

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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November 5, 2015

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

Re: CF 15-1138 for further funding to remove the blight of homelessness from Los Angeles

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council which represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood would like to express support for expanded services and support for our homeless population.

With the demands of other projects competing for City funds, all of this needs to be carefully planned, coordinated and executed in conjunction with all four levels of government – City, County, State and Federal. Funds should be advanced with the intention that they will be recouped from areas where disproportionate amounts of resources are devoted to the homeless already on short-term, patchwork and/or enforcement such as funds spend by the LAPD and Emergency Services.

The intent here is to solve the problem not to continue to expand policing and temporary fixes. To that end we need a great deal more than \$100 million, just for the first year.

If the City was to increase its commitment by \$25 million and ask the County to match it, we would have \$250 million. And if the State were to match that figure and the Federal government match the aggregate, there would be \$1 billion. A large amount, yes, and it still won't be enough. But it will be a much better start to finding real solutions.

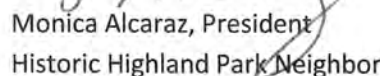
Furthermore, we need to ensure that services for the rest of us – infrastructure upgrades, road repairs, safety – are not short-changed, and that the City does not eat into its Reserve Fund which may be needed for less predictable emergencies. We need shrewd choices based on broad-based evidentiary research to come up with smart and lasting solutions.

All levels of government are looking for short-term metrics to prove success. Success will not be this year or next and therefore any deadlines for program results must be set aside if the remediation of this problem is to succeed. The homeless are people, not cyphers, and adequate time, all the time that is necessary, must be given to lift their suffering.

As well, given the expected El Nino winter, it is essential that short-term mitigation of homelessness be addressed in conjunction with permanent solutions. We applaud the decision to open shelters earlier and expand facilities. But this must be in addition to the long-term solving of Los Angeles' homeless crisis.

Therefore, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council requests that the City look at increasing their financial commitment this year to ending homelessness in our City by \$25 million to \$125 million, that they approach their counterparts at the County, State and Federal levels to match these funds as set forth above, that they source the funding wisely, taking into account where there will be savings in the future, and that real solutions are identified and achieved without having to meet any specific metrics other than the eventual housing of our homeless men, women and children, be they veterans, mentally ill, addicts or the victims of economic adversity.

Sincerely,


Monica Alcaraz, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council