

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, homelessness is tragic, avoidable, unjust, and a public health hazard for all citizens, and thus, reducing and preventing homelessness should be a priority for all; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires Continuums of Care to conduct a Point-in-Time count of homeless individuals once every two years, which the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) conducts annually inasmuch as it has purpose and benefits that extend far beyond federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 there were approximately 41,980 individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, an increase from previous years, according to LAHSA; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count was not conducted due to safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles adopted the Enhanced Comprehensive Homeless Strategy in March 2019 to help reduce and prevent short- and long-term homelessness through a collaborative effort between multiple agencies and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles's 2022-2023 Adopted Budget includes funding for LAHSA to conduct the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (Homeless Count), a point-in-time census of homeless individuals across Los Angeles County, including the City of Los Angeles, and helps to inform the Enhanced Comprehensive Homeless Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Count will take place on the evenings of January 24, 25, and 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Count provides critical data for the strategizing, decision-making, and funding needed to reduce and prevent homelessness across the City of Los Angeles and provides a demographic and geographic snapshot of homelessness for nonprofit and community-based service providers, elected officials, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Count provides an avenue for tracking changes in size and characteristic of the homeless population in the City of Los Angeles, thereby allowing officials to monitor progress towards reducing and preventing homelessness in their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should fully support this effort and encourage volunteer participation while increasing public awareness of homelessness to work towards the goal of

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reducing and preventing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Count cannot be successful without the assistance of thousands of volunteers who partner with LAHSA and provide their time to help enumerate individuals experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Los Angeles, by the adoption of this Resolution, hereby declares the week beginning January 23, 2023, as Homeless Count Week 2023 and directs all City Departments and agencies to support LAHSA in conducting the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count by encouraging staff to volunteer and responding completely and in a timely manner to LAHSA's requests for assistance in this effort.

PRESENTED BY:


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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