

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** This is the second part of my emailed Public Comment posted 5/18/2023 in regard to the status update given re: the Homelessness Emergency Account at the May 17, 2023, Housing & Homelessness Committee. An "encampment resolution grant" was spoken about which would bring 60 million dollars to the City & County to filter up to 2K people currently living in the streets of Skid Row to the Mayfair & Cecil Hotels. A new clinic with "observation rooms" was mentioned for the Cecil, which would serve "high acuity" Skid Row clients. Please familiarize yourself with the "Skid Row" section of the below linked to special report titled, "We Ain't Crazy! Just Coping with a Crazy System: Pathways into the Black Population for Eliminating Health Disparities" <https://lhc.ca.gov/sites/lhc.ca.gov/files/Reports/225/ReportsSubmitted/CRDPAfricanAmericanPopulationReport.pdf> From <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/study-reveals-mental-health-disparities>: "Blacks or African Americans have not historically participated in systemic change related to their health and mental health in large numbers, a fact that some have attributed to disinterest. But in We Ain't Crazy! Just Coping with a Crazy System: Pathways into the Black Population for Eliminating Health Disparities – 2012 (PDF | 10.1 MB), V. Diane Woods, Dr. P.H., and her colleagues at the African American Health Institute of San Bernardino County (AAHI-SBC) punched a hole in that myth. In fact, when they sought participants for their study, the response was overwhelming, proving that nothing more than a lack of opportunity was to blame for the prior low levels of engagement. "Black people had a lot of things to say, and those things were very pertinent and germane to the conversation, which was prevention and early intervention in mental illness," says Dr. Woods. It's a historic conversation as well. Dr. Woods says that, before they began the project, she and her colleagues looked for any study that invited black Americans to "give their input in an original manner to impact on system changes" and couldn't find a single one. "Black people in the United States have never been engaged on this level to give their input about the services they've received, and then to also identify what could serve them better," she says."