

Communication from Public

Name: Tom Booth

Date Submitted: 01/17/2024 11:22 PM

Council File No: 12-1690-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Thank you for bringing this important issue to the council. Previously, as a psychiatric social worker at DMH, (now retired) we often had the ability to direct clients without housing to the Hope of the Valley reception center in Van Nuys who would then transport them to their shelter in Pacoima. This process actually would work surprisingly well even for clients in the West SFV. Instead in recent years we were advised to have clients contact 211 before 2pm to find shelter. I attempted this recently multiple times and have NEVER been successful in connecting clients to shelter this way. We need consistent location's identified in each and every Council District that can accommodate 100 people each night or more at winter shelters. These locations need to be planned and identified a year in advance. Finally, the actual winter shelter location process was much more helpful than "daily cross finger" method motel/hotel version, hoping for an open room, that was recently deployed. Homelessness is a policy decision made by people unaffected by the fear of ever losing their home.