PUBLIC WORKS

HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH

MOTION

In 2001, the City of Los Angeles entered into the Coordinated Street Furniture Program agreement with Outfront/JCDecaux, which contemplated the potential installation of up to 150 automated public toilets, subject to siting, permitting, utility, and other contractual requirements. Under the contract, Outfront/JCDecaux installed, operated, and maintained the automated public toilets at no direct operating cost to the City.

During the term of the contract, only 14 automated public toilets were installed. Upon expiration of the contract, the City was required to replace all 14 units because the automated public toilets were owned by Outfront/JCDecaux. Due to funding constraints from Fiscal Year 25-26 to present, only four of the replacement toilets are currently operational. This woefully inadequate scale of public hygiene infrastructure has left the streets of Los Angeles, especially in underinvested areas such as Skid Row, without consistent access to sanitation and water.

The lack of public hygiene and water infrastructure affects everyone, including workers such as street vendors, taxi drivers, delivery drivers, utility workers, gas and electric service workers, pedestrians and tourists walking around city streets during and after normal business hours and unhoused individuals. Without permanent sanitation and water facilities, people who need to use a toilet, wash their hands, or drink water must be a paying customer at a business, utilizing a public park or library during operating hours, or walking near a Metro station. Most options for toilet, handwashing, and water access in the City are located within private businesses, leaving it to the business community to provide toilets to the public. For those unable to access these spaces—particularly people experiencing homelessness—using the restroom outdoors may be the only viable option. In 2025, the Los Angeles Sanitation Livability Services Division collected and disposed of more than 70 tons of human waste from the public right-of-way.

The lack of public hygiene infrastructure also impacts access to safe, clean drinking water in the city. The limited availability of drinking water in Los Angeles exacerbates the effects of the climate crisis on all Angelenos, but disproportionately on those who are experiencing homelessness and those who are working outdoors. During hotter months of the year, the City scrambles to open cooling centers and distribute water to those in need, leaving it to service providers and nonprofits to hand out water to ensure that those working and living in the public right of way do not die of heat exhaustion. The City should consider investments in permanent water access infrastructure to improve resiliency and decrease hospital admissions and mortality rates due to heat-related causes.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Mayor's Office provided portable toilets and hand washing stations at encampment locations at Council office discretion across the city to stop the spread of COVID-19 and allow for more sanitary conditions at encampments. These facilities, while helpful to curb the spread of COVID-19, were intended solely for those living in encampments and do not present the city with the robust, comprehensive permanent public hygiene infrastructure needed to improve public health and enshrine the human dignity of Angelenos and visitors, whether housed or unhoused. Following the expiration of the Outfront/JCDecaux contract, responsibility for providing and funding public toilets and water access infrastructure shifted to the City outside the street furniture program. Meeting these responsibilities requires a comprehensive plan with stable funding to sustain existing facilities and expand access citywide. A designated lead department or office, selected to align program responsibilities with departmental capabilities, would provide clear accountability for planning, funding, operations, and maintenance while supporting coordination and shared resources across the City's sanitation and hygiene efforts.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, in coordination with the Bureau of Street Services, the Bureau of Sanitation, the Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles County

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and the Board of Public Works to report within 60 days with recommendations for a City-wide expansion of public hygiene infrastructure, including toilets, hand washing stations, and permanent water spigots. The report should include:

- Opportunities for public-private partnerships, such as the Hollywood Partnership's funding and operation of 40 public bathroom stalls in Hollywood on the ground floor of the City's 1627 Vine Street garage;
- Opportunities to provide public restroom and handwashing facilities on City and County-owned property, including potential locations within the public right-of-way and at or near Metro station entrances; determine whether Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program funds may be used for this purpose; and explore a funding partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health;
- A status update on the implementation of DWP's Hydration Station Initiative Program and opportunities to partner with the City on installation of additional hydration stations.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Attorney, Bureau of Street Services, Board of Public Works, LA Sanitation and Environment, and Department of General Services, evaluate and recommend the appropriate department or office to assume responsibility for the administration, operation, maintenance, and future expansion of the public toilet program currently administered by the Bureau of Street Services.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, in coordination with the Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services, and Board of Public Works, report within 60 days regarding the identification of continued, stable funding for the operational Skid Row public toilets, independent of and in addition to any funding identified for the City-wide expansion described above, so that existing service is preserved regardless of the timeline or outcome of that expansion. The report should also include identified funding for the ongoing provision of feminine hygiene products at all City-operated and City-funded public toilet and hygiene facilities, including whether Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program funds could support this provision.

PRESENTED BY: _____
NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

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YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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