

# MOTION

AD HOC CMTE ON

Homeless

MAR 28 2006

The recent actions of a local hospital releasing a homeless patient onto the streets of downtown Los Angeles has raised serious concerns over the dumping of transients downtown by hospitals and other institutions.

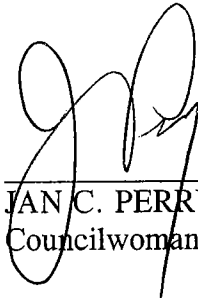
The Police Department has called this practice unconscionable, and the City Attorney is investigating whether this incident and others violate laws prohibiting the discharge of sick patients or the movement of patients against their will. In addition, State Senator Gil Cedillo has introduced legislation that would prohibit leaving people in areas outside their home jurisdiction when they are homeless or need services for mental illness or drug treatment.

Pending the outcome of the above efforts, the City still needs to take immediate and active measures to prevent hospitals and other cities from dumping transients in downtown Los Angeles. This practice not only exacerbates the homeless problem in downtown but can also be very dangerous to the patients being dumped - especially given the security risks presented by one of the city's most dangerous areas, with a large number of parolees, drug addicts, drug dealers and sex offenders. At the very least we need to have a review of local hospitals' discharge policies.

One thing we can do without further delay is to immediately begin education and coordination efforts with all local hospitals and medical institutions to prevent the discharge of homeless or indigent patients into the Los Angeles downtown area.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CLA be directed to report in thirty days with recommendations to begin the process of negotiating and entering into a Memorandum of Understanding, or other appropriate agreement, between the City, the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) and any other involved entity, including the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for the coordination and safe and orderly release of indigent patients from acute care hospitals, and in such a manner that they are not automatically transported to, and released in, downtown Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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JAN C. PERRY  
Councilwoman, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

  
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