

Report Back: Street Engagement Strategy C.F. 20-1376 and C.F. 20-1406

Homelessness and Poverty Committee
August 12, 2021

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Office of the City Administrative Officer



Proposed Street Engagement Strategy (Strategy)

- Per, C.F. 20-1376, a targeted outreach approach, which provides people experiencing homelessness (PEH) with a suitable of shelter, interim, or permanent housing, to avoid enforcement.
 - Report-back also responds to Motion (Rodriguez – Martinez , C.F. 20-1406) as it relates to the documentation of written protocols for transitioning PEH to shelter (Paxton-Bradley).
- Best practices currently implemented by the City and County outreach teams and Council Offices’ engagement efforts – core -- assess people’s needs and connect them to housing and services.
- Recommend that these “Street to Home” procedures be used for the implementation of the recently amended Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 41.18, c.1-4 and d, if the proposed designated site is encamped.

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- **Core Components**

- **Strong Coordination:** Service Planning Area (SPA) Leads, LAHSA, Council Office, and County Outreach Teams, etc.
- **Provide ample time for engagement:** Depending on the size of an encampment, a “Street to Home” engagement could take up to four (4) months.
- **Availability of housing resources:** Includes: shelter and interim housing (i.e., A Bridge Home site, or other congregate shelters, Tiny Home Villages, Project Homekey sites), or permanent housing (i.e., permanent supportive or affordable housing, rapid rehousing, shared housing), and other options outside the homelessness service system, such as reunification with family.
- **Transparency and Adequate Notice:** Posted notices must clearly inform unhoused residents about the rules governing overnight sleeping at the location at least 14 days prior to the effective date.
- **Consistency:** Process should be consistent throughout the City, and enhancements should be clearly identified and communicated to lead outreach teams, service providers, Council Offices and other key partners.

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Proposed Amendments to Strategy Procedures

- Insert “in coordination with Council Office,” in determining the lead for the “Street to Home” engagement, and insert “Council Office” in the Responsible Party column, Attachment 1, Steps 1-7.
- Replace “concentrated engagement” with “Street to Home” engagement.
- Delete the requirement that a motion must be introduced for both “Street to Home” engagements and the implementation of LAMC Section 41.18 c-d, and replace with an introduction of a resolution -- only for the implementation of 41.18.
- The resolution should:
 - Include findings related to the proposed designation as outlined in LAMC Section 41.18, c.1-4; and
 - If the proposed site is encamped, the resolution should be approved pending the completion a “Street to Home” engagement.



Proposed Amendments to Strategy Procedures

- Replace the bullet points in # 7 Compliance (LAMC Section 41.18, c 1-4 and d) on Page 8 of the report with the following:
 - During the 14 day period after the signage has been posted, outreach teams will continue to conduct outreach to anyone remaining on the site.
 - If after the 14th day, enforcement is required on the site, which necessitates citations or arrests by the Los Angeles Police Department, LAHSA shall document that the person cited or arrested was, was offered a suitable housing option prior to the citation or arrest. This documentation should include the person's name, the housing option offered, the date the offer was made, and the contact information for the person making the offer. LAHSA will maintain this information and provide it to the City Attorney's Office at its request.



Proposed Amendments to Report Recommendations:

- Replace Recommendation #1 with:
 - APPROVE the proposed Street Engagement Strategy as a pilot, through January 31, 2022, to implement Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.18, c.1-4, and d, if encampments are present at a proposed designated use site;
- Replace Recommendation #3 with:
 - REQUEST that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) use the 17 City-funded Homeless Engagement Teams (HETs) for this effort, in partnership with Council Offices, the Service Program Area (SPA) leads, and the County of Los Angeles Multi-Disciplinary Teams;
- Replace Recommendation #4 with
 - APPROVE the transfer of the \$4,224,465 from the Unappropriated Balance, Fund No. 100/58, Account No. 580325 Homeless Engagement Teams to the General City Purposes, Fund No. 100/56, Account No.000826 Homeless Shelter Program, and appropriate therefrom to the Los Angeles Housing Department Fund No. 10A/43, Account No. 43V686 Homeless Engagement Teams to fund the remaining nine (9) months of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's 13 Homeless Engagement Teams (HETs) for Fiscal Year 2021-22;

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Proposed Amendments to Report Recommendations:

- Replace Recommendation # 5 with:
 - INSTRUCT the General Manager, Los Angeles Housing Department, or designee, to amend the City's 2021-22 General Fund Contract with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to add \$4,224,465 for salaries and expenses for nine (9) months for the 13 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's Homeless Engagement Teams (HETS) through June 30, 2022, and to further amend the City's 2021 General Fund Contract to include the following reporting requirements and deliverables:
 - For all "Street to Home" engagements to implement LAMC Section 41.18 LAHSA must submit the Encampment Assessment Form (Attachment 2) and provide the following:
 - Weekly reports during the assessment period;
 - Bi-weekly reports during the engagement period;
 - The weekly and biweekly reports will include, services offered, housing interventions needed, placements to date, and
 - An after-action report two (2) weeks after final clean-up outlining final date on housing placement (interim and permanent), services provided, best practices that proved effective and lessons learned;

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Proposed Amendments to Report Recommendations

- Replace Recommendation #5 with (continued):
 - If enforcement is required on a site after the posting effective date, which necessitates citations and/or arrests by the Los Angeles Police Department, LAHSA shall document that any person cited or arrested was offered a suitable housing option prior to the citation and/or arrest. This documentation should include the person's name, the housing option offered, the date the housing was made, and contact information of the person making the offer. LAHSA will main this documentation and provide it to the City Attorney's Office at its request.
 - Collect interim and permanent housing retention rates for all placements
 - In addition, for non-LAMC 41.18 outreach LAHSA should provide:
 - Monthly outreach reports that include, persons contacted, people served, interim and permanent housing placements.
 - The reports outlined in a-b above should be provided to the Los Angeles Housing Department with a copy to the CAO Outreach Coordinator.

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- Replace Recommendation # 6 with:
 - DIRECT the City Administrative Officer to report within 60 days on recommendations on alternative models to support voluntary compliance of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.18, c.1-4 and to report back by February 2022 on:
 - Additional resources needed for the street engagement strategy;
 - Funding and/or reimbursement to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) for the cost of signage and posting to implement LAMC Section 41.18, c-d;
 - Need for additional data system to report outcomes and accomplishments; and
 - Assessment of the outreach engagement strategy, include both interim housing placements and permanent housing placements and retention rates;
 - Whether the City should issue a Request for Proposals (RPF) for outreach services.

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Questions

