

Communication from Public

Name: Alex Visotzky

Date Submitted: 10/27/2022 08:07 AM

Council File No: 19-1020

Comments for Public Posting: October 26, 2022 The Honorable Nithya Raman Chair, Homelessness and Poverty Committee Los Angeles City Council
Re: CF 19-1020 – Commission on Lived Experience of Homelessness Dear Chair Raman, On behalf of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, we write in support of CF 19-1020, which would establish a Commission on Lived Experience of Homelessness. Regular consultation with, and expert insights from people with lived experience of homelessness is the backbone of effective policymaking and service provision in any homeless services system. The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to ending homelessness in America, and does so by lifting up evidence-based best practices from across the field that improve efforts to end homelessness. According to the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Count, there are at least 41,980 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in the City of Los Angeles, including 28,458 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, a 2% overall increase from the last point-in-time count conducted in 2020. As the region with one of the most acute homelessness crises around the country, Los Angeles has marshalled a large, complex response, with the City of Los Angeles directing nearly \$1 billion to homelessness in the city's FY 22-23 budget. At the city, county, and Continuum of Care-level, Los Angeles has invested in a range of evidence-based solutions to address this crisis, including building new permanent supportive housing and funding homelessness prevention using predictive analytical tools. The region has leaned into innovative approaches such as converting underutilized commercial spaces to house people experiencing homelessness as part of the Project Homekey program. Centering the voices and input of people with lived experience of homelessness is another step forward that the City of Los Angeles should pursue. By bringing the people closest to the problem to the table and giving them a tangible role in policymaking, Los Angeles can improve service delivery, the effectiveness of its funded interventions, and gain better insight into what interventions to fund. Hearing from people with lived experience can ensure the city addresses critical issues that only the actual consumers of homeless services will be able to identify. To put it simply, people with lived experience of homelessness

are the experts in finding and implementing the solutions to homelessness. For a jurisdiction making as many policy decisions and investing as much in homelessness as the City of Los Angeles, convening this type of body is essential in determining whether the city is charting the right course forward. We appreciate the Council's consideration of this important motion, and are happy to provide any assistance to convene this critically important body. Sincerely, Alex Visotzky Senior California Policy Fellow National Alliance to End Homelessness

October 26, 2022

The Honorable Nithya Raman
Chair, Homelessness and Poverty Committee
Los Angeles City Council

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Dear Chair Raman,

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Sincerely,

Alex Visotzky
Senior California Policy Fellow
National Alliance to End Homelessness