



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Christina Villacorte, (213) 447-1277

**Email:** [cvillacorte@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:cvillacorte@bos.lacounty.gov)

**Contact:** Jethro Rothe-Kushel, (213) 479-6970

**Email:** [jrothe-kushel@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:jrothe-kushel@bos.lacounty.gov)

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO VOTE ON COMPREHENSIVE CRISIS  
Response To Homelessness**

**WHEN:**

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 - 2:15 p.m.

**WHERE:**

Board of Supervisors Meeting  
Los Angeles County Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**WHAT:**

The Board of Supervisors will vote on a motion introduced by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Janice Hahn that seeks to develop a framework for multiple Los Angeles County departments to start implementing priority elements of the 40-point Comprehensive Crisis Response Strategy recommended by the Governor's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors, particularly for people living on the streets who are ready and willing to come indoors.

The goal is to determine how those priority elements can be operationalized in Los Angeles County in the short term, but with targets and timelines to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness. The LA County CEO's Homeless Initiative and Office of Emergency Management will work together to lead this effort in partnership with other departments that touch homelessness.

“Implicit in Governor Newsom’s proposal and the Council’s recommendations is a call for State, county and city governments to respond to this crisis with new urgency, boldness and ingenuity,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, who co-chairs the Council with Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. “By approving this motion, Los Angeles County is stepping up to the Governor’s challenge.”

“The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority estimates approximately 30,000 unsheltered individuals have been assessed and are willing to accept housing services now, if those were available,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas added, “We need a paradigm shift if we want to grow the capacity to serve all those ready to come indoors, and a Comprehensive Crisis Response -- implemented with ingenuity and prudence -- will allow us to do just that.”

The motion also called for developing a plan that would create greater capacity and accountability in Los Angeles County to ensure housing or shelter for people ready and willing to move indoors.

It complements Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order to make more State land and facilities available to build shelter and housing, and a proposal to invest \$1.4 billion next year to address homelessness. Elements of the Governor’s spending plan had been inspired by programs in Los Angeles County.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas noted more than 1,000 homeless people died on Los Angeles County streets last year, and this trend is not expected to abate unless solutions for more immediate shelter and housing can be found.

“Given that the County is the epicenter of the State’s homeless crisis, the Board of Supervisors must continue to lead by example and embrace the immediate implementation of strategies to categorically change the course of this crisis,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. “We should pilot an accountability framework for ensuring all those who are ready and willing to come indoors have the ability to do so.”

In their recommendations, the 13-member Governor’s Council emphasized that “urgency should drive our response” and that homelessness must be viewed as “a humanitarian crisis tantamount to any sustained natural disaster.” Council members also endorsed many recommendations to guide specific budget and policy actions for the beginning of the 2020 legislative session and called for appointing a “single point of authority for homelessness in state government.”

The Council prioritized:

- Preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place by strengthening renter protections, cracking down on rent gouging, and providing a legal defense against evictions;
- Streamlining the construction of permanent supportive housing, affordable housing, and service-enriched temporary shelters, especially on public land;
- Once people are housed, providing them with rent subsidies and other support to remain housed;
- Maximizing the use of healthcare and mental health care funds for extremely vulnerable populations;
- Breaking the cycle between homelessness and the criminal justice system by investing in program that safely divert the mentally ill from jail into treatment.
- Some of the recommendations can be operationalized immediately with the Governor's recent executive order, and upon the state Legislature's approval of additional funding to tackle homelessness this fiscal year.

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