

The City of Los Angeles is currently in a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions given the state of our homeless population. While the City has received record-breaking aid from the state and federal government, the situation on our streets continues to worsen. To date, a State of Emergency on our homeless problem has never been declared, and the production of emergency temporary housing has been woefully inadequate, slow, and bureaucratic.

Construction of the shelters through the mayor's A Bridge Home program have taken twice as long as anticipated, and costs have been anywhere between double and quadruple what was estimated. Nevertheless, over the last year, the City has developed several interim housing programs that have created an inventory of more than 4,300 new beds with resources spread across the City. Unfortunately, given that our most recent count of homeless residents in 2020 identified approximately 41,000 individuals experiencing homelessness, those 4,300 new beds are a mere fraction of what is needed.

We have an impressive portfolio of 110 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects that will be developed in the City. Unfortunately, given the average 3-5 year development schedule, to-date only 15 have been placed in service, with 95 still in various stages of predevelopment, permitting and construction. The average total development cost per unit is more than \$574,000. City subsidies provided through voter approved measure HHH average \$134,000 per unit.

We need a FEMA-like response to address a crisis that kills over 1,000 people in the County annually.

The voters of Los Angeles deserve to weigh in and decide whether to make changes to our local ordinances, that would provide the mayor with authority to cut red tape and urgently site emergency homeless housing, require the City to focus on providing more immediate, emergency housing vs. costly and slow permanent supportive housing, and finally, on a citywide ordinance that would prohibit camping in all public areas, if temporary housing is available and offered.

This ballot measure will ensure that everyone experiencing homelessness is offered housing. The goal is that no person goes to jail, and that everyone is diverted to the help that they need - whether that is substance abuse treatment, a mental health bed or simply a place to call home.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be REQUESTED to prepare the necessary documents to place a measure on the June 2022 Primary Nominating Election ballot that would:

1. Amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit homeless encampments in all public areas, consistent with the *Martin v. Boise* decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, utilizing a progressive enforcement model, with all violations eligible for any applicable prosecution diversion program.
2. Amend the Los Angeles Administrative Code, to ensure the City provides enough housing capacity in order to meet the requirements for enforcement under *Martin v. Boise*; and, designate the Office of Emergency Management as the lead department responsible for the production of and operation of emergency temporary housing.
3. Amend Los Angeles Administrative Code Division 8, Chapter 3 "Local Emergencies" to give the mayor, during a declared state of emergency related to homelessness, authority to (a) waive land

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use code and zoning regulation requirements as necessary to urgently site homeless housing projects, (b) under-write or cover/fund waive all City project-related permitting fees for homeless housing projects and, (c) process the application for project-related permits as first-in-line in order to expedite the permitting and inspection processes.

PRESENTED BY Joe Buscaino  
JOE BUSCAINO  
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: JB

ORIGINAL