

PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE report relative to City properties available for homeless housing and services.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. NOTE AND FILE the Controller report dated January 12, 2022, attached to Council file, relative to City properties available for homeless housing and services
2. INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report in 30 days in regard to:
 - a. How centralizing the process of land selection through the Los Angeles Municipal Development Corporation, or other entity, would play a role in creating housing opportunities for the most vulnerable populations in the City; and, CLARIFY that said report be based on the August 12, 2019 Controller report attached to Council File No. 18-0600-S27.
 - b. Criteria used to evaluate and site homeless housing interventions on city-owned as well as privately-owned property.
 - c. Utilizing revised criteria for the siting of homeless interventions that takes into consideration the variable sizes and costs of property in the City of Los Angeles, and the need to equitably distribute homeless interventions and services throughout the city.
 - d. The feasibility and with a proposed process for transmitting all recommendations regarding the siting of proposed homeless interventions to the City Council for consideration.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Controller. Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

(The above matter has also been referred to the Homelessness and Poverty and Information Technology and General Services Committees)

Summary:

On February 2, 2022, your Committee considered a January 12, 2022 Controller report relative to City properties available for homeless housing and services. According to the Controller, in March 2020, a coalition of Los Angeles stakeholders filed a lawsuit (*LA Alliance for Human Rights, et. al. v. City of Los Angeles, et. al.*) that accused the City and Los Angeles County of violating State and federal laws in their response to the homelessness crisis. The original lawsuit and subsequent orders by the Court

spurred discussions about issues such as structural racism, housing, control of public space, property rights, accessibility rights, mental health, addiction, public health, and use of taxpayer funds.

While the underlying causes of the crisis are complex and represent policy failures across multiple levels of government, Angelenos generally agree that the status quo is unacceptable. Despite years of unprecedented investment and attention, Los Angeles County remains the epicenter of the State's homelessness crisis. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health estimated that approximately four unhoused individuals died every day in 2019 and preliminary reporting suggests that the trend has continued during the ensuing period. The most recent point-in-time count (conducted in January 2020) showed that tens of thousands of people were living in the streets without housing or shelter.

Several years of data show a deepening crisis and the continued economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic further threatens vulnerable residents who face housing instability. A key question posed by the LA Alliance lawsuit is whether the City is doing enough to help unhoused residents while waiting for long-term strategies—primarily development of supportive housing funded by Proposition HHH—to deliver results. Given the increasingly untenable situation in Skid Row and other Los Angeles neighborhoods, US District Court Judge David O. Carter issued an injunction in April 2021 that called for:

- Completion of multiple audits/investigations into City and County programs designed to alleviate homelessness (e.g., Proposition HHH and Measure H), as well as funds used for mental health or substance abuse treatment.
- Timelines to offer/provide housing, shelter, or treatment services to unhoused residents of Skid Row.

The injunction also stated, "...City Controller Ron Galperin shall oversee the creation of a report on all land potentially available within each district for housing and sheltering the homeless of each district."

Subsequent discussion with the Court clarified that the scope of the order was limited to properties owned by the City. The request stemmed from the Controller's previous work on the issue, which included building an inventory of publicly-owned properties and developing recommendations about how the City should strategically manage its real estate assets. We originally launched the Property Panel in 2017 and our 2019 update identified more than 14,000 government owned properties in Los Angeles. Approximately 7,500 of these properties were owned by the City itself. The remaining properties were owned by the federal government, State of California, County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. After consideration, the Committee moved to make a series of recommendations that are detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
KORETZ:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES
BONIN:	ABSENT

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2/2/22

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-