



TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

August 25, 2025

The Honorable Nithya Raman
Chair, Housing & Homelessness Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Ending the State of Homelessness Emergency: A Blueprint for Lasting Solutions and Investment in Housing Angelenos (Council Files 25-0577; 22-1545-S33)

Dear Councilmember Raman,

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude for the collaboration we have shared on the City's homelessness response. Your leadership on this issue has helped drive thoughtful and substantive work in shaping our policies, and I am hopeful that this conversation continues as we look ahead.

In December 2022, the City declared a local State of Emergency on Homelessness to address the intensifying crisis on our streets with the urgency and flexibility it demanded. The order allowed the City to accelerate the procurement of services, establish shelter and housing interventions more rapidly, and coordinate cross-agency responses.

Since that time, we have made measurable progress. Homelessness in Los Angeles has declined for two consecutive years, and street homelessness has been reduced by 17.5% since Mayor Bass took office. Additionally, the City Council has taken important steps in collaboration with the Mayor towards standardizing its response, including establishing the Bureau of Homelessness Oversight, standing up regional initiatives for families and immigrants, and creating public-facing dashboards to track outcomes. These actions demonstrate that Council is beginning to normalize our homelessness responses and transition toward consistent and accountable structures. Throughout this work, we have worked hand in hand with Mayor Bass and consistently advanced policies that support our shared initiatives, ensuring that the City speaks with a unified voice in its commitment to addressing homelessness.

As you know, the criteria that justified the original Declaration under Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.33 are no longer fully met. While the Emergency Declaration was necessary at the time, a state of emergency without an end date is not

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sustainable. Ending the emergency does not diminish the City's commitment—it formalizes it, signaling that we can deliver long-term solutions through standard governance, oversight, and accountability.

This is why I introduced a motion (CF 25-0577) with you, Councilmember Lee, and Councilmember Jurado to explore how we build transparency and accountability into our homelessness response beyond the constraints of emergency powers. As part of this discussion, I would respectfully request that the Committee also consider the amendment introduced in Council on August 20, 2025 related to the Declaration renewal (CF 22-1545-S33) and hear the first half of the Chief Legislative Analyst Report (CF 25-0577), which provides an overview of the legislative, budgetary, and legal tools deployed since the Declaration was first enacted.

We have the opportunity to revisit this conversation as a governing body and ensure that Council is exercising its Charter-mandated authority to provide oversight. Until we take steps toward identifying a date to sunset the emergency, we risk continuing to push this decision further down the road. I urge the Committee to hear these matters as soon as possible, so that Council can act with the timeliness and deliberation this issue demands.

I appreciate your leadership and partnership on this issue and look forward to continuing this important work with you.

Sincerely,



TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District