

SUBSTITUTE MOTION - ITEM 42

Tens of thousands of people living unhoused and unsheltered, in makeshift encampments on our sidewalks, under our bridges, and in our parks, is inhumane and intolerable. More than a 1000 unhoused people dying on our streets each year is shameful and barbaric.

People should not be living in encampments throughout Los Angeles, and it would be reasonable to prohibit sleeping and lying on our sidewalks -- if genuine alternatives were truly available and accessible. But they are not.

It is imperative that the City restore and maintain public use of the public rights of way, but it will never be able to do so legally or adequately without providing the housing, shelter and services to facilitate the transition of unhoused residents from the streets. To do so would require the following:.

Identified, tangible, and existing housing resources. The City cannot base policy on an assumed, projected, or hoped for inventory of housing and shelter. Many existing shelter resources are at capacity, or have restrictions that prohibit walk-ins, or limit access to individuals from nearby neighborhoods. The housing resource that is offered must be available immediately and long enough to provide assistance in developing a long-term housing plan.

A commitment to appropriate housing placements. A “one size fits all” offer of shelter is a demonstrated, proven failure. A woman fleeing domestic violence should not be placed in co-ed facilities. Transition-aged youth or families with children should not be placed in facilities that are predominantly used by single adults. People accepting housing or shelter should not be required to sacrifice their belongings or pets, or be separated from family members.

A real-time, accessible database of available housing and shelter. The lack of such a system makes it virtually impossible for city, county, or LAHSA employees to make a significant number of offers on the streets of same-day housing, shelter or services.

A commitment that housing, shelter or services will be offered by caseworkers. Any offer of services should be made by caseworkers who can make appropriate placements, and not by sworn officers. In Orange County, the protocol established with the input of unhoused residents and their advocates, under the direction of U.S. District Court Judge David O. Carter, requires housing and shelter placements be made after consultation with outreach professionals and after proper clinical assessments have been made to determine appropriate placements.

A commitment that housing, shelter and services will be provided, not merely offered. The City cannot simply “offer” a resource. It must provide transportation and

actual placement. In Orange County, appropriate placements consider an individual's ability to access medical appointments, outpatient programs, work and other support systems, and includes transportation to and from such services

Rather than repeatedly revisiting and trying unworkable and legally questionable enforcement proposals, the City must make significant and expanded efforts to actually help transition people out of encampments and into housing, shelter and service

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Attorney to detail what steps need to be taken, and by which agency, body, or person, to begin commandeering hotels and motels for use as homeless housing, and report back to the Council within 10 days.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in consultation with the City Administrative Officer, develop a plan for a significant expansion of Encampment to Homes programs, coupled with a significantly scaled-up City of Los Angeles Master Leasing program. Such programs could use a coordinated, concentrated, services-based approach to rapidly house residents of an entire encampment simultaneously, through readily available master leased units. The report should include cost and staffing estimates, and consider federal grants, COVID relief funds, state and County assistance, and reprogramming from other efforts that do not result in the rapid housing of unhoused individuals.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority detail, within 10 days, what is prohibiting the development and use of a broadly accessible app that would provide real-time information on available housing and shelter beds and how to access them, and detail resources required to develop it and make it available.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request that U.S. District Court Judge David O. Carter facilitate a settlement agreement between the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, unhoused residents and their advocates, the Alliance for Human Rights, and other parties as appropriate, similar to the settlement agreement he brokered in *Orange County Catholic Worker, et al, vs. Orange County, City of Costa Mesa, City of Anaheim & City of Orange*, which led to the housing of thousands of unhoused residents and left public rights of way free of encampments without a single arrest.

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