

Communication from Public

Name:

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Council File No: 23-0029

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles, and I strongly support this motion. Over the last several years, as the number of people who are unhoused has increased in Los Angeles, the organizational requirements of LAHD and LAHSA and the amount of money spent on their programs have increased, even though accountability and KPIs regarding success of these programs have not. There are many questions about the effectiveness of these programs, and I share those concerns. I have personally seen people who are unhoused suffering on the streets for long periods of time with no help. In our local park, unhoused women have been raped, trafficked, and forced into prostitution. Unhoused people have been assaulted and victims of other crimes--mostly perpetrated by others who are unhoused. People living in the local park lived in squalor as if this were the 13th century. Drug use is common, and overdose deaths happen all too often. Meanwhile, LAHSA continues to "make touches" with people who are unhoused to "build trust." In our community, we saw these "touches" go on for months, with relatively few people being housed. The cost of housing provided has increased so significantly, to as much as \$600k to \$1m a door, and our city's residents, including our unhoused population, need accountability regarding the way this money is spent so our elected officials may make informed decisions about the type of housing that will be provided. I and many others question whether spending most of this money on building units on a "housing first" with "harm reduction" model is a good one-size-fits-all plan for all who are unhoused because it takes so long to build these units while people suffer and die while living on the streets and waiting for a unit. A recent RAND study showed that people who are unhoused will accept various types of housing other than permanent housing units. Every day people are living on the streets, they are suffering harm and trauma. As a mother, it breaks my heart to see people who have mental illness, women, and teens suffering in this way, and we see that every day. The lives of people who are unhoused matter, and we can help them the most by seeing that they get into some type of housing with services available at the earliest possible time. The City is in great need of KPIs to ensure that we are doing our best, and causing no further harm to people who are unhoused. Our elected officials, including Members of the City

Council, need the information that would be provided with KPIs to make informed decisions. I ask for your "yes" vote on this motion.