

February 6, 2023

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

RE: Agenda Item #22—City of Long Beach’s Measure H Priorities

Dear Chair Hahn and Supervisors,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in response to Item #22 to express the City’s priorities for Measure H funding. Homelessness remains the most significant challenge of our time, and alongside the City and County of Los Angeles, Long Beach has proclaimed an emergency on homelessness. We are committed to working with the County and neighboring jurisdictions to provide the resources needed to house people experiencing homelessness. However, Long Beach is not receiving our fair share of resources in Measure H funding to prevent and address homelessness in the City, and we request that the County make the distribution of Measure H dollars and services more equitable.

The City currently receives \$4.4 million in funding through County Measure H for its continuum of care allocation and shelter operations. It is estimated that the City also receives \$9 million in services and supports through County Departments and contracts in Long Beach, which includes family and youth services, permanent supportive housing, and other operational resources. Based on the City’s point-in-time count, however, Long Beach should be receiving approximately 4.7% of the County’s Measure H dollars and services, or a total of more than \$25 million. There is a gap of approximately *\$12 million* in Measure H resources that Long Beach is not receiving to prevent and address homelessness. We request that the County address the gap in Measure H resources by allocating one-time funding to the City or creating a new funding formula that ensures equitable funding and services to cities with Continuums of Care.

The recent Long Beach homeless count increase of 62% in comparison to 4% for the overall County is partially attributed to disproportionate funding and resourcing. Furthermore, over the past three years, we have increased the number of shelter space in Long Beach by 530 beds and are in the process of adding an additional 100 beds through Project Homekey and other funding sources. Daily visits to our Multi-Service Center have gone up by nearly 100 percent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly half of those individuals coming from outside the City to seek services in Long Beach. Meanwhile, there are only 40 shelter beds for the remaining Gateway Cities—where nearly 2,300 people experiencing homelessness remain unsheltered.

Additional Measure H funding for Long Beach is necessary to support our emergency response actions to address homelessness. We would also like to request County support in the key areas outlined below:



- Full funding of a Winter Shelter Program: Current Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority funding is \$50 per bed, per night. At a minimum, the actual cost is \$62-\$65 per bed, per night. For the homeless shelter at Silverado Park in West Long Beach (80 beds), for example, this cost difference is approximately \$1,000-\$1,200 per bed, per night (or \$30,000-\$36,000 per month) that the City has to generate.
- Provide one-time Measure H dollars to support safe RV parking sites in Long Beach.
- Operational Funding for 40 Recuperative Care Beds.
- Operational and infrastructure funding for 40 Step-Down Beds.
- County commitment to ongoing operational dollars for Project Homekey Round 3: To date, the City has invested approximately \$7 million in one-time dollars for Project Homekey and approximately \$2.5 million of staffing. Additional County operational support is essential to ensure Project Homekey is successful.
- Provide unspent pandemic or other funding to support the modular housing purchases that could be utilized in the long term for permanent supportive housing.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter. We look forward to strengthening our partnership to identify funding for homeless services and operations in the region. If you have any questions, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government, at tyler.curley@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

