



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS ON
Supreme Court Declining to Hear Landmark Martin v. Boise case on
Homelessness**

"With unprecedented numbers of people falling into homelessness nationwide, we are experiencing an urgent humanitarian crisis. More than 1,000 individuals will die on Los Angeles County streets this year. Supporting the City of Boise's position to appeal to the Supreme Court was never an attempt to criminalize the homeless; rather, it was a pursuit of a legal framework that is clear – in comparison to a status quo that is ambiguous and confusing.

"Letting the current law stand handicaps cities and counties from acting nimbly to aid those perishing on the streets, exacerbating unsafe and unhealthy conditions that negatively affect our most vulnerable residents.

"We should not resign ourselves to a reality where places not fit for human habitation become the default living situation for people experiencing homelessness. I refuse to accept this as our new normal.

"We will continue to pursue bold and compassionate decisions to help all our neighbors live a life of dignity and worth."

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