

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 10/14/2025 03:57 PM
Council File No: 25-1137
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City of Los Angeles Housing and Homelessness Committee

200 N. Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA

Via Email

Re: Council File 25-1137

October 14, 2025

Dear Los Angeles City Council Member,

As the City of Los Angeles readdresses funding issues relating to homelessness, Housing is a Human Right has delineated various ways in which the City of Los Angeles can responsibly fund long-term housing for our homeless population.

Despite multiple studies at the state and local levels showing that a housing first model based on permanent housing for our homeless communities saves money and provides long-term stability for the unhoused, the City of Los Angeles continues to embrace policies for temporary shelter and interim housing that do not have a direct path to permanent housing.

The State of CA passed Housing First legislation (SB 1380 – Mitchell) in 2016, with Gov. Jerry Brown signing the bill into law based on Housing First programs having proven to save money in other states. The findings in this SB 1380 showed a \$45,000 to \$55,000 savings per year for each person chronically homeless moved into permanent housing.

In the wake of both a budget shortfall and reductions in funding for homeless services and housing programs, the City of Los Angeles should develop a cost-savings plan to address homelessness which includes:

- Prioritizing permanent housing, including the very affordable conversion of empty buildings to house our homeless community through adaptive reuse
- Cease the practice of temporary shelter and interim housing that have no clear path to immediately providing permanent low-income housing and leave our homeless population in a costly and inhumane revolving door back into homelessness

- Engage in competitive bidding processes and cost controls on the purchase of buildings for homeless housing, e.g. the Mayfair hotel cost \$60 million in taxpayer dollars to purchase with an additional \$23 million in upgrades when the purchase of other buildings could have provided more units for less money
- Oversee non-profit organizations receiving Los Angeles City funds to ensure grantees are held accountable for providing permanent housing to clients, with a requirement for detailed reports showing how each client is on an immediate path to permanent housing
- Provide unsheltered homeless populations with permanent housing without forcing people to flee encampments and populate vacant buildings and areas without services. Razing encampments has led to dangerous situations that have required a drain on City services, as evidenced by the fire started at the historic Morrison Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles by unsheltered individuals
- Council should hire homeless service providers directly, rather than utilizing an intermediary non-profit that has no accountability to provide services.
- Continuation of United to Save LA and ensuring low-income housing provided through this program is utilized for people who are unhoused.

Housing is a Human Right implores the city to embrace these cost-saving policies and programs that will provide long-term permanent, stable housing for their homeless constituents.

We look forward to speaking with your office in the near future. Please contact us should you have any questions regarding these recommendations for cost-saving programs.

Warm regards,

Susie Shannon
Policy Director
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