

Communication from Public

Name: P Garcia

Date Submitted: 08/03/2024 10:42 AM

Council File No: 24-0140-S1

Comments for Public Posting: It is time for the elected officials of Los Angeles, and primarily the City Council Members to remember that they have and continue to neglect 99.07% of the population of this city in order to improperly address the homeless population that represents less than 1% of the city. I am a liberal latino but enough is enough. Our streets and sidewalks and alleys are filthy and cracked up. We don't have enough police to protect us. There is filth, urine and feces all over this city and the less than 1% control our lives, our neighborhoods and even kill our neighbors and tourists without ANY repercussions. STOP the insanity. This attitude of throwing Billions of dollars at people with mental issues is precisely one of the reasons the Republican Party has such a strong following. All they need to do is point to LA and San Francisco to show THE WORLD what happens when all the politicians are democrats. Incarcerate homeless criminals and place the rest in hospitals or housing they cannot escape so that my children can walk the streets of our neighborhood.... Especially if the same politicians want us to get out of our cars and use public transportation. Thank you. P Garcia

Communication from Public

Name: Nyla Arslanian

Date Submitted: 08/03/2024 01:06 PM

Council File No: 24-0140-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support for Council File 24-0140-S1, calling for the City Attorney to analyze the impact of the Grants Pass ruling. The long-awaited ruling should give our city the flexibility to deal with the issue. People without homes represent 1.2% of our population. It is not acceptable that we have allowed these individuals to destroy the quality of life in our beautiful city. At last we have the tools for effective action. First, how far can we go to rectify a situation that could have effectively been dealt with 36 years ago? (see attached). SCOTUS has returned the possibility of leadership with its monumental decision.

Homeless Are More Than Homeless

How to Keep Have-Nots From Being Can-Nots or Will-Nots

By MAXENE JOHNSTON

In this election year, discussion has rightly focused on the plight of millions of homeless, displaced Americans. As the Republicans and Democrats go into convention this summer, this national tragedy and its possible solutions will receive even more attention. But an election-year debate about the "homeless problem" will be little more than rhetoric until the focus shifts from individual pieces of the puzzle to the larger picture that they form—the need for a new strategy and a revamped social-services industry to carry it out.

Until now our difficulty has been compounded by the very term *homeless*. If we define the problem as a lack of homes, then on its face the solution appears to be the construction of more affordable living units. This misdirects the search for answers while grossly understating the real needs of the urban poor. Among their growing ranks are 4 million unemployed, underemployed, sick and mentally ill American citizens. The fact that they are without adequate housing, important as that is, is just one piece in the homeless puzzle; it is impossible to think that we could create, overnight, all the affordable housing that ostensibly would put roofs over their heads.

The sight of people sleeping on the streets, with its powerful tug on emotions, tends to blind us to what brought them there and what keeps them there. Yet we must understand these factors if we are also to see the opportunities for treating this problem's geometric growth.

People who are homeless are the unfortunate symptoms of fundamental economic changes that have sorely rent the fabric of the American middle and lower classes. The number of Americans living in poverty climbed from 11% of the population in 1973 to 14% in 1985, and is projected to increase to 17% by 1995. Rising rents, lower-paying jobs and the loss of affordable and federally subsidized housing have all contributed to this woeful situation. The economic trends pushing these people below the poverty line, and in many instances into the street, were years in coming. Unfortunately, there will be no quick fix, regardless of which party occupies the White House in 1989.

To begin to devise a solution it is important to understand the three different segments of this population: the have-nots, the can-nots and the will-nots.

The "have-nots" are working Americans temporarily derailed by economic downturn or family crisis who need relatively little support to provide for themselves and their families. The strategy with this group is to give them an immediate remedy to keep them from becoming so emotionally or economically disabled that they fall into the "can-nots" category.

The "can-nots" are those disabled by mental illness, drug or alcohol addiction, poor health, inadequate education or illiteracy. With short-term strategies to link them to existing benefits and programs, they can lead relatively self-sufficient lives, in available housing, with minimal supervision. The goal is to prevent them from becoming completely dysfunctional.

The "will-nots" are those most visible to us. They are so distraught and incapacitated from years of mental illness and/or

living on the streets that they are amenable to only limited assistance. While we should not turn our backs on this group, our time and resources should first be invested in services for the two segments of the homeless population that still have the ability and desire to help themselves.

