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For Immediate Release

City Launches 'Everyone Home Long Beach' Initiative

Today, the City of Long Beach announced Everyone Home Long Beach (Everyone Home LB), a new citywide initiative that addresses the statewide homeless crisis and its effects on Long Beach.

Everyone Home LB is designed to build on the efforts already underway by the Long Beach Health Department, the Continuum of Care, and the Homeless Services Advisory Committee. The initiative will streamline processes, create cohesiveness, and draw more attention to the many projects and programs already in place surrounding homelessness and housing. The initiative will include participation from Chief Executive Officers and community leaders from the City's major institutions.

"While Long Beach has done some amazing work to address homelessness, it is clear we must do more," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "This initiative is designed to mobilize the entire community to create new pathways into homes and to increase efforts to prevent our residents from becoming homeless in the first place."

Everyone Home LB will look at innovative new ideas and approaches to address homelessness in Long Beach, as well as the linked challenges of homelessness and housing affordability. Homelessness has reached unprecedented levels across the State, and it will take the combined efforts of all the key institutions, stakeholders, and Long Beach community to make the dream of a home a reality for all residents.

"To me, homelessness is definitely the moral issue of our time and it's why I'm excited to Chair this initiative and get to work," said CSULB President Jane Close Conoley. "We have students who are experiencing homelessness and need our support. This has become a statewide crisis."

Long Beach has seen great success in addressing homelessness and leveraging funds to support people experiencing homelessness in our community. As one of only three cities in LA County to have its own Continuum of Care program, Long Beach has seen its point-in-time counts for the homeless population decline in each of the last four counts, declining by 41% from 2011-2017. The City's network of partners which comprise the Continuum, led by the Health and Human Services Department, coordinate with each other and staff from other City departments. Other departments include: Police, Fire, Public Works, and Parks, Recreation, and Marine, as well as the Homeless Services Advisory Committee, the Continuum of Care Board and general membership—all of which deserve credit and praise for their tireless efforts to help move those experiencing

homelessness into services and housing. Annually more than 1,000 people are served at the Multi-Service Center with more than 13,000 visits each year. Nearly 3,100 people, including 1,243 veterans, have been permanently housed since 2013.

“The City does exemplary work around homelessness, so I’m glad to see this bigger initiative develop, said Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services. Bringing together more great minds to support the staff and agencies currently working to serve the needs of those experiencing homelessness in our neighborhoods, can only bring our efforts to the next level. We need to continue to engage the broader community to create solutions for those who most need help.”

The goal of this initiative is to develop new solutions to support current efforts to transition people back into housing and services, identify new opportunities to support those who need housing, and develop solutions to prevent homelessness in the first place. Prevention is one of the least-funded efforts in the Continuum of Care, and providing increased support for families and people in crisis can prevent vulnerable seniors, families, veterans, and youth from falling into homelessness.

Everyone Home Long Beach will meet through the summer to learn more about how the Continuum of Care is currently operating in Long Beach, provide input and suggestions, and build on the already developed comprehensive multi-faceted plan to support individuals and families in our community. Their work will be turned into a formal report by City staff and will be presented to the Mayor and City Council this fall.

About the City of Long Beach

Home to approximately 470,000 people, the multiple award-winning and innovative City of Long Beach offers all the world-class amenities of a large metropolitan city while maintaining a strong sense of individual and diverse neighborhoods nestled together along the California coast. Long Beach is home to the Queen Mary, Aquarium of the Pacific, several museums and theaters, a highly-rated school district, Long Beach Airport, the Port of Long Beach, as well as many award-winning City departments such as Health, Parks, Recreation and Marine, Development Services and more. The City also has a highly-respected university and city college, two historic ranchos, five hospitals, five golf courses, 170 parks, miles of beaches, marinas, bike paths, and a Bike Share program.

For more information about the City of Long Beach, visit <http://longbeach.gov/>. Follow us on social to keep up with the latest news: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

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