioned to monitor the activities and performance of the service providers doing the work on the ground, nor are these efforts managed and coordinated as a comprehensive, holistic response.

To ensure effective program development and delivery, the City must standardize its practices, and centralize program development and monitoring of its Homelessness Response System. To that end, the City must authorize a single entity to assume these responsibilities, in a manner that ensures the City’s ability to hold all elements of the system accountable.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, to investigate the creation of a Department, responsive to both the Council and the Mayor, and responsible for development and management of the City’s homelessness programs.

PRESENTED BY:   
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SECONDED BY: 

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