

BB

TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED

#55

MOTION

Council District 11 is a regional gateway, drawing tens of thousands of visitors every year to its coastline and other amenities. Millions of people enter through Los Angeles International Airport, and the Westside serves as the terminus for the region's roadways and public transit. According to a 2023 Metro Survey, nearly 600 homeless riders exit nightly when train service is completed and end up sleeping on local sidewalks, parks, and building alcoves. According to the Metro survey, 59 unhoused individuals were observed gathering at the end of the E (Expo) Line in Santa Monica. The daily inflow of unhoused people into Council District 11 and the Westside from other parts of the region, state, and beyond is untenable. Shelter and interim housing beds are already at capacity with long waiting lists, and local service providers and non-profits are not able to meet even the current demand.

This challenge was underscored in April 2024 when an unhoused individual who had arrived in Los Angeles from out of state only days before, experienced a severe mental health/drug use crisis while living in a van in Venice. After residents called 911 about her threatening and erratic conduct, she led police on a miles-long vehicle pursuit, ultimately resulting in a wrong-way collision into stopped traffic on the 405 Freeway. Miraculously there were no fatalities, but she injured nine police officers and caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. Following the incident, it was revealed that the individual had refused multiple service attempts and that her out-of-state family had been looking for her. She has now been sentenced to an LA County based mental health diversion program, which will leave local taxpayers on the hook rather than her home-state.

Los Angeles has always had and will continue to lead with compassion when addressing its homelessness crisis, but the City cannot be responsible for providing housing and services to *everyone*. Our resources and tax dollars cannot sustain servicing, treating, housing, rehabilitating, or otherwise managing the side-effects of people who come to Los Angeles to live on our streets.

A holistic approach - one that mitigates the impact on City resources, service providers, and first responders - is required. This includes family reunification programs, which reconnects unhoused individuals who aren't from Los Angeles with family, friends, and other support networks - an approach that may have prevented the April 2024 episode that needlessly endangered lives. Other municipalities have successfully focused on family reunifications as part of their homelessness solutions. For example, the City of San Francisco's Homeward Bound program has successfully provided paid travel home for hundreds of homeless people seeking to return to their family, friends, or other support networks in their hometown.

Similarly, since 2006, West Coast Care, a Santa Monica-based non-profit, has successfully reunified homeless individuals in Council District 11 with family and friends across the nation, putting them on a pathway to long-term recovery, wellness and stability. Council District 11 would benefit from its services.

OCT 30 2024

I THEREFORE MOVE that \$25,000 from the General City Purposes Fund 100-56, Account 000625 (Additional Homeless Services - CD 11) be transferred to West Coast Care for homelessness related services in Council District 11.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Clerk be authorized to make any corrections, clarifications or revisions to the above fund transfer instructions, including any new instructions, in order to effectuate the intent of this Motion, and including any corrections and changes to fund or account numbers; said corrections / clarifications / changes may be made orally, electronically or by any other means.

PRESENTED BY: _____

Traci Park

TRACI PARK

Councilwoman, 11th District

SECONDED BY: _____

[Signature]

ORIGINAL