



Emergency Proclamation to Address Homelessness Update 2

City Council Meeting - February 7, 2023

Mission Statement

To reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness in the City and the region by increasing housing opportunities and by enhancing current initiatives that provide field-based outreach, engagement, and supportive services while maintaining the safety and security of the people experiencing homelessness, the general public and staff, and improving overall public safety for the entire community.

A nighttime photograph of the Long Beach waterfront. The scene is illuminated by city lights, including a prominent tall building on the right and various structures along the pier. The lights are reflected in the calm water in the foreground. The sky is dark, and the overall atmosphere is vibrant and urban.

Existing Efforts

Homelessness Emergency Response Efforts

- Second Winter Shelter Location
 - Announced for Silverado Park
 - Will double the capacity of temporary shelter beds
- Will provide the following services:
 - Housing-focused case management
 - Screening for housing programs
 - Referrals to year-round shelter programs
 - Three meals per day
 - On-site showers and restroom facilities
 - Activities



Homelessness Emergency Response Efforts

- RV Dump Station Location
 - Only open to people who have received a referral from the Multi-Service Center (MSC), not open to the general public
 - St. Louis Avenue and 32nd Street, will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Provides two or three sanitation dump stations, allowing people living in RVs to properly dispose their sewage and access water filling stations
 - On-site staffing, consisting of an attendant who will assist visitors with services and a security guard
 - Construction approximately 2 – 3 weeks to complete

Homelessness Emergency Response Efforts

- Mobile Access Vehicle
 - This serves as a Mobile MSC which is operated by outreach staff and public health nurse with intake, case management and direct services
 - Expanded to
 - Corner of East 6th Street and Long Beach Boulevard (Tuesdays 1-4 pm)
 - The Promenade (Wednesdays 9am-12pm)
 - Billie Jean King Main Library (Thursdays 9am - 12pm)
- Field Command Center: Currently centralizes homelessness emergency response efforts Downtown



Business Support

- Visual Improvement Program (VIP)
 - Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Grant program (\$100,000)
 - Awards to support sidewalk activation, special events, and clean and safe initiatives
 - 9 BIDs receiving funds
- Visual Improvement Program (VIP)
 - Visual Improvement Grant program (\$350,000 in grants)
 - Local businesses impacted by crime and vandalism on/after October 1, 2022
 - \$1,500 grants can be used for storefront repairs, boarding costs, insurance deductibles, business operating expenses
 - Applications to open February 22
 - Information available at longbeach.gov/smallbizgrants

Affordable Housing Support

- Awarded \$6.1 million in loans to two firms for purchase and development of affordable rental housing to serve those who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness
- Creates 192 new units
- 75 percent of units will be reserved for residents who are experiencing homelessness
- Projects expected to break ground in summer 2024

Education Efforts

- Livestreamed updates with Mayor Richardson and special guests
 - Economic Development Director Bo Martinez
 - Health and Human Services Director Kelly Colopy
 - Development Services Director Christopher Koontz
- Published 8th homelessness column in the Press-Telegram
 - Written by Health and Human Services Director Kelly Colopy



Education Efforts

- Held Point-in-Time (PIT) Count on January 26, 2023
- Counted/surveyed people experiencing homelessness to understand the scope of homelessness, define existing resources available and identify gaps
- Participation by more than 300 volunteers and staff



Education Efforts

- Updated City Everyone Home Website
 - Added new information on programs and services supporting people experiencing homelessness
 - Information available at: longbeach.gov/homelessness

The screenshot displays the 'EVERYONE HOME LONG BEACH' website. At the top left is a logo of a house with a heart inside. The main navigation bar includes 'Home » Homelessness'. A prominent call-to-action box asks 'Experiencing homelessness or at risk and need help now?' with the phone number 'Call (562)570-4500'. Below this are four main service categories, each with an icon and a right-pointing arrow:

- HOMELESS SERVICES**: Services for people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. Get what you need to get back on your feet.
- LEARN MORE ABOUT HOMELESSNESS**: Get answers to frequently asked questions and learn how Long Beach is addressing the homelessness crisis.
- VOLUNTEER, DONATE & GET INVOLVED**: There are several ways to help. Donate dollars or goods, volunteer your time and participate in meetings. Here's how you can get involved.

