

MOTION

Each night in Los Angeles, nearly 20,000 people go without shelter, many of them sleeping on sidewalks in makeshift encampments, surrounded by what few possessions they own. In most of the City of Los Angeles, there is no place for them to safely keep their belongings during the day, causing semi-permanent and round-the-clock encampments in various neighborhoods and business districts.

The lack of voluntary and free storage for people living on the streets presents a significant barrier for many to access social services or get into housing. Without a place to keep their belongings, many people refuse to accept a bed at a temporary or emergency shelter, which often strictly limit how much luggage someone can bring. Without a place to safely keep their belongings, many people risk losing everything they own if they leave their encampment for a medical appointment, or a visit to a social service agency.

The City's recently adopted Comprehensive Homeless Strategy (CHS), and specifically Strategy 6A - Facilities, states that until additional homeless housing stock can adequately meet demand, additional homeless storage facilities are needed throughout the City in order to augment the limited capacity offered in the City of Los Angeles: a large facility on Skid Row operated by Chrysalis; and a very small facility on Venice Beach with limited hours operated by volunteers with the Venice Community Housing Corporation. The CHS calls for storage facilities throughout the City that would provide homeless individuals with the ability to store their property, a standard process to access those belongings on a daily basis if needed.

The City asked the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to develop a plan for a network of citywide storage facilities to serve our residents experiencing homelessness. LAHSA is recommending, in consultation with Council District 11, an existing, vacant, City-owned building located at 1234 Pacific Avenue in Venice that can serve this purpose. This site, the former Westminster Senior Center, offers restroom access and space for a case manager who can facilitate entry into integrated data management systems (CES/HMIS) for services and housing as well as storage opportunities for people who are homeless. LAHSA can modify its existing contract with Chrysalis, an experienced operator, to run the Venice facility. Costs should be covered by savings in this year's budgeted amount for storage and emergency shelter funds that were provided for the El Niño season.

Consistent with Council's adoption of the CHS and Strategy 6A specifically, city staff and LAHSA should proceed with securing the space, executing contract modifications with Chrysalis, and opening the program at the facility.



I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be requested to authorize the use of this existing, vacant, City-owned building located at 1234 Pacific Avenue in Venice, to provide immediate, free storage opportunities for our residents experiencing homelessness;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer in consultation with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) be directed to identify sufficient funding for Chrysalis to manage the day to day operation for homeless storage services at the above described facility.

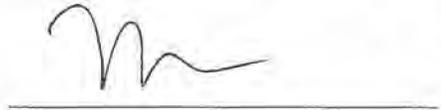
PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

APR 13 2016