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April 21, 2021

Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Richard Williams, Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY – COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Dear Members of the Budget and Finance Committee:

In accordance with Budget and Finance Committee Chair's request, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is respectfully submitting for your consideration the agency's comments relative to the Mayor's Proposal Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. LAHSA, a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, in collaboration with various City of Los Angeles departments, is tasked with implementing data-driven solutions to assist connect our neighbors experiencing homelessness with interim housing and services, as well as the permanent housing interventions that end their homelessness.

LAHSA recognizes that the City is facing an extremely challenging budget environment, coupled with increased need for services and relief from residents as Los Angeles' communities attempt to weather the COVID-19 crisis and corresponding economic disruption. We appreciate the City's commitment to serving its most vulnerable residents during this moment of crisis and Committee members' willingness to take on the hard choices to steer the City and its residents through this crisis.

FY 20-21 Budget Requests

The Mayor's budget addresses LAHSA's ongoing needs to continue operating existing programs that bring vulnerable residents into shelter and housing. The Mayor's proposed budget of \$32,803,311 for FY 21-22 will allow the agency to continue the following critical work:

- Funding Crisis and Bridge Housing, Safe Parking, Navigation Centers, Winter Shelter, and Hygiene programs that provide life-saving resources to people experiencing or exiting unsheltered homelessness
- Deploying Rapid Re-Housing funding to move people experiencing homelessness into housing and end their homelessness
- Conducting the annual Point-in-Time Count
- Continuing to administer the Homeless Management Information System
- Administering the Centralized Training Academy to augment service provider capacity
- Continuing the C3 partnership on Skid Row to engage the population of that area and foster connections to housing and services
- Administering the Coordinated Entry System

The Mayor's Budget proposal contains a potential significant change in funding for LAHSA's street outreach program within the City of Los Angeles, as we work together to meet the City's targets to fill beds and to connect people experiencing homeless to the array of other services the City is funding. We know that outreach is a critical component in the City's efforts and want to partner with the City to identify ways to address the needs of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness.

In that vein, we would request that the Committee consider funding greater than the initial 3 months to ensure continuity and to allow us work with the Committee and council to address the most effective way to provide outreach in partnership with the City of L.A. As part of this effort, we would recommend to the committee that the City and LAHSA immediately convene a working group to examine how outreach efforts are coordinated between the City and LAHSA. This working group should meet regularly and develop recommendations to facilitate better coordination in street outreach activities. This working group should include representatives from LAHSA, the Mayor's Office, the Council President's Office, and the offices of the Chairs of both the Homelessness and Poverty Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee.

We appreciate the leadership of the Los Angeles City Council and the Mayor's office in seeking to bring stability and housing solutions to our most vulnerable residents and request that the Budget Committee approve LAHSA's budget for FY 21-22. We look forward to continued partnership in these efforts and are happy to address any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Marston".

Heidi Marston
Executive Director
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

cc:

Diana Mangiolgu, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Jose Rodriguez, Office of the Mayor
Richard H. Llewellyn, City Administrative Officer