

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/21/2021 10:39 AM

Council File No: 20-0045

Comments for Public Posting: Letter attached



April 21, 2021

Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Homelessness & Poverty Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Item 7: Council File 20-0045 - LAHSA Governance

Dear Councilmember Ridley-Thomas,

CCA is a membership organization comprised of over 300 members including large employers, developers, small businesses and non-profit organizations. Our broad coalition is committed to advancing comprehensive solutions to homelessness. We participated in the stakeholder interviews that helped inform the *LAHSA: Report on Governance* before you today. **We strongly support modernizing LAHSA's governance model to increase accountability and effectively deliver homeless housing and services to the unhoused in the City of Los Angeles. We also support a continued focus on outcomes and a shared vision.**

The report identifies three necessary, coordinated actions that would modernize LAHSA's governance and improve its outcomes:

1. **Organizational Operations:** We are pleased to see that improvements to LAHSA's day-to-day operations are well underway following an audit of its operations.
2. **LAHSA Governance:** We believe the LAHSA Commission must be restructured to increase coordination between the County and City.
3. **Regional Governance Model:** We believe that opportunities for a regional governance model that coordinates homelessness across Los Angeles County is also urgent and cannot be overlooked. Homelessness is a statewide challenge that needs state and federal government intervention.

Short-Term Recommendations

While longer-term LAHSA modernization work is underway, we offer the following recommendations that could be implemented soon to increase accountability and improve outcomes and coordination.

- Enhance the LAHSA Commission immediately by adding at least one elected official from the City and one from the County.
- Elevate the LAHSA Commissioners and Report Author's roles in the ongoing modernization work to ensure an expansive approach to improving LAHSA. The current LAHSA staff-driven approach is limiting and lacks independence.

CLA & CAO Report Recommendations

We hope that you will ask the CLA and CAO to report back to this committee with effective governance models for the LAHSA Commission and a regional governance strategy. We also request that you ask for the following questions to be addressed in the report:

- LASHA was formed because of a legal settlement; does it still have to exist? Is it beneficial for the City of LA to be part of the joint powers authority? Does the City receive a fair share of funding?



- If LAHSA's core function is a rehousing agency, then what is its relationship to HCID, HACLA, HACOLA and LACDA? Now that the City is considering restructuring HCID to only handle housing matters is there any possible consolidation of functions?
- LAHSA is not responsible for health care, yet a significant proportion of people experiencing homelessness need it. How can LAHSA work with the County's Public Health and Mental Health Departments to coordinate and provide health care for people experiencing homelessness?

CCA supports this effort to modernize LAHSA, and we thank you for your commitment to advancing solutions to homelessness. We greatly appreciate your consideration and value our continued partnership to build a stronger and more inclusive LA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Lall'.

Jessica Lall
President & CEO
Central City Association of Los Angeles

Cc: Councilmember de León, Vice Chair, Homelessness & Poverty Committee
Councilmember Buscaino, Member, Homelessness & Poverty Committee
Councilmember Rodriguez, Member, Homelessness & Poverty Committee
Councilmember Raman, Member, Homelessness & Poverty Committee

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