

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is opening hundreds of new interim housing placements and services consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding with Los Angeles County to make 6700 new interventions available under the proceedings in the L.A. Alliance federal case. People are accepting shelter and moving into safer, better living conditions with services to help them into permanent housing and restore their lives. Now they need better options for managing, storing or disposing of their belongings.

Currently the City works with LAHSA to sort belongings for people experiencing homelessness that have accepted shelter to determine what is hazardous and should be thrown away and what should be stored for the individual to reclaim later. This process addresses belongings that are left behind at an encampment and ensures that personal property not thrown away.

The belongings of unsheltered people are special to them, and concern for their things may prevent them from spending their nights in interim housing because they want to protect them. This undermines the effectiveness of programs while the City and County still pay for nightly services that may not be fully utilized by the person who is keeping one foot out the door with their encampment in the right of way.

Outreach workers and service providers are responsible for building a connection, trust, and supportive relationship with unsheltered Angelenos. This personal compassionate relationship should be extended to understanding and assisting an individual to manage their belongings. A lack of storage for large items, furniture, precious mementos, or other items should not become a barrier to housing. Management of these belongings should be handled as part of the intake process to housing.


Additionally, court cases that have limited the ability to remove belongings from the right of way protect unsheltered individuals who have nowhere else to keep their things. The belongings of housed or sheltered individuals may be treated differently when they are no longer living on the right of way.

There are many new projects coming on line to address homelessness in Council District three including a new bridge home shelter and two cabin communities. The addition of new beds for transitional housing brings the opportunity to change the current processes in place and try a new approach for dealing with the personal belongings of the people who will benefit from these new projects.

I THEREFORE MOVE that LAHSA and LASAN work with the local service providers in Council District 3 to develop a pilot storage program where residents at these facilities can store their excess belongings at local storage facilities to ensure a smooth transition from the street into temporary housing.

I FURTHER MOVE that CAO and CLA be requested to identify sources of funding and any necessary contract amendments to implement this pilot program.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, District Three

SECONDED BY:





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