

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dorit Dowler-Guerrero, MPA

**Date Submitted:** 11/12/2023 10:42 PM

**Council File No:** 23-1245

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly urge the Council to pass 23-1245. From 1985 to 2016 I worked in social services, most of that time for homeless services agencies in Los Angeles, Pasadena and Compton as a front-line worker or the manager of front-line workers. I never made more the \$55,000.00 a year. I was one of the lucky ones, in the 1980's State College was affordable and so were apartments in Los Angeles. In 1997, with the help of 1st time home buyer programs, my husband, an artist and me case manager, were able to buy a home in Silver Lake. Regrettable today that is not the case. Social workers are buried under student debt, no one can afford an apartment and no way can they buy a home. Heck some homeless services workers are one step away from homeless themselves! The high turnover makes getting people into housing much harder and leads to people staying homeless longer. A typical case manager has about 40 people on their case load. When that employee leaves homeless services to get a job that can pay the rent, those 40 people are, if they are lucky, shuffled to other overworked case managers. More likely they are left without a case manager at all. When they final get a new case manager, the housing process starts all over again. Not only does this hurt the unhoused person, it winds up costing the City money. Working with people experiencing homelessness is one of the hardest jobs around. It takes a very special person to do this work. The least the City can do is pay these workers a living wage.