

Communication from Public

Name: LACEYH and HHYP

Date Submitted: 09/13/2021 02:59 PM

Council File No: 21-0329

Comments for Public Posting: We, the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership and Los Angeles Coalition to End Youth Homelessness, are requesting that the LA City Council support the proposed Street Engagement Strategy. Our coalitions advocate for increased resources for unsheltered residents, including increased outreach and engagement with the ultimate goal of connecting people to individualized housing plans and ongoing support until a permanent housing plan is secured. Although we are adamantly opposed to the underlying legislation of 41.18 and any additional criminalization of people experiencing homelessness as the legislation is implemented, we recognize that a coordinated and dedicated street strategy may reduce the impact of an ordinance that criminalizes unhoused young people in LA. We believe the street strategy is overlooking the specific needs of young people experiencing homelessness and urge you to consider the following:

Dedicate appropriate services that specifically address the needs of young people. Resources distributed based on geographic factors or “visible homelessness” will result in young people being overlooked and not having access to already limited resources. Young people experiencing homelessness are a broad but hidden population. More than half of young people in LA are unsheltered, yet LAHSA and HUD recognize that young people require specialized methods to determine estimates of this experience. Recognizing the difficulties of finding this population, the Los Angeles Youth Count occurs over 10 days with support from local providers, as opposed to the Point In Time count which primarily estimates unsheltered adults. Further, youth count estimates are often acknowledged as an undercount. As resources are distributed geographically, we urge the City to dedicate appropriate resources that specifically address the needs of young people who have been continuously overlooked and underfunded. Guarantee the inclusion of youth service providers with established expertise, relationships, and buy in with unsheltered young people in Homeless Engagement Teams. Homeless Engagement Teams without expertise and established relationships with the TAY population will be ineffective, and potentially create more barriers. Based on our collective experience in providing services for young people experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, we know that the

vulnerabilities of this population are unique and therefore require specific intervention and services. In order for this strategy to work, Homeless Engagement teams must guarantee the inclusion of youth service providers with established expertise, relationships, and buy in with unsheltered young people. We urge you to support a Street Strategy that considers the specific needs of young people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles and includes the expertise of youth service providers and advocates. We are committed to working with our City partners to develop and implement innovative programs and services to address youth homelessness. We appreciate your consideration of our position on this important matter.

LACEYH

Los Angeles Coalition to End Youth Homelessness



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- **Dedicate appropriate services that specifically address the needs of young people.** Resources distributed based on geographic factors or “visible homelessness” will result in young people being overlooked and not having access to already limited resources. Young people experiencing homelessness are a broad but hidden population.¹ More than half of young people in LA are unsheltered², yet LAHSA and HUD recognize that young people require specialized methods to determine estimates of this experience. Recognizing the difficulties of finding this population, the Los Angeles Youth Count occurs over 10 days with support from local providers, as opposed to the Point In Time count which primarily estimates unsheltered adults. Further, youth count estimates are often acknowledged as an undercount. As resources are distributed geographically, we urge the City to dedicate appropriate resources that specifically address the needs of young people who have been continuously overlooked and underfunded.
- **Guarantee the inclusion of youth service providers with established expertise, relationships, and buy in with unsheltered young people in Homeless Engagement Teams.** Homeless Engagement Teams without expertise and established relationships with the TAY population will be ineffective, and potentially create more barriers. Based on our collective experience in providing services for young people experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, we know that the vulnerabilities of this population are unique and therefore require specific intervention and services. In order for this strategy to work, Homeless Engagement teams must guarantee the inclusion of youth service providers with established expertise, relationships, and buy in with unsheltered young people.

We urge you to support a Street Strategy that considers the specific needs of young people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles and includes the expertise of youth service providers and advocates. We are committed to working with our City partners to develop and implement innovative programs and services to address youth homelessness. We appreciate your consideration of our position on this important matter.

¹ Voices of Youth Count

<https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>

² LAHSA Youth Count 2020 Data Summary

<https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=4780-youth-count-2020-data-summary-coc>

Communication from Public

Name: Regina JOnes

Date Submitted: 09/13/2021 11:57 AM

Council File No: 21-0329

Comments for Public Posting: I support the Citywide Street Engagement Strategy proposed by Mark Ridley-Thomas and supported by other council members. This is the first proposal that I've heard that acknowledges that we cannot lump all homeless together. There a numerous different reasons why people are among the Los Angeles homeless. My greatest concern are the children so mothers and/or fathers with children need to be prioritized. They also require housing separate from those with addictions and mental illnesses. I'd like to learn more about what individuals can do to support these efforts.