



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

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**MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor  
State of California  
California State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing in follow up to my previous letter to you of June 9, 2016. Earlier this month, we had a meaningful conversation on Los Angeles County's efforts to pursue a local Millionaire's tax that could generate needed service dollars to address its severe homeless crisis. Since 2013, the number of homeless women has risen 55%. The number of homeless persons living in encampments, tents and vehicles increased by a staggering 123% from 2013 to 2016.

Since then, our County unanimously passed a motion urging the State to declare a state of emergency given the rise in the number of homeless persons throughout the State. California is home to 21% of the nation's homeless population, which includes over 115,000 homeless individuals and families. California reported the largest numbers of homeless unaccompanied youth at 28% of the national total and the largest number of veterans experiencing homelessness with more than 11,000 veterans living on the streets in 2015. The LA Times recently reported on a study that found that one in ten California State University students is homeless. Housing instability impedes these students' workplace readiness and ability to contribute to the health of their communities and societal well-being. Other counties have similar increases in homeless. San Francisco County has seen a 7% increase in homelessness since 2005 and similarly passed a resolution urging the State to declare a state of emergency.

I again invite you to visit and take a tour with me, other members of the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Eric Garcetti to see Los Angeles County's homeless crisis firsthand.

With hope,

  
**MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
Supervisor, Second District