

MOTION

Tens of thousands of people living unsheltered on the streets of Los Angeles is unacceptable at any time. Tens of thousands of people living unsheltered on the streets of Los Angeles during a public health crisis that requires social distancing and frequent hand-washing is intolerable. Tens of thousands of people living unsheltered on the streets of Los Angeles during a public health crisis while there are tens of thousands of vacant hotel rooms is outrageous.

We must take every possible action to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19. Public health officials warn that the tens of thousands of people living on our streets are particularly vulnerable to the virus and cannot practice social distancing or follow other public health guidelines. Left unsheltered, they are at risk of contracting and spreading the virus. Meanwhile, there are nearly 100,000 hotel rooms in LA, and most of them are vacant. Hotels are heading toward bankruptcy and thousands of hotel workers are unemployed.

On March 15, Governor Gavin Newsom shared that homelessness was a "top concern" during the COVID-19 pandemic and announced the state was launching a major effort with counties to house people in vacant hotels and motels. More than a month later, Newsom shared that the state had secured approximately 15,000 hotel rooms. The unsheltered population in the State of California is estimated to be 108,000. In Los Angeles, a reported 2,400 hotel rooms have been secured, and approximately 800 people have been provided housing there.

Despite tremendous efforts by various levels of government, the number of people experiencing homelessness being housed in hotels falls far short of what is necessary to address this human and public health crisis. Reports indicate that many hotels have been unwilling to participate or have reneged on initial interest, citing security concerns, liability issues, objections from corporate management, or fear of lost revenue from being branded a "homeless hotel." Many of those issues have been addressed by the city, county, or state, and others are unacceptable responses in the middle of a public health crisis.

Through Project Roomkey, officials with the state, the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and the Office of the Mayor continue to negotiate with hotels to provide thousands of additional rooms. Many hotels are willing to participate in the program, while others, including many large hotel chains, are more recalcitrant.

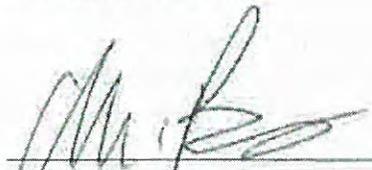
Many hotels in Los Angeles have received some form of economic development incentive from the City of Los Angeles. Any hotel that has benefited from any form of public support should be participating in Project Roomkey. In downtown Los Angeles, hotels that provide thousands of hotel rooms have been constructed with partial public subsidies.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer, and City of Los Angeles Department of Convention & Tourism Development report back immediately with a list of all hotels, listed by Council District, in the the City of Los Angeles that:

- Have received public subsidy, tax breaks, or economic development incentives
- Sit on, lease, or make use of in any fashion publicly owned property
- Sit on, lease, or make use of in any fashion property formerly owned by the Community Redevelopment Authority, and any successor agencies.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority report to the City Council with a list of hotels from the above list that are not participating in the Project Roomkey program, and explanations the hotels have given for their lack of participation.

PRESENTED BY:



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SECONDED BY:



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