


Date: February 13, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Letter to City Partners regarding the Homelessness Emergency**

The City of Long Beach (City) has allocated significant resources and staffing to address the homelessness emergency. As part of the intergovernmental workgroup's initial actions, the City has submitted formal requests of regional government partners to support additional resources and services in Long Beach. Additionally, the City has sent the attached letters to both the Port of Long Beach and the Long Beach Utilities Department seeking their support in addressing homelessness through actions such as identifying land for housing and shelter, staffing that can assist with the emergency response, and any other innovative ways that their departments can assist the City's activities.

The Port and Utilities Department have dedicated staffing to the City's Emergency Operations Center and are working to identify additional resources to advance the emergency response. We will continue to provide updates on these requests.

ATTACHMENT

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KATY NOMURA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

January 30, 2023

Mario Cordero
Executive Director
Port of Long Beach
415 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Partnership to Address the Homelessness Emergency in Long Beach

Dear Director Cordero,

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.

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. 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, such as identifying land for housing and shelter, staffing that can assist with the emergency response, or any other ideas to assist us in the response that the Port can support within your mission and eligible resources.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to hearing how your organization can help.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager



January 30, 2023

Chris Garner
General Manager
Long Beach Utilities Department
1800 E. Wardlow Rd.
Long Beach, CA 90807

RE: Partnership to Address the Homelessness Emergency in Long Beach

Dear General Manager Garner,

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.

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.

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Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to hearing how your organization can help.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

