

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 13, 2017

Tracking Measure H Progress

The latest Los Angeles County Homeless Count revealed that almost 60,000 persons -- men, women and children -- are sleeping at night in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, in vehicles, in makeshift dwellings and on the streets. This is a crisis that has been building for decades, driven by declining incomes and rising housing costs. It is imperative that the Board of Supervisors (Board) takes steps to redouble efforts in the County of Los Angeles (County) to identify, triage and rapidly house homeless persons and provide sufficient services to ensure that those being housed are able to thrive in their respective communities.

Over the last two years, the County has made several efforts and investments to address homelessness in a meaningful and sustained manner. In August 2015, the County declared homelessness to be a top priority. Subsequently, the Board established the Homeless Initiative within the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and embarked on a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process to craft a community action plan with 47 strategies to prevent and end homelessness. The community action plan was

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unanimously approved by the Board in February 2016 and the Board dedicated \$100M in one-time funds to implement the strategies. On February 2016, the Board also approved a needs-based allocation of funds based on the most recent Homeless Count results in each Service Planning Area.

Over 1,100 stakeholders participated in the crafting of the plan, and public testimony in February 2016 made it clear that an ongoing source of revenue was needed to ensure that the Homeless Initiative and the 47 strategies would be implemented in the years to come. Beginning in March 2016, the Board explored a variety of revenue options, including a millionaire's tax, a property tax, a marijuana business tax and a sales tax.

Ultimately, in December 2016, the Board approved the placement of Measure H, a ¼-cent special sales tax for 10 years, on the March 2017 ballot. The County organized a special Countywide consolidated election during which 7 out of every 10 voters said yes to Measure H. Subsequently, the County put in place a transparent public process including a 50-member planning group, which included representatives from nonprofit organizations, cities, faith-based entities, technical experts, County departments, and persons with lived experience. The 50-member planning group met five times in public and deliberated on 19 strategies that built and expanded on the strategies being carried out since February 2016.

On June 13th, 2017, the Board will review the recommendations put forward by the CEO which reflect the consensus decisions of the 50-member planning group. The

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tax collection is estimated to begin in October 2017, but work on program design and implementation of the strategies will continue apace from July to September. As the County begins to implement the Measure H strategies, it is critical that the Board continues to examine all available data and track progress in ways that facilitate data-driven decisions to refine and improve program design and implementation.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to report back in 45 days in writing to the Board with a comprehensive analysis of 2017 Homeless Count results. The report should include an analysis of trends related to specific populations such as veterans, families and Transition Age Youth (TAY), as well as encampments and vehicles. The report should include analysis on the methodology used in the Point-in-Time Count and demographic survey. The report should include an analysis of how LAHSA Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data trends differ or correlate with the 2017 Point-in-Time Count results as well as recommendations on how to best use LAHSA HMIS data, the Point-in-Time Count and other relevant data (whether from the Health Agency, the Department of Public Social Services or other departments or entities) to track progress.

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- 2) Direct the CEO to report back to the Board in writing every six months on progress towards Measure H targets. In preparation for this work, the CEO should explore and identify academic institutions and/or other relevant entities, such as the United Way, that might assist with creating dashboards, metrics and six-month progress reports that monitor progress on achieving Measure H targets. The six-month reports should include a calculation of current housing placement rates for different populations (including but not limited to single adults, veterans, families, TAY) and the rates of housing placement needed to meet Measure H targets. The reports should include an analysis of expenditures related to the \$100M one-time funds that were set aside for the February 2016 action plan, how much money is left over, and how the Measure H funds interact with the previous \$100M allocation.

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