

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

## HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 50791  
Los Angeles, CA 90050  
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>  
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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Harvey Slater FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
Diego R. Silva SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
Joan Potter TREASURER  
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## CALIFORNIA



## DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

200 N. Spring St. Ste.2005  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Telephone: (213) 978-1551

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Liz Amsden SUSTAINABILITY

September 3, 2015

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and  
Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Helping the homeless [in response to CF 14-1656-S1]

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood. These include increasing numbers of homeless people – men, women and children – some with psychological problems or addiction issues, drifters, vets, and these who were previously employed but never recovered after the Recession.

No-one chooses to live on the streets. To that end we urge the Homelessness and Poverty Committee to focus their priorities on providing appropriate resources and affordable housing – the option which has been shown as being the initial and most important step in remediating these people's lives. Additionally, in every area of the City in which the homeless choose to dwell, the City should work alone and with new and existing partners to provide amenities including but not limited to storage facilities, bathrooms, showers, internet access, first aid and other services.

With such options within walking distance, many of the current complaints against the homeless will be mitigated and budgets, now spent on policing, jailing and other authoritarian responses to the situation, can be used to defray the costs for these quality-of-life enhancements and accelerate the reentry of the homeless into society improving everyone's satisfaction as well as reducing expense to the City.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore urges the Homelessness and Poverty Committee accelerate the development of a comprehensive strategy to mitigate living conditions for the homeless in all areas of the city rather than start criminalizing their actions, and to immediately offer resources to the homeless in North East Los Angeles where there are currently no City providers.

Sincerely,

  
Monica Alcaraz, President  
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council