

MOTION

In response to the growing homelessness epidemic, Los Angeles voters in November 2016 overwhelmingly approved Prop HHH, a \$1.2 billion bond measure to help fund housing for the unhoused population with a goal of 10,000 new units. Now, after four years and construction complete on less than 1,000 units, the question the City now faces is how to stretch the funds so that the goal of 10,000 constructed units is kept, and even surpassed.

Given the severity of the City's homelessness crisis, the issue is not whether the City should invest in supportive housing using Prop HHH funds, the issue is whether the City should almost exclusively pursue an approach that frequently costs more than \$550,000 per unit and takes up to six years to complete. The City needs a more strategic and flexible approach to utilize the remaining Prop HHH funds.

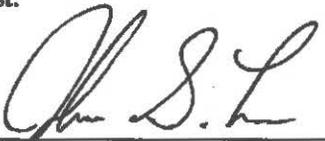
In 2019, the City Council set aside \$120 million of Prop HHH funds as an incentive for developers to come up with alternative ways in which subsidized housing could be built. The Prop HHH Housing Challenge, which when completed, will produce 975 new units of supportive housing at a lower cost and shortened timeline.

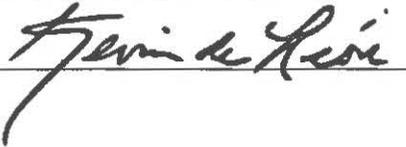
Our most vulnerable residents are suffering and deserve a comprehensive housing strategy that addresses the current realities. The finite amount of public money provided through Prop HHH would be better used in ways that provide more immediate relief. For instance, a recently proposed Housing Challenge permanent supportive housing project in Chatsworth will serve more people at a significantly reduced cost and timeline than that of a previously proposed Prop HHH funded project located in Chatsworth, called the "Topanga Apartments". This type of development benefits the unhoused population in getting them into housing sooner, as well as providing the City with flexibility to fund additional projects in the future.

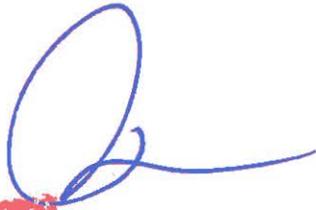
The City must continue to fund innovative housing projects that better balance our long-term goals with our short-term needs.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that this council instruct the Housing & Community Investment Department (HCID), in consultation with all other necessary departments, to rescind the allocated Prop HHH funding for the proposed "Topanga Apartments".

**I FURTHER MOVE** that HCID earmark these funds for an innovative project proposal within Council District 12, similar to that which was described above, from the list of approved property sites found in the City's Homelessness Roadmap and/or acquisition, rehabilitation, re-use or motel conversions or turnkey developments that will deliver permanent supportive housing in Council District 12 within a shortened timeline and at a lower per unit cost.

PRESENTED BY   
JOHN S. LEE  
Councilmember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY 



APR 20 2021