



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 22, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1380 (Mitchell) – Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to urge your signature on Senate Bill 1380 (Mitchell). This bill would require a State program that provides housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to adopt guidelines and regulations to include Housing First policies. Long Beach supports legislation that seeks to address the state of emergency, as it relates to homelessness in our City, and many cities across California.

SB 1380 defines “Housing First” to mean the evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than as a reward, to provide and connect homeless people to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Housing First providers offer services as needed and requested on a voluntary basis and do not make housing contingent on participation in services. The City of Long Beach uses a “Housing First” model as part of our successful homeless supportive services program, and supports its development statewide.

Long Beach has been a leader in the region with respect to addressing homelessness. Our Multi-Service Center (MSC) facility houses twelve public and private partner organizations that work together to promote self-sufficiency and rebuild the lives of those experiencing homelessness. In 2010, the Long Beach City Council adopted “5 Key Community Strategies” to combat homelessness, which were to increase affordable housing, promote economic stability, provide support services to prevent homelessness, expand participation to all sectors of the community and use a data and research driven approach. Thanks to these efforts, in the past year alone, Long Beach has provided shelter to 1,738 individuals. While the City of Long Beach is proud of its multi-stakeholder efforts to combat homelessness, we recognize significant infrastructure and support systems need to be built to ensure all homeless families and individuals have the opportunity to receive permanent, affordable housing and support services.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 1380 and urges your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

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