

Communication from Public

Name: Georgia Hawley
Date Submitted: 02/04/2026 10:50 AM
Council File No: 23-1022-S18

Comments for Public Posting: To the Members of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, I am submitting this written comment for the record regarding the proposed reductions to City homelessness funding discussed at the February 4, 2026 meeting. I understand the City's obligation to meet the requirements of the Alliance Settlement Agreement and the fiscal pressures driving this discussion. At the same time, I want to underscore the very real impact that proposed reductions to street level and hygiene services would have in Skid Row and similar high acuity areas. Hygiene, access, navigation, and other frontline services are often characterized as not directly related to housing placement or retention. In practice, these services are the entry point to housing. They are how providers establish trust, stabilize health conditions, reduce crisis escalation, and support people in becoming ready to accept and maintain housing. Treating these services as discretionary weakens the very system the City relies on to meet its housing goals. The Midnight Mission operates one of the only 24 hour hygiene centers in Skid Row, where the highest concentration of people experiencing homelessness in the City is located. These services are not ancillary. They are core infrastructure in a dense, high need environment and are essential to maintaining stability, health, and engagement for people who are otherwise disconnected from care. In addition to supporting individuals, access to consistent hygiene services improves overall conditions in the surrounding area. When people have reliable places to shower, use restrooms, and address basic needs, there is less use of sidewalks and public spaces for those purposes. This benefits residents, businesses, service providers, and the broader community while improving public health and safety outcomes. The attachments to this item identify numerous Skid Row programs and line items that fall within categories being considered for reductions. Any changes to these services should be evaluated through a Skid Row specific impact lens, including where people will go, how continuity of care will be maintained, and how the City will prevent increased unsheltered homelessness in the downtown core. I urge the Committee to ensure that any cost saving actions are paired with clear transition plans, realistic outcome measures that reflect engagement and stabilization, and safeguards to prevent displacement or service gaps for people currently connected to

care. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment for the record and for your consideration of the frontline realities providers encounter every day. Respectfully, Georgia Hawley
Chief Communications Officer The Midnight Mission



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I understand the City's obligation to meet the requirements of the Alliance Settlement Agreement and the fiscal pressures driving this discussion. At the same time, I want to underscore the very real impact that proposed reductions to street level and hygiene services would have in Skid Row and similar high acuity areas.

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In addition to supporting individuals, access to consistent hygiene services improves overall conditions in the surrounding area. When people have reliable places to shower, use restrooms, and address basic needs, there is less use of sidewalks and public spaces for those purposes. This benefits residents, businesses, service providers, and the broader community while improving public health and safety outcomes.

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I urge the Committee to ensure that any cost saving actions are paired with clear transition plans, realistic outcome measures that reflect engagement and stabilization, and safeguards to prevent displacement or service gaps for people currently connected to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment for the record and for your consideration of the frontline realities providers encounter every day.

Respectfully,

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Chief Communications Officer
The Midnight Mission