



Legislation Text

File #: 17-1104, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to adopt resolution declaring a shelter crisis; suspending applicable provisions of local law, including those contained in the City's zoning ordinances and regulations; and authorizing the operation of a winter shelter at 5571 Orange Avenue, for the period of December 6, 2017 and March 31, 2018. (District 8)

What is the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)?

LAHSA is a joint powers agency between the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County established to oversee homeless services county-wide. With the creation of LAHSA, the Winter Shelter Program has become a coordinated effort to increase the number of temporary emergency shelter beds available in Los Angeles County during the period of time in which the region usually experiences its most inclement weather: December 1st through March 1st, inclusive. As such, the County places winter shelters in each of the five Supervisorial Districts. For Los Angeles County Supervisorial District 4, the location identified is City-owned property located at 5571 Orange Avenue (Site).

The County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles provide funds to LAHSA to operate the Winter Shelter Program. As the administrative authority, LAHSA is responsible for selecting the winter shelter providers through a competitive application process, contracting with providers and overseeing the winter shelter operations. A building was located in Long Beach on November 10, 2017. Given the timing of securing a site, the earliest the winter shelter can commence operations is December 6, 2017. The Site shall be operated by LAHSA's selected provider, U.S. VETS, for the 2017-2018 program year.

The winter shelter provider is required to furnish the following services: intake, nightly shelter for individuals, vouchers, showers, and two daily meals. Overnight staffing shall further provide security and case management services that link participants to additional programs aimed at establishing improved health and economic sufficiency.

What is the Goal of the Winter Shelter Program and Who Does it Serve?

The Winter Shelter Program, managed by LAHSA, provides a significant benefit for the City of Long Beach. Historically, most individuals and families entering the program originate from within the City of Long Beach (City), referred by the City-operated Multi-Service Center (MSC) and the Police Department. The Winter Shelter Program provides increased engagement opportunities with individuals experiencing homelessness to encourage enrollment into case management services, employment and housing programs through the MSC, and further maximizes the effectiveness of those services to reduce visible homelessness in the City.

The role of the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services is to coordinate with LAHSA and continue to be a liaison between the City and LAHSA. The City may expand the hours of operation of the MSC to accommodate the volume of clients accessing services including transportation from the MSC to and from the Site.

California Government Code Sections 8698.1 and 8698.2 allow local jurisdictions to declare a shelter crisis. In making such a declaration, State law enables local jurisdictions to suspend local laws and regulations "to the extent that strict compliance would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis" for any City-owned, leased or maintained property. The Site requires this local declaration to ensure the winter shelter opens in a timely manner.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda T. Vu on November 15, 2017 and by Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on November 16, 2017.

City Council action is requested on December 5, 2017, to adopt the Resolution declaring a shelter crisis and open the temporary Winter Shelter located at 5571 Orange Avenue.

City costs associated with coordinating with LAHSA and expanding MSC hours to accommodate clients will be supported within current resources. Funding is appropriated in the Health Fund (SR 130) in the Health and Human Services Department (HE). There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

Approve recommendation.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH DECLARING A SHELTER CRISIS; SUSPENDING APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF LOCAL LAW, INCLUDING THOSE CONTAINED IN THE CITY'S ZONING ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS; AND AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF A WINTER SHELTER AT 5571 ORANGE AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF LONG BEACH, BETWEEN THE DATES OF DECEMBER 6, 2017 AND MARCH 31, 2018

KELLY COLOPY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APPROVED:

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER