

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/28/2022 03:06 PM

**Council File No:** 19-1020

**Comments for Public Posting:** RE: Support for Council File 19-1020 - Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council: The following organizations write to demonstrate support for the proposed Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness in the City of Los Angeles (Council File 19-1020). Forming a Commission on Lived Experience is essential to combating the homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles, as the voices of people with lived expertise have been absent or ignored from spaces of key decision-making. As service providers we see first-hand the critical importance of incorporating the perspectives of individuals with lived experience into our work. In addition to employing people with lived experience of homelessness, many of us have mechanisms at our organizations where we seek out and incorporate these important perspectives. Furthermore, such a commission is national best practice. The National Alliance to End Homelessness, the country's leading homelessness advocacy organization, powerfully sums up the issue: "Solutions to homelessness aren't real solutions if they don't involve people with lived expertise in their design and implementation." While LAHSA manages the important Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) and Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles (HYFLA), these are not substitutes for the city instituting its own commission with recent and local lived experience. These bodies span the entirety of Los Angeles County, so not all members of these bodies reside in the city of Los Angeles. Furthermore, the inputs they provide are with regards to LAHSA operations and the homeless crisis response system as a whole, spanning broader than and on issues distinct from the city of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles regularly develops, considers and enacts numerous policies and programs outside of LAHSA decision making and spanning numerous city departments which impact people experiencing homelessness. As noted in the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) report, this commission could support the city in particular to provide input on the development and implementation of these policies, including written and verbal input to the City Council and its Committees. It is for these reasons that we respectfully request that the City of Los Angeles consider creating its own Commission on Lived Experience with

Homelessness, distinct from other lived experience bodies.  
Regards, Chrysalis CSH Downtown Women's Center Imagine LA  
Inner City Law Center LA Family Housing PATH (People  
Assisting The Homeless) Resident United Network Los Angeles  
Safe Place for Youth SSG HOPICS St. Joseph Center Sycamores  
The Midnight Mission The People Concern Union Station  
Homeless Services United Way of Greater Los Angeles Upward  
Bound House

Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

November 28, 2022

**RE: Support for Council File 19-1020 - Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness**

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The following organizations write to demonstrate support for the proposed Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness in the City of Los Angeles (Council File 19-1020).

Forming a Commission on Lived Experience is essential to combating the homelessness crisis in the City of Los Angeles, as the voices of people with lived expertise have been absent or ignored from spaces of key decision-making. As service providers we see first-hand the critical importance of incorporating the perspectives of individuals with lived experience into our work. In addition to employing people with lived experience of homelessness, many of us have mechanisms at our organizations where we seek out and incorporate these important perspectives.

Furthermore, such a commission is national best practice. The National Alliance to End Homelessness, the country's leading homelessness advocacy organization, powerfully sums up the issue: "Solutions to homelessness aren't real solutions if they don't involve people with lived expertise in their design and implementation."

While LAHSA manages the important Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)<sup>1</sup> and Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles (HYFLA)<sup>2</sup>, these are not substitutes for the city instituting its own commission with recent and local lived experience. These bodies span the entirety of Los Angeles County, so not all members of these bodies reside in the city of Los Angeles. Furthermore, the inputs they provide are with regards to LAHSA operations and the homeless crisis response system as a whole, spanning broader than and on issues distinct from the city of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles regularly develops, considers and enacts numerous policies and programs outside of LAHSA decision making and spanning numerous city departments which impact people experiencing homelessness. As noted in the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) report, this commission could support the city in particular to provide input on the development and implementation of these policies, including written and verbal input to the City Council and its Committees.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request that the City of Los Angeles consider creating its own Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness, distinct from other lived experience bodies.

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<sup>1</sup>The mission of the LEAB is "To provide advice and counsel to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and its partners in support of efforts that strive to end homelessness, as well as to ensure that the unique voice of those with the lived experience of homelessness is incorporated throughout the Los Angeles homeless crisis response system."

<sup>2</sup> The mission of HYFLA: "HYFLA works to end youth homelessness in Los Angeles County by centering the voices of youth with lived expertise in decision-making on program development, funding, policy making, and program and system performance evaluation."

Regards,

Chrysalis

CSH

Downtown Women's Center

Imagine LA

Inner City Law Center

LA Family Housing

PATH (People Assisting The Homeless)

Resident United Network Los Angeles

Safe Place for Youth

SSG HOPICS

St. Joseph Center

Sycamores

The Midnight Mission

The People Concern

Union Station Homeless Services

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Upward Bound House