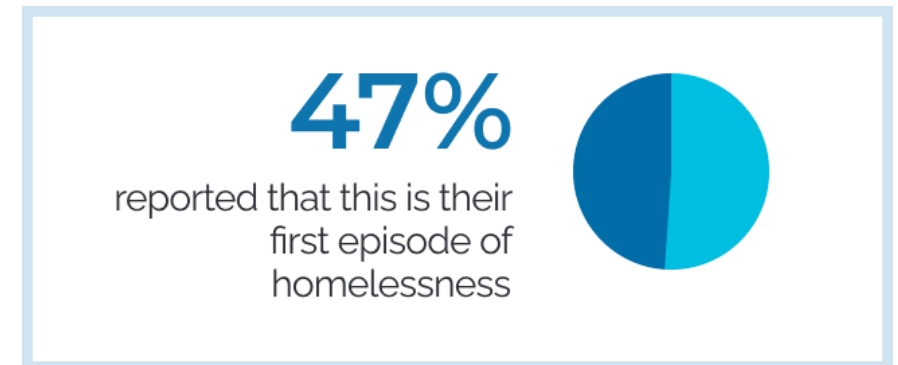
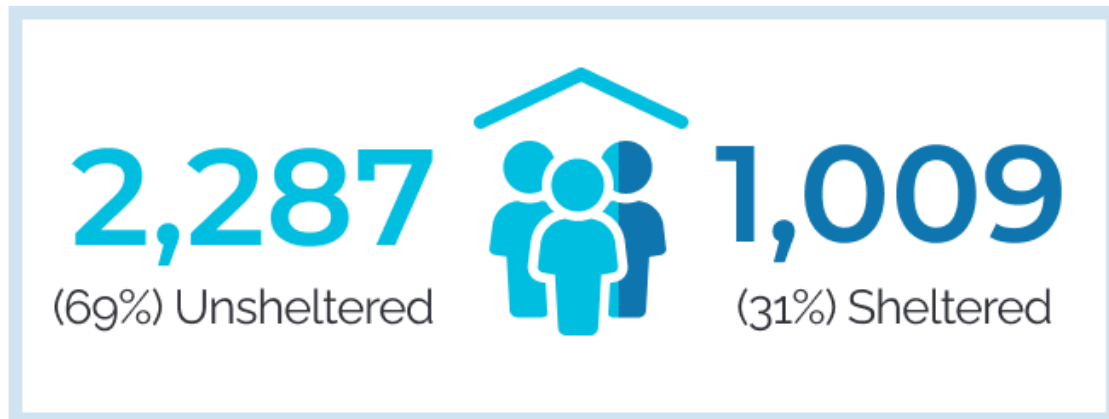
