

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: The Domestic Violence & Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC) is focused on ending homelessness in LA for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault survivors are uniquely vulnerable. Research and service providers repeatedly confirm that survivors face not only physical and emotional harm, but also ongoing threats when their personal information (including location data and personal identifying information) is not protected or when they have no choice over how it's shared. In the context of aligning data systems, data protection and data sharing options for survivors are essential to prevent re-victimization or inadvertent exposure to perpetrators. For survivors of domestic violence and intimate partner violence, confidentiality is a core component of safety planning that enables survivors to seek help without fear that their perpetrator will track them down, intercept communication, or exploit their shared information. We urge the Council to ensure that this motion includes explicit survivor-centered protections that provide clear options for survivors to choose what information is shared, with whom, and for what purpose, and robust confidentiality protections that exceed minimum legal standards, recognizing the heightened risks this population faces. Giving survivors choices and control over their information doesn't just respect privacy; it directly supports their safety. DVHSC is available to partner with the City and provide implementation support to ensure identifiers and data tracking are inclusive of survivors' needs for confidentiality and safety. Thank you for your consideration, and your continued commitment to supporting survivors experiencing homelessness.