

## MOTION

Homelessness is no longer a localized phenomenon in Los Angeles: according to LAHSA's annual Homeless Count, all 15 council districts have seen significant growth in their populations of unhoused people over the last two years. Despite the growing crisis on our streets all over the city, basic walk-in resources and case managers are consolidated in only a few regions.

All but a handful of neighborhoods in Los Angeles have no walk-in facilities where an unhoused person can use a restroom, take a shower, store their belongings, or speak to a social worker who can help them secure shelter or medical treatment. This inconsistent availability of essential services makes it more difficult for people to see their way out of homelessness and worsens unsanitary conditions on LA's sidewalks. Meanwhile, making resources available at the point of need has been demonstrated to reduce service resistance, especially among transition-age youth.

Nonprofits in Los Angeles that operate low-barrier drop-in centers, such as PATH, Volunteers of America, and SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition have successfully used hygiene, storage, and caseworker services to direct many of their guests into stable housing and treatment. These sites can also perform a wide range of other valuable functions: warming and cooling centers in extreme weather, emergency shelters on hazardous air quality days, and clearinghouses for other city and county services that can be used by residents experiencing a range of vulnerabilities.

The Comprehensive Homeless Strategy approved by Council in February 2016 recognized the value of Navigation Centers as an important link in the range of services needed to help persons experiencing homelessness access to personal services and assistance in finding suitable housing. To date, the City has funded the North Hollywood (Sherman Way) Navigation Center, the San Pedro Navigation Center, and a Navigation Center in Council District 8 funded with Proposition HHH funds.

The North Hollywood Navigation Center, which opened in March 2020, provides showers, restrooms, and storage facilities with access to public transit and shuttle services. The Center also intends to offer job placement and housing navigation services. Staff continues to evaluate options to develop additional Navigation Centers in the City. There are currently no plans to develop a Navigation Center that serves persons experiencing homelessness in Council District 4.

This critical link in the City's homelessness response system must be filled. As the pipeline into homelessness grows larger, the services available to navigate Angelenos back into housing must expand in response. Widening existing facilities into a network of city-operated drop-in centers would ensure that an unhoused person, no matter where they are in Los Angeles, would have ready access to the services that can most quickly guide them out of homelessness.

City staff and LAHSA should be directed to immediately identify an appropriate site to locate a Navigation Center in Council District 4, as well as the funding to construct and operate such a facility. While current Navigation Centers can be used as a model for new facilities, it's also worth exploring options to significantly lower costs associated with their construction, such as the use of city-owned properties, or to partner with existing non-profits, faith-based organizations, and other agencies and departments to share space.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and other City departments as necessary, and in consultation with the Council Office, to identify suitable sites and funding options within 45 days for a Navigation Center to deliver homeless services to be located in Council District 4.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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