



Date: March 9th, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor Robert Garcia and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, Ninth District
Councilmember Cindy Allen, Second District
Councilmember Suely Saro, Sixth District
Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District

Subject: Care Closet LBC

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to receive and file a presentation on “Care Closet LBC” by community leader Duke Givens.

Discussion

COVID-19 has illuminated the existing state of emergency observed on the streets of Long Beach and nationwide, wherein the houseless community continues to grow.^{[1][2]} The growing rate of homelessness is paired with an increasing rate of mortality among persons experiencing homelessness; notably, the rate of overdose mortalities has grown significantly over recent years, particularly among Black and Latinx populations.^[3] COVID-19 has compounded challenges facing the houseless community, who often lack access to adequate COVID-19 treatment and preventative measures, including vaccinations.^[4]

Care Closet LBC, founded by Duke Givens, was created shortly before the pandemic prompted citywide closures, and has since been actively working to tackle the surmounting issue of homelessness. Just last month, the nonprofit collected around 500 sleeping bags, hundreds of pairs of socks, shoes and other items of clothing and food and spent three days distributing them to homeless encampments and individuals throughout Long Beach.

Therefore, it is necessary for the City Council to receive a brief update on the efforts of Care Closet LBC and support the commitments made by the nonprofit in addressing the City’s homelessness crisis.

^[1] “Homelessness Was on the Rise, Even Before the Pandemic” Dec. 2020.
<https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/homelessness-was-rise-even-pandemic>



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Fiscal Impact

Due to time constraints no fiscal analysis was conducted.

Statement of Urgency

Due to the critical nature of this issue urgency is requested on this item.

^[2] "Long Beach saw 7% increase in homeless population before coronavirus pandemic" Jun. 2020
<https://lbpost.com/news/long-beach-sees-7-increase-in-homeless-population-before-coronavirus-pandemic>

^[3] "Recent Trends in Mortality Rates and Causes of Death Among People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles County" Jan. 2021.
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chie/reports/HomelessMortality2020_CHIEBrief_Final.pdf

^[4] "Long Beach faces barriers to inoculating homeless population against coronavirus" Feb. 2021
<https://www.presstelegram.com/2021/02/15/long-beach-faces-barriers-to-inoculating-homeless-population-against-coronavirus/>

^[5] "Homelessness Was on the Rise, Even Before the Pandemic" Dec. 2020.
<https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/homelessness-was-rise-even-pandemic>



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City of Long Beach Memorandum
 Working Together to Serve

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: March 9, 2021

To: Monique De La Garza, City Clerk

From: Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, Ninth District

Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of March 9, 2021

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Recommendation to receive and file a presentation on "Care Closet LBC" by community leader Duke Givens.

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
9	Rex Richardson	
6	Suely Saro	
8	Al Austin	

cc: Office of the Mayor