

MOTION

In Los Angeles, every interim housing bed is a crucial resource in our efforts to help bring individuals experiencing homelessness indoors and support their transition to permanent housing. With limited resources and a growing need, the City must ensure full and efficient use of its interim housing infrastructure.

According to Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), service providers contracted with LAHSA are *provided the opportunity* to exit a program participant who is absent for three consecutive days. While this policy offers necessary flexibility in cases such as hospitalization or other documented emergencies or commitments, it also contributes to avoidable vacancies within the interim housing system. LAHSA's new real-time data sharing on bed availability has significantly improved transparency, but the continued use of the flexible three-day absence policy could potentially mean that beds may still be marked as "occupied" even when no person is actually sleeping in them. Further, because providers are paid their nightly bed rate, this three-day absence policy could function as a built-in incentive to mark beds as occupied within those three days, even if they are not actively being used. This results in a gap and delay between reported availability and actual usage. To better serve those ready to come indoors, we must ensure that interim housing beds are consistently made available when possible and are accurately tracked.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to report back within 30 days on the feasibility and impacts of revising their current three-day absence policy. This report should include:

1. Recommendations for ensuring that City-funded, LAHSA-contracted interim housing beds are not only marked as occupied, but are in fact being used nightly—supported by a policy framework that distinguishes between documented, excused, or reasonable absences (e.g., hospitalization, serving jail time, or other reasonable documented emergencies or commitments) versus unexcused absences, to allow for timely and appropriate reallocation of unused interim housing beds.
2. Protocols to *require* service providers to exit participants and make the bed available to another person experiencing homelessness after *two nights of an unexcused absence rather than the flexibility to exit an individual only after three consecutive days*.
3. A potential new bed rate system including a reduced rate for participants with excused absences.
4. An estimate of the public funds paid in bed rates to LAHSA and service providers for beds marked as occupied under the three-day policy where participants ultimately did not return.
5. These recommendations for enhanced oversight and accountability could include, for example, random spot checks in addition to the nightly bed count, to confirm alignment between reported occupancy and actual nightly use.

PRESENTED BY

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