

MOTION

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

ITGS

One of the most visible manifestations of Los Angeles’s homelessness crisis is the rising quantity of personal belongings stored in public areas. In many cases, people experiencing homelessness have few options other than the street for storing their possessions.

A lack of storage options can create major obstacles for a person experiencing homelessness. The inability to secure or transport a large quantity of possessions can make it far more difficult to leave a tent or encampment—creating obstacles to seeking work, making appointments to see case managers, or moving elsewhere even if a location has become hazardous. When people are connected to shelter, facilities limit the amount of belongings participants are allowed to bring in, often leaving people to choose between staying on the street so they can keep their possessions or sleeping in a bed while forfeiting items that will not fit in two suitcases, a common standard.

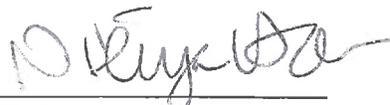
Excess storage on the sidewalk is a public health issue for all Angelenos. Improperly stored items increase the risk of fire or collapse. Large or numerous possessions in the public right-of-way pose dangers for pedestrians and inhibit ADA accessibility. Pedestrians may be forced to enter busy streets to navigate around objects that have made a sidewalk impassable. As the City develops more proactive policies for engaging with street homelessness, creating and expanding storage options must be a central aspect of our solutions.

The City currently operates a small number of storage facilities for people experiencing homelessness, including The Bin in downtown and The Bin: Echo Park. The Bin: Echo Park is a smaller-scale facility that utilizes four shipping containers to provide storage space for nearby unhoused residents. Both of The Bin locations have been highly successful—consistently operating at nearly full capacity—but these facilities alone are woefully inadequate to meet the needs of individuals across the city.

The Bin: Echo Park, in particular, provides a valuable model that should be replicated. Geographically-distributed, easy-to-access storage facilities on City-owned properties throughout the city would unlock mobility and offer peace of mind for unhoused people all over Los Angeles and help make our public spaces more accessible for all. We cannot meaningfully address homelessness without making these resources a priority.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council direct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to identify City-owned parking lots, vacant parcels, and other properties not suitable for permanent or interim housing that can be utilized to create a distributed, City-wide network of small-scale, shipping-container storage facilities for people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles, and to report back within 60 days with a plan for the funding and establishment of an initial five such facilities in key locations throughout the City where there is a great unmet need among homeless residents for storage solutions.

PRESENTED BY:



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SECONDED BY:

  
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