

Date: February 9, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

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

Homelessness is a challenge that the City of Long Beach (City) cannot address alone. As part of the City's emergency actions, the City has continued to engage with regional and local partners to seek their assistance in the effort to house and provide vital resources for people experiencing homelessness. In addition to governmental and transportation partners, the City has also sent the attached letters to local educational institutions requesting their support of the City's emergency response.

In particular, as part of the Mayor's 100-day plan, the City is interested in ways that our educational partners can advance the Long Beach Housing Promise to invest in housing production and leverage surplus properties and facilities to add to our existing housing stock—a much-needed solution to keeping children and families in Long Beach and in our school system.

We will continue to provide updates on these requests to develop the Long Beach Housing Promise as part of the emergency response on homelessness.

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
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, SPECIAL DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FOR RECOVERY
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS



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



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

January 31, 2023

Dr. Jane Conoley
President
California State University, Long Beach
Brotman Hall BH-300
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840

RE: Partnership to Address the Homelessness Emergency in Long Beach

Dear Dr. Conoley,

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.

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Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

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



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

January 31, 2023

Dr. Mike Muñoz
Superintendent-President
Long Beach City College
4901 East Carson St.
Long Beach, CA 90808

RE: Partnership to Address the Homelessness Emergency in Long Beach

Dear Dr. Muñoz,

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.

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