On the right side, a dark blue sidebar contains the following sections:

- HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE**
 - Experiencing homelessness or at risk and need help now? Call (562) 570-4500
 - Looking to get help for someone who is experiencing homelessness or want to discuss an encampment? Call (562) 570-4MSC (4672)
- DONATE**
 - Mayor's Fund to End Homelessness, [Donate Today!](#)
- FAQ**
 - [Get Answers to Frequently Asked Questions »](#)
- MULTI-SERVICE CENTER**
 - 1301 W. 12st Street
Long Beach, CA 90813 ([map](#))

Financial Support

- Celebrated the \$4 million award in State funds from Senator Gonzalez for funding to upgrade the City's Multi- Service Center
- Submitted proposed \$11.91 million budget to support the response effort for City Council consideration
- Finalized eight letters to send to County of Los Angeles, LA Metro, and local partners requesting support to address the regional challenge of homelessness



Other Efforts

- Natural Gas Emergency Price Spike Rebate Program
 - Approved by the City Council on February 1, 2023
 - Program to be developed using an equity lens, to best reach those most in need, and, within resources, help as many people as possible
 - Focus on providing financial relief to Long Beach residential customers, particularly those who are low income, disabled, and seniors on fixed income
- On February 1st, the Mayor, Health and Human Services Director, and City Attorney toured the winter shelter located at Community Hospital

A nighttime photograph of the Long Beach waterfront. The scene is illuminated by city lights, including a prominent tall building on the right and various lights along the pier. Several boats are docked at the pier, and their lights are reflected in the calm water. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and urban.

Response to Questions from Previous Meeting

Questions for Follow Up

- How does the community know who to call related to homeless services? How can Councilmembers call in to report hotspots that need attention?
- Can the City provide a map of RV sewer dump stations?
- Can the City's dashboard data include information on additional permanent housing and how the City is doing in this area?
- Can the City explore ways to reduce the impact of gas rate increases?

A nighttime photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, a body of water reflects the colorful lights of the city. A large white boat with a red water wheel is docked at a pier. In the background, several tall buildings are lit up, and palm trees are visible along the waterfront. The sky is dark, and the overall scene is vibrant with city lights.

Focus Areas in Next Two Weeks

Forthcoming Actions

- Complete preparations required to bring the second winter shelter online within three weeks of announcement
- Expand locations across Long Beach where people can donate items for people experiencing homelessness and develop a site where non-profit organizations can request items
- Design notification system for people experiencing homelessness so they are aware of when service opportunities are available
- Begin formation of key stakeholder outreach plan
- Begin formation of the clergy workgroup

Forthcoming Actions

- Announce SAFE Parking site for vehicles that will create safe parking locations to reduce impacts on neighborhoods
- Plan for next locations and focus areas for Mobile Access Center and coordinated efforts
- Continue evaluating properties citywide (both public and private) that can be temporarily used or acquired to further support the local emergency
- Staff up the Homeless Services Bureau to address case management and public health nursing needs
- Implement the City Council-approved Natural Gas Emergency Price Spike Rebate Program

Forthcoming Actions

- Finalize letters to state and federal partners outlining the City's requests for support to address the homelessness emergency
- Work to set up meetings with regional partners such as LA County, LA Metro and regional partners to discuss opportunities.
- Engage with the County of Los Angeles on their plans for Measure H funding to expand resources for Long Beach to prevent homelessness and provide services
- Launch the initial version of the data dashboard
- Further develop the emergency response efforts through the nine identified workgroups



Thank you

Kelly Colopy, Director

Department of Health and Human
Services

Eric Lopez, Director

Department of Public Works