

# HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

## MOTION

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated housing security issues nationwide, leading to a visible increase in the number of individuals residing in vehicles on our city streets. Data comparing the number of Recreational Vehicles (RVs)/Campers within the City of Los Angeles from the 2019 and 2022 Point In Time (PIT) Counts shows a 41 percent increase in this subpopulation. RVs used for dwelling are often in poor condition, creating hazards for those living within them, and the surrounding community. City departments are often called to respond when RVs are leaking sewage, look structurally unsound and near collapse, or have caught fire due to warming devices inside.

Individuals living in RVs have unique characteristics that our homeless service system is not currently equipped to support. Many individuals residing in RVs are new to homelessness, and many feel safer in an individual hardshell dwelling they own rather than taking the risk of entering the shelter system. Others are undocumented, living in fear of deportation, and in need of specialized legal services. Due to these circumstances, many service providers and outreach workers have a difficult time reaching clients, and of critical importance, there is no mechanism to manage the voluntary surrender of RVs when clients accept housing. Vehicles are at times not registered, or ownership of the vehicle is skewed, as the documents proving ownership are lost because of the client's extenuating circumstances.

Through the collaboration of West Valley Homes YES, Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) and LA Family Housing, and Council District 7 an RV Pilot Program has been successfully placing individuals into housing and facilitating the voluntary removal of their RVs in exchange for disposal incentives. Utilizing a Hilton Foundation grant, service providers have served 37 individuals, and placed 25 individuals into interim housing; four have already moved into permanent housing during the eight-month funding period from February 1, 2022, through September 15, 2022. Housing placements resulted in the removal of 20 RVs. Most importantly, there has not been a single individual participant through this period that has returned back to the city streets.

This Pilot Program has given the individuals living in recreational vehicles in Council District 7 the opportunity to restart their lives, leaving behind broken-down RVs in exchange for stability and opportunity. The success of this program merits its expansion to help others in need throughout the city.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Los Angeles City Council request that West Valley Homes YES, LAHSA, and LA Family Housing present an overview of the program model, associate costs, metrics deployed to measure success, program results, and recommendations to the Homelessness and Poverty Committee;

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**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Administrative Officer, in consultation with the above-mentioned service providers and other relevant city departments adopt this model— inclusive of outreach, services, housing, RV trade-in incentives, and logistics for voluntary disposal—as a citywide program, and develop a report inclusive of a) a scale-up plan prioritizing the rollout in RV hotspots per the 2022 PIT count data; b) procedures outlining role and responsibilities of each agency necessary to execute the model within 60 days;

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Administrative Officer be directed to identify funding sources and report back with recommendations and controller instructions to fund citywide implementation of the Pilot Program.

PRESENTED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



**ORIGINAL**