

ATTACHMENT C

BILL: LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEASURE “H”

AUTHOR: COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY PLAN TO PREVENT AND COMBAT HOMELESSNESS

STATUS: MARCH 7, 2017 CONSOLIDATED AND MUNICIPAL SPECIAL ELECTIONS

ACTION: SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a SUPPORT position on Measure H – Los Angeles County’s Plan to prevent and combat homelessness. The measure is on the March 7, 2017 Consolidated and Municipal Special Elections ballot.

Specifically the measure would authorize the County of Los Angeles to impose at ¼ percent special transactions and use tax that will:

- Be used to generate ongoing funding to prevent and combat homelessness within Los Angeles County, including funding for mental health, substance abuse treatment, healthcare, education, job training, housing subsidies, services, transportation, outreach, prevention and supportive services for children, families, veterans, seniors and disabled individuals;
- Would create a Citizens’ Oversight Advisory Board to review expenditures; and
- Would expire after 10 years.

DISCUSSION

The current homeless crisis has impacted public transit systems nation-wide. Homeless individuals and families find shelter transit systems at rail stations, bus shelters, and on rail and bus lines. In 2016, the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count showed 11% in homelessness, an increase over the past year. Two-thirds of homeless persons in Los Angeles County are unsheltered. That presence can be felt on the Metro system which has resulted in increased customer complaints and concerns related to security.

Metro is charged with combatting homelessness on and around the Metro system. Metro has partnered with the County of Los Angeles to look at how homelessness affects patrons on our system and the community. Los Angeles County Measure “H” provides a sustainable source of funding to expand access to services, transportation and housing.

In July 2016, Metro launched a homeless strategic planning process which involved significant community and stakeholder input. As a result of this strategic planning, a Metro Homeless Action Plan was created that will be brought to the Board in the February 2017 Board cycle for consideration and adoption.

In October 2016, Metro Directors Ridley-Thomas, Fasana, Bonin and Dupont-Walker presented a motion to the Board to fund up to \$1.2 million toward the deployment of two or more homeless outreach teams that are dedicated exclusively to the Metro system to provide outreach and support to these homeless individuals, thereby, creating a partnership between Metro and Los Angeles County. That motion was approved by the Board and those outreach teams are now a component of the proposed Metro Homeless Action Plan.

Metro's Homeless Action Plan is a long term strategy to find solutions for LA County and transit dependent homeless populations. The successful passage of this measure could provide additional funding to support Metro's Action Plan as Metro staff works with the County to combat this increasing problem of homelessness.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a SUPPORT position on Measure H, Los Angeles County's measure on the March 7, 2017 ballot.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

There is no determined safety impact due to the enactment of the proposed measure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated financial impact has yet to be determined.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Staff has considered adopting either an oppose or neutral position on the bill. An oppose or neutral position would be inconsistent with previous Board action related to combatting homelessness in LA County and on the Metro system.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board decide to adopt a SUPPORT position on the measure; staff will communicate the Board's position to the County. Staff will continue to keep the Board informed as the issue of homelessness is addressed through various programs and measures.