

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
AND JANICE HAHN**

DECEMBER 6, 2016

Securing Ongoing Funding to Address the Homeless Crisis

On August 17, 2015, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) launched the Homeless Initiative to combat the homeless crisis that pervades its communities. The County Homeless Initiative conducted an inclusive and comprehensive planning process, including 18 policy summits on nine topics from October 1 to December 3, 2015, which brought together 25 County departments, 30 cities and other public agencies, and over 100 community partners and stakeholders.

The Homeless Initiative generated a powerful set of 47 coordinated and integrated strategies divided into the following six areas, which are each key to combating homelessness:

- Prevent Homelessness;
- Subsidize Housing;
- Increase Income;
- Provide Case Management and Services;
- Create a Coordinated System; and
- Increase Affordable/Homeless Housing.

- MORE -

MOTION

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On February 9, 2016, after hearing the testimony of elected officials and representatives of over fourteen cities from throughout the County who pledged their support and commitment to working collaboratively with the County, the Board adopted the Chief Executive Officer's Homeless Initiative's 47 strategies (Strategies). The Board also approved new, one-time funding of \$100 million to initiate the implementation of these Strategies; however, the Board will soon need to replenish these one-time funds. The community-based organizations that participated in crafting the Strategies strongly advocated that the Board needed to secure additional, ongoing, annual funds to implement the Strategies in the years to come.

The best budget projections make it very clear that current County resources are not sufficient to fund Countywide initiatives and services to combat homelessness on an ongoing basis at the levels required to address the current crisis within the County.

The passage of Proposition HHH in November 2016 will allow the City of Los Angeles (City) to leverage resources and finance about 8,000-10,000 units of permanent supportive housing over the next 10 years. Furthermore, the State of California's No Place Like Home bond would also leverage resources and finance about 5,700 permanent supportive housing units over four funding cycles across all 88 cities and unincorporated areas of the County. Finally, in addition to other local, state and federal grant solicitations, the County's Community Development Commission also provides capital development funds for construction of permanent housing set aside for special needs and homeless populations. As a leader in the regional strategy to address homelessness, the Board is committed to securing annual, ongoing revenue to fund the essential support services that would complement these permanent supportive housing units and associated rental subsidies. To that end, on October 25, 2016, the Board unanimously approved a motion to craft the framework for a proposed Memorandum of Understanding that would facilitate a coordinated Countywide strategy on construction of permanent housing, allocation of rent subsidies and provision of supportive services.

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To ensure the success of these permanent supportive housing units, and to fully implement the Homeless Initiative and other promising practices, the County has an urgent need to provide prevention, crisis, and support services, including health care, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment for homeless children, families, foster youth, seniors, battered women, disabled individuals, veterans, and other homeless adults.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has estimated that \$450 million a year (not counting construction costs) in services funding is required to make serious strides to address homelessness across the County. LAHSA calculates that over 15,000 units of permanent supportive housing are needed to aid persons who are living with disabilities and have had long durations of homelessness; the \$450 million estimate includes, but is not limited to, supportive services and rental subsidies for these proposed permanent supportive housing units.

While the key to ending homelessness is linking individuals and families to permanent housing, not all persons experiencing homelessness need permanent supportive housing. Many families and individuals can be linked to permanent housing and services through rapid rehousing programs. Additionally, the County's Homeless Initiative is implementing prevention, outreach, employment and bridge housing and other critical strategies that will need to be sustained and expanded in the coming years.

The County has diligently examined existing programs and reallocated funds to high-performing, effective programs that have shown the best outcomes. The County has also set aside General Funds to implement innovative programs, such as C3 street engagement teams, rapid rehousing and landlord incentive programs. The County has already taken steps through the Whole Person Care application to secure \$90 million in federal funding for the next five years, a portion of which will help finance supportive service needs for homeless persons eligible for Medicaid. However, an ongoing

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revenue measure is critical if the County is to fully honor any long-term commitments to address the regional homeless crisis consistent with the strategies for combating homelessness developed through the Homeless Initiative adopted by the Board.

The County is authorized to impose a retail transactions and use (sales) tax in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County to generate revenue dedicated to preventing and combating the homelessness crisis and to fund the County's Homeless Initiative Plan.

In order to meet the urgent need of the people of this County to combat the homeless crisis, this Board must place a ¼-cent special sales tax on the ballot at the next available election to be held on March 7, 2017.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, adopt the attached resolution calling and giving notice of the special election on a countywide sales tax measure, that will be levied for a period of ten (10) years, to generate ongoing revenue dedicated to preventing and combating the homeless crisis and to fund the County's Homeless Initiative Plan, to be held in Los Angeles County on March 7, 2017, and consolidating the special election with other elections to be held on March 7, 2017.

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