

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MEASURE H
A COUNTYWIDE MEASURE TO PREVENT AND COMBAT HOMELESSNESS
TO BE HELD IN LA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ON MARCH 7, 2017**

WHEREAS, LA County of Los Angeles ("County") is facing a pervasive and deepening homeless crisis, which currently endangers the health and safety of tens of thousands of residents, including veterans, women, children, LGBTQ youth, persons with disabilities, and seniors; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous scale of homelessness in LA County threatens the economic stability of the region by burdening emergency medical services and the social services infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2016 Homeless Count released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the number of people experiencing homelessness in LA County on any given night was roughly 46,874, an overall increase of 2,502 people (6%) from 2015 and 19% more than in 2013.

WHEREAS, the number of people living in encampments, tents and vehicles increased by 20% from 2015 to 2016 and 123% from 2013 to 2016, from 5,153 persons to 11,472

WHEREAS, among the people experiencing homelessness in LA County are over 6,000 parents and their children, over 3,000 veterans; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, the number of women experiencing homeless has risen 55 percent; and

WHEREAS, homelessness is also increasing in the suburbs of LA County. [The homeless population has grown by 35 percent in the San Fernando Valley from 2015 to 2016, from 5,424 to 7,334, and in the South Bay, homelessness increased by 10 percent, from 5,351 to 5,913 during the same period] ; and,

WHEREAS, many people experiencing homelessness are facing severe threats to their health and safety on a daily basis; recent research has demonstrated that homeless persons are three to four times more likely to die than members of the general population, and studies indicate that premature death most often results from acute and chronic medical conditions aggravated by homeless life; and,

WHEREAS, in August 2015, the LA County Board of Supervisors launched the Homeless Initiative and LA County Chief Executive Officer's ("CEO") conducted an inclusive and comprehensive planning process, including 18 policy summits on nine topics from October to December 2015, which brought together over 100 community partners and stakeholders, 25 County departments, and 30 cities [including our city?] and other public agencies ; and,

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the recommended strategies of the Homeless Initiative reflect the following key principles:

- Homelessness is an extraordinarily complex problem which necessitates active, sustained countywide collaboration amongst LA County, cities and other public agencies, and a wide array of community partners;
- The web of established collaborative relationships in Los Angeles County provides a very strong foundation for the implementation of these strategies;
- These recommended strategies must strengthen and build upon current County efforts by:
 - Directing more resources to proven strategies;
 - Integrating existing programs and services more effectively;
 - Enabling cities to join LA County in combating homelessness; and
 - Identifying opportunities to leverage mainstream criminal justice, health, and social services; and

WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2016-17, the Board of Supervisors approved new, one-time funding to initiate the implementation of the strategies developed by the Homeless Initiative; however, this funding will not sustain the recommended strategies through 2017. The community-based organizations that participated in crafting the Homeless Initiative strategies strongly advocated that the Board of Supervisors needed to secure additional, ongoing, annual funds to implement the Homeless initiative strategies in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, 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 Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, this past winter, both LA County and the City of Los Angeles declared local states of emergency as it relates to the lack of shelter for homeless persons within LA County and the City; and

WHEREAS, 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, LA 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.

WHEREAS, LA County has diligently examined existing programs and reallocated funds to high-performing, effective programs that have shown the best outcomes. LA County has also set aside general fund money to implement innovative programs, such as C3 street engagement teams, rapid rehousing and landlord incentive programs. However, an ongoing revenue measure is critical if LA 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 of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County has placed on the March 7, 2017 ballot Measure H, the LA County Plan to Prevent & Combat Homelessness, to be funded with a ¼ cent sales tax for 10 years the proceeds of which can only be used to prevent and combat homelessness across Los Angeles County;

WHEREAS, Measure H requires a Citizen’s Advisory committee to ensure that the funding is effectively spent. There will be specific performance standards for each strategy funded and an independent evaluation every year by an outside expert. Measure H funds will be fairly and equitably shared across the county through a collaborative process and every region will see an increase in funding for homeless services and housing.

WHEREAS, Measure H will help 45,000 people experiencing homelessness to obtain permanent stable housing and another 30,000 people avoid becoming homeless;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of _____ supports Measure H and hereby urges the voters of our community and of Los Angeles County to approve Measure H, the LA County Plan to Prevent & Combat Homelessness.