

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

OCTOBER 17, 2017

Increasing Shelter Capacity for Homeless Families in South Los Angeles

According to the 2017 Greater Los Angeles Point-in-Time Homeless Count, on any given night in Los Angeles County (County), there were 57,794 men, women and children experiencing homelessness. Among those, there were 8,529 family members experiencing homelessness, 19% of whom were unsheltered. Nearly 20% of the 8,529 family members identified through the 2017 Homeless Count, or 1,701 family members, were located in Service Planning Area (SPA) 6.

In SPA 6, Special Service for Groups Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (SSG HOPICS) is the nonprofit service organization that functions as the lead agency serving homeless families in collaboration with other nonprofits in the region. SSG HOPICS and its collaborative nonprofit partners are tasked with providing crisis/bridge housing, permanent housing, and supportive services to homeless families. SHIELDS for Families is one of the nonprofit service organizations that works closely with SSG HOPICS to ensure that homeless families attain stability.

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Since July 2017, there has been a tremendous influx of homeless families seeking shelter in SPA 6. SSG HOPICS is currently providing crisis and bridge housing to homeless families at 89 site-based units operating at full capacity. To accommodate additional homeless families, SSG HOPICS currently provides emergency housing to 223 families in hotels and motels.

Site-based family crisis housing units average \$60 per night while site-based bridge housing units average \$80 per night. On the other hand, the cost of providing crisis housing through hotel and motel stays is approximately \$95 per night, on average, depending on the size of the family. Housing 223 families in hotels and motels scattered throughout the region creates a tremendous strain on SSG HOPICS and its collaborative partners. Aggregating family crisis housing units together is a much more effective method of serving the numerous and unique needs of homeless families. It would be more effective to create more site-based crisis and bridge housing, and then apply those savings to provide more short-term and medium-term rental assistance coupled with services to help families secure and maintain permanent housing.

SSG HOPICS and SHIELDS for Families propose to renovate a multi-unit apartment complex in Compton and create 52 new units of site-based crisis and bridge housing, including 26 units of family crisis housing and 26 units of family bridge housing. The estimated cost to renovate this apartment complex is approximately \$300,000. Annual cost savings of \$474,500 could be achieved by adding these 52 additional site-based crisis and bridge housing units and reducing reliance on hotels and motels.

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In February 2016, the County's Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) Homeless Initiative, a community action plan which included strategies to increase shelter capacity, such as Strategy E8, Enhance the Emergency Shelter System. On June 13, 2017, following the successful passage of Measure H and consensus recommendations developed by a 50-member citizens' committee, the Board approved the allocation of County funds to Strategy E8, including operations and capital funds to increase shelter capacity. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is the lead agency charged with administering and overseeing Strategy E8. The Board has directed the CEO and LAHSA to move swiftly to ensure that homeless families with young children do not remain unsheltered in the County.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to use Measure H funding available through Strategy E8 to create new crisis and bridge housing units for families at sites identified by Special Service for Groups Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (SSG HOPICS) and its partners; and
- 2) Direct CEO and LAHSA to allocate funding for capital improvements, start-up costs and operations (including staffing and security) for SSG HOPICS and its partners to operate at least 52 new units of site-based crisis and bridge housing for homeless families.

(DW)