



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

January 31, 2023

Dr. Jill Baker
Superintendent of Schools
Long Beach Unified School District
1515 Hughes Way
Long Beach, CA 90810

RE: Partnership to Address the Homelessness Emergency in Long Beach

Dear Dr. Baker,

On January 10, 2023, the City of Long Beach declared an emergency on homelessness, and we request your support and partnership in addressing the homelessness emergency in Long Beach by joining the Long Beach Housing Promise to advance the production of accessible housing.

The City has designated significant resources to address homelessness, adding more than 530 new interim housing units, opening the first year-round bridge housing facility, securing three hotels along with the County for interim housing, and purchasing another 78-bed hotel and more than 30 modular shelter units. The City implemented three Restorative Engagement to Achieve Collective Health (REACH) teams, increasing the number of outreach staff and call takers from four to 27, and expanding hours for weekend outreach. We are also launching mobile Multi-Service Center outreach teams to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Despite the City's efforts, homelessness in Long Beach has increased by 77 percent since 2017, and there are approximately 3,300 people experiencing homelessness any given day. Of the people experiencing homelessness in the City, more than 2,000 remain unsheltered, and there are few options for those currently without shelter. Homelessness also disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and Pacific Islander residents who are approximately three times more likely to experience homelessness than other populations. Furthermore, the number of people experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness has more than doubled to 1,200 people, and those with a substance use disorder has increased by 70 percent to 950 people.

Homelessness is a regional challenge, and the City cannot end homelessness alone. We have established an emergency operations structure to prioritize our actions to reduce homelessness, and we will continue to work with our local, County, state, and federal partners to provide the necessary public services to meet the diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach. We will need your assistance to meet this emergency and direct resources to support these actions. As we know, the most impactful way to prevent and end homelessness is by ensuring affordable and accessible housing for our residents. We ask that you identify innovative ways your organization can support the City's efforts to address homelessness and partner with us on this critical effort to expand housing opportunities in Long Beach.

Through the Long Beach Housing Promise, we will work to create housing that Long Beach families deserve, and we need your organization to invest in housing production and leverage surplus properties and facilities to help add to our existing housing stock. The partnerships created through the Long Beach Housing Promise will ensure that Long Beach's children and families are provided better educational outcomes, economic opportunities, and a lasting community where everyone thrives. Establishing more affordable housing in Long Beach can help ensure there are sufficient housing opportunities to support our public school families, our students, and to keep our workforce local.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical matter, and we look forward to partnering with your organization to formalize the Long Beach Housing Promise. If you have any questions, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at tyler.curley@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager, City of Long Beach