

MOTION

Despite the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) extensive efforts and movement in improving the Coordinated Entry System (CES), significant barriers persist in the matching process. One contributing factor to these hurdles is a somewhat stringent acuity threshold, which is used to prioritize the individuals with the highest-need for placement. While this system is intended to equitably target limited resources—a goal we as a City continue to support—housing units often sit vacant when lower-acuity individuals are ready to move in immediately yet remain ineligible for matching while higher-acuity individuals are delayed due to documentation and administrative delays. Consequently, many individuals who could benefit from stable housing are left waiting while units sit empty.

LAHSA serves as the central authority overseeing the CES matching process, in partnership with the CES Policy Council. The CES Policy Council—established to meet U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements for Continuums of Care (CoCs)—sets policies and advises both LAHSA and the LAHSA Commission. In practice, LAHSA controls all relevant data and holds substantial decision-making power. Despite significant funding from both the City and County, this structure has effectively shifted legislative authority over the region's homelessness response away from local governments and into the hands of LAHSA and the CES Policy Council.

To overcome these challenges, the City must pursue a more flexible and responsive approach that removes administrative barriers and ensures available housing units are filled quickly. Given the urgency of these issues, the City should explore alternative strategies to make the matching process more inclusive and effective throughout Los Angeles, especially since there is currently no mechanism for the City to directly influence how the units it funds and builds are allocated.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Housing Department, in coordination with LAHSA, to report on whether HUD requirements related to acuity-based prioritization are directly aligned with the prioritization system within CES and how similar systems across the country satisfy these HUD requirements;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request that the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles and LAHSA report on the factors that affect vacancy rates in permanent supportive housing, including how the current acuity threshold impacts these rates, and how data shows, if at all, whether the recent point reduction in the acuity threshold resulted in higher occupancy rates and significantly shorter lease-up time periods;

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request LAHSA to report on the new matching system CESTTRR, including how it differs from the current matching prioritization system within CES; and


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I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request LAHSA to report on whether Time Limited Subsidy (TLS) programs are required to adhere to CES's standard matching process, or whether they can be designed with more flexible prioritization criteria to allow immediate placement of most recently homeless individuals who do not require intensive services and are document-ready.

Presented by: _____


JOHN S. LEE
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Seconded by: _____



ORIGINAL