

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Lionel Mares  
**Date Submitted:** 06/18/2021 10:44 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-0045  
**Comments for Public Posting:** SEE ATTACHED:

June 18, 2021

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **Council File 20-0045**

Dear Councilmembers,

Hello, I am writing to urge the Los Angeles City Council to reevaluate its 'partnership' with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The city and county of Los Angeles has experienced a big increase in Homelessness due to several factors, such as:

- the Cost-of-Living is expensive (particularly in California),
- Minimum-wage has not kept pace with Inflation,
- Unemployment & Under-employment (lack of jobs for everyone who wants one),
- government bureaucracy is slow to act when addressing the homelessness crisis,
- lack of/insufficient Psychiatric & Medical care for those with medical conditions that impede them from living a 'normal life',
- Alcohol and Drug rehabilitation for those with addiction problems,
- the lack of/insufficient 'affordable' housing/Permanent Supportive Housing,
- Social Services (e.g., Counseling, Therapy, Mental Health) including Employment training and placement,
- and insufficient Social Support (e.g., Family, Friends, Relatives).

I have used LAHSA Portal to 'report' homeless encampments so that Outreach Workers can help the homeless individuals. I do not think that LAHSA is doing enough to address the homeless crisis. I believe that they can do better! LAHSA should expand its 'Public-Private' Partnership with other organizations that provide services to the Homeless community, including medical &

psychiatric care, employment services, social services (support), and most importantly temporary to long-term housing.

LAHSA should do more to work with partner organizations and non-profit organizations such as United Way of Greater Los Angeles – Everyone In, an organization that advocates for the Homeless. I urge LAHSA to do more to work with these organizations. LAHSA's current bureaucratic structure is not working! It needs to be reformed. Heidi Marston, the current director of LAHSA, should consider getting a pay-cut and other executives because their salaries is too big. The money can be used to increase more outreach workers and services for the homeless community.

In conclusion, LAHSA current structure is not working. It is too large and slow to address the homelessness problem that we are all facing. The council should consider creating its own Housing Authority/Department to address the homelessness crisis. The city of Los Angeles should have more control in addressing homelessness because Los Angeles has a big population that needs to be heard by the city council and county of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

**Lionel Mares**

Advocate & MPA Graduate Student  
California State University, Northridge

Cc: Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair  
Homelessness & Poverty Committee