Taken together, these three groups sadly represent the client base of a new growth industry. Its clients' needs can be met if the service providers follow the lessons of successful customer-driven service businesses like the one pioneered by Ray Kroc and his McDonald's restaurants.

Kroc did not invent the hamburger; rather, he organized a new delivery system that ensured consistent quality, value and convenience. These same principles have produced success for such varied businesses as the Nordstrom's department stores and Scandinavian Airlines. The common factor in their favorable results is that these companies arrange their services to meet the needs of customers, not to meet internal institutional agendas.

The experience of McDonald's and others offers a critical lesson for the human-services industry, specifically, in a new homeless management model: Delivery of services is managed by the private sector (or entrepreneurially driven nonprofit organizations). In Los Angeles a corporation already operating on such a paradigm has had a 62% success rate. By setting self-sufficiency, not temporary shelter, as its goal, it has kept thousands from becoming permanently homeless. Herein is value—for the taxpayer and the client.

In the new model, existing services from public and private sectors are clustered, bridging the gaps in traditional stand-alone facilities. Each sector then can do what it does best—the government providing or purchasing services for the poor, which then are managed by the private sector in a consumer-oriented manner.

The essential ingredient in such a program is careful, meticulous screening. Screening identifies each homeless cus-

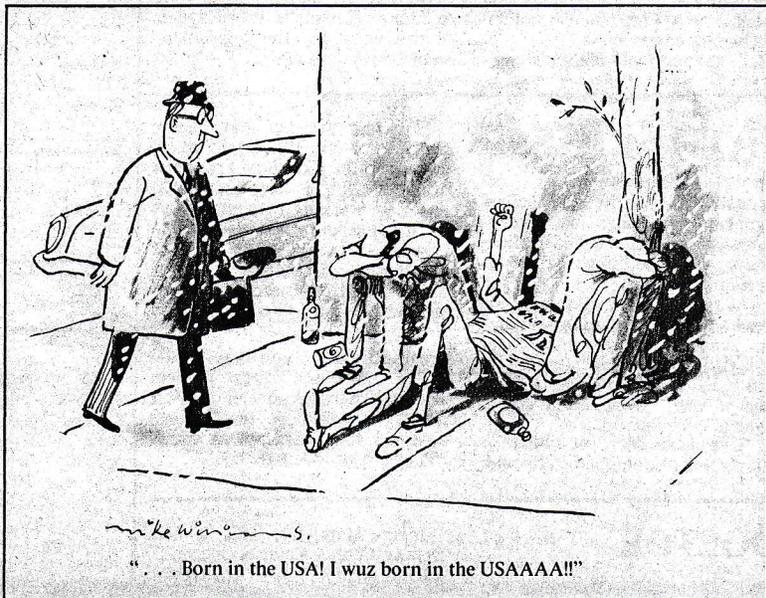
tomers' needs—whether medical, mental health, employment, etc. The center then assembles a package of benefits and/or short-term housing from a menu of government services.

Just as the public values the convenience of McDonald's and the customer services of Nordstrom's, displaced people need similar efficiencies in the time and energy required to obtain services. This is another reason for the clustering of services in one-stop centers, as opposed to the prevalent stand-alone government facilities. In one location they can be linked quickly to good food, health care, mental-health services, job counseling and assistance in finding permanent and adequate housing. The new model acknowledges that the current system of "helmet-shelter"—sheltering the homeless in missions, voucher hotels or tent cities—is not a solution.

For the nation to do the same—to prevent "have-nots" from becoming permanent street people, to move "can-nots" into proper care and to make a dent in the "will-not" group—we must first recognize that economic conditions will continue to displace millions of Americans, some of whom will undoubtedly become homeless through no fault of their own. Obviously the federal government must again become a leader, working with state and local governments and the private sector, in creating (and preserving) affordable housing. But we will have to understand that housing on the scale required will not be ready by next winter.

Just as the nation put men on the moon, we can get men (and women) off the streets by helping them to remain in the working world so that housing is not out of their reach. The same tenets that guide successful service companies can help us to accomplish this.

Maxene Johnston is the president of the largest homeless-management organization in California, the Weingart Center in downtown Los Angeles.



Communication from Public

Name: Fiona Engler

Date Submitted: 08/03/2024 04:58 PM

Council File No: 24-0140-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the Council to act swiftly to approve this motion to direct City staff to prepare the requested reports. The City must understand how to apply this ruling and do so in a quick manner for the safety of its citizens.