

October 18, 2022

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN**

**Improving Coordination Between the County and LA Metro to Improve the Homeless Response**

The homeless crisis extends across all of Los Angeles County. The 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homelessness Point-in-Time Count estimated that 69,144 people in Los Angeles County (County) were experiencing homelessness, reflecting a 4.1% increase from the 2020 count. While in 2022, 20,596, or 30 percent, were sheltered, 48,585, or 70 percent, remain unsheltered.

The unsheltered homeless crisis is noticeably evident on public transit, as many individuals seek shelter and safety on buses and trains and at rail stations, especially on the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) system.

Metro has undertaken several efforts to address this crisis, allocating funding that would otherwise go to cleaning and operating more buses and trains, to instead pay for homeless outreach teams, which are managed through the Department of Health Services' Housing for Health Program, and which provide services to unhoused individuals on Metro. Metro has also funded dedicated interim housing beds to individuals identified by these teams. This type of financial and operational investment is unprecedented among large urban transit agencies in the United States.

While Metro has made significant investments in meaningful solutions to address the

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crisis, the agency is a transit provider, first and foremost, and is not a social services provider. Metro is not well-positioned on its own to ensure that social services are seamlessly integrated into the County's broader service delivery system and safety net. Moreover, the full extent of the homeless crisis on the Metro system is not well understood, as the County's Point-in-Time Count has not deployed volunteers to count the number of homeless riding Metro or residing on Metro property.

In follow-up to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness' (BRCH) recommendations, the County is exploring opportunities to consolidate governance, administration, and data sharing to improve the regional response to homelessness. This includes potentially transitioning outreach services from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to the County. A similar approach should be considered for integrating outreach services provided, as well as data collected, on Metro, to facilitate optimal coordination and service delivery.

In addition, the County is establishing a Local Solution Fund to facilitate partnerships with jurisdictions that will commit to providing in-kind or matching contributions for the development of service programs, housing, or to share data. The Homeless Initiative can and should explore opportunities for the unhoused population on Metro to benefit from these targeted local investments. With daily ridership exceeding 800,000 boardings, Metro serves more people than many of LA County's jurisdictions have residents.

As the County increases its financial investment and efforts to streamline and improve service delivery, it should also take steps to facilitate better collaboration and coordination to

serve the unhoused on Metro.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Instruct the Executive Director of the Chief Executive Office Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI), in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), to evaluate opportunities to improve coordination and service delivery targeting unhoused individuals on Metro, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Evaluating the efficacy of transferring oversight over the Metro-dedicated multi-disciplinary teams to the County of Los Angeles (County) and identifying funding to expand the number of teams;
  - b. Working with Metro to explore opportunities for “Navigation Hubs” in the Metro system, where unhoused individuals who are on Metro and in the surrounding communities could go to seek services;
  - c. Exploring the feasibility of (1) operating such navigation hubs on a 24/7 or nighttime basis as a location where individuals who offboard the Metro system at the end of passenger service can go to access shelter and begin connecting to other supportive services and 2) coordinating winter shelter bed pick-up sites in a manner that targets individuals that ride the system until close of passenger service;
  - d. Creating opportunities to promote homeless outreach resources, such as the Los Angeles Homeless Outreach Portal and homeless prevention resources, throughout

- the Metro system; and,
- e. Exploring the possibility of setting up a Homeless Task Force, including representation from Metro, Metro's contracted law enforcement partners, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), CEO-HI, and the Service Planning Area (SPA) Lead Providers from those areas where the Metro bus and rail system is located.
- 2) Instruct the Executive Director of the CEO-HI to report back to the Board in writing within 90 days and six months after with progress updates.

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