

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern building with a curved facade. The building features large, circular windows with white frames and a grid of vertical white lines. The sky is overcast and grey. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title and date. The bottom of the image has a solid blue bar with the city logo.

# **Homeless Emergency Proclamation - Update**

**Continuum of Care Board**

**March 14, 2023**

# Proclamation Overview

Recommendation to adopt resolution proclaiming the existence of a local emergency caused by conditions or threatened conditions of homelessness within the City of Long Beach, which if not corrected, constitutes an imminent and proximate threat to the safety of persons and property within the City.

Allows for relief and streamlining of City procurement process, designating City employees as disaster workers, and streamlining hiring practices and project delivery.

# Proclamation Overview

- On December 21<sup>st</sup> the Mayor and Councilmember Zendeja's requested the City Manager bring forward a recommendation for an emergency proclamation at the next City Council Meeting
- On January 10th, the City Council unanimously voted to adopt the proposed emergency proclamation
- January 10th, the City Council also voted to provide relief to several zoning and planning ordinance to provide flexibility and speed up processes
- On January 24<sup>th</sup>, the City Council extended the emergency declaration an additional two weeks
- January 24<sup>th</sup>, the City Council voted to grant flexibility for Public Works to be able to expedite and speed up construction for projects related to homelessness

# Emergency Proclamation

## Metrics

- Decrease number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Increase housing placements
- Increase starts on new affordable housing options
- Increase temporary and permanent housing units (including utilization of Housing Choice Vouchers)
- Increase outside aid through access to mental health and substance use beds
- Decrease disproportionality in which Black, Indigenous and Pacific Islander persons experience homelessness
- Decrease number of persons that die in unsheltered situations
- Decrease number of persons falling into homelessness
- Increase regional partnerships to address the homeless crisis
- Increase multi-departmental efforts to address violence on or perpetuated by people experiencing homelessness
- Increase speed of delivering critical projects addressing homelessness





## Actions in February

# Homelessness Emergency Response Efforts

- Mobile Access Center (MAC)
  - February locations were at
    - Corner of East 6<sup>th</sup> St. and Long Beach Blvd
    - The Promenade
    - Billie Jean King
  - March Locations will be
    - Houghton Park (Tues. & Fri.)
    - Los Altos Shopping Center (Mon. & Thurs.)
    - BJK – 1 day a week (Wed.)
- Received new staff members through reassignments 1 public health nurse, 5 case managers, 5 outreach workers





# Homelessness Emergency Response Efforts

- Selected firm to design, build and install non-congregate modular shelter facilities (tiny homes). Selected firm is Connect Shelter
- Current project moving forward will be the installation of 33 modular units at the MSC. These will provide interim housing for people who are experiencing chronic homelessness
- There is potential for future additional projects using this firm in the future



# Partnership Efforts

- Launched Community Partnerships Interest Form
  - Community members or groups can express interest in supporting those experiencing homelessness
  - As of 2/21/23 - 20 responses received from partners willing to contribute food, clothing, job training, community outreach and education and possible service sites, additional interest has been coming in





# Partnership Efforts

- Expanded locations across the City where people can donate items for people experiencing homelessness
- Donation bins for items are available at
  - All City Libraries
  - Boys and Girls Club (3635 Long Beach Blvd)
  - Donations to be dropped off during operating hours
- Developing a website where non-profit organizations can request items



# Partnership Efforts

- Announced Mayoral Community Forum with local housing providers
  - February 22, 2023 from 12:00pm – 1:30 pm
  - Shared details about the City's monetary incentives to encourage new owners, landlords and other housing providers to lease up with people assisted through the Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher and Emergency Housing Voucher
  - Over 30 landlord/owners attended the meeting
- Actively developing the Community Partner Roundtables
  - Goal to host several citywide convenings in March 2023
- Began asset mapping
  - After-hours bed availability, mental health support and shelter resources

# Financial Support

- Approved \$13 million in one-time funds to support homelessness emergency response
- Finalized letters in support of state and federal proposals for more homeless services and housing funding
- Met with state legislative budget staff to review options for additional direct funding to large cities for homelessness
- Engaged 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
- Held meeting with Senator Lena Gonzalez's office to discuss potential solutions that would make Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention funding more equitable for Long Beach
- Created list of potential grants/funds to pursue



# Intergovernmental Efforts

- Met with LA County Supervisor Hahn to discuss County support of Long Beach homelessness efforts
- Set up meetings with LA County leadership and regional partners through the Gateway Cities COG to strategize regional engagement on the homelessness emergency
- Submitted two letters of support related to legislative bills related to homelessness
  - SB 24 (Feinstein) would provide additional federal dollars to support local homeless services and affordable housing efforts
  - SB 91 (Umberg) would streamline indefinitely the conversion of motels into transitional and interim housing
- Presented on homeless services and needs at first ever Long Beach Legislative Delegation Summit

# Intergovernmental Efforts

- Held meetings with regional partners such as LA County, LA Metro, and regional cities to discuss partnership opportunities to provide more resources and services for people experiencing homelessness
  - Expand affordable housing and shelter through County support of a permanent winter shelter and the redevelopment of Carmelitos
  - Expand mental health resources in Long Beach by increasing local funding and access to residential mental health sites and services
  - Make distribution of County homeless funding more equitable by addressing longstanding Measure H funding gaps and support City's Project Homekey operations
  - Collocate and streamline services with the City by dedicating County staff at the Multi-Service Center to support people from neighboring jurisdictions
  - Expand LA Metro's Transit Ambassador Pilot Program to support people experiencing homelessness on the A Line for time of service/as trains are taken out of service
  - Support the development of overnight shelter capacity for passengers deboarding the train at the end of line, provide additional outreach



**Thank you**

**Paul Duncan**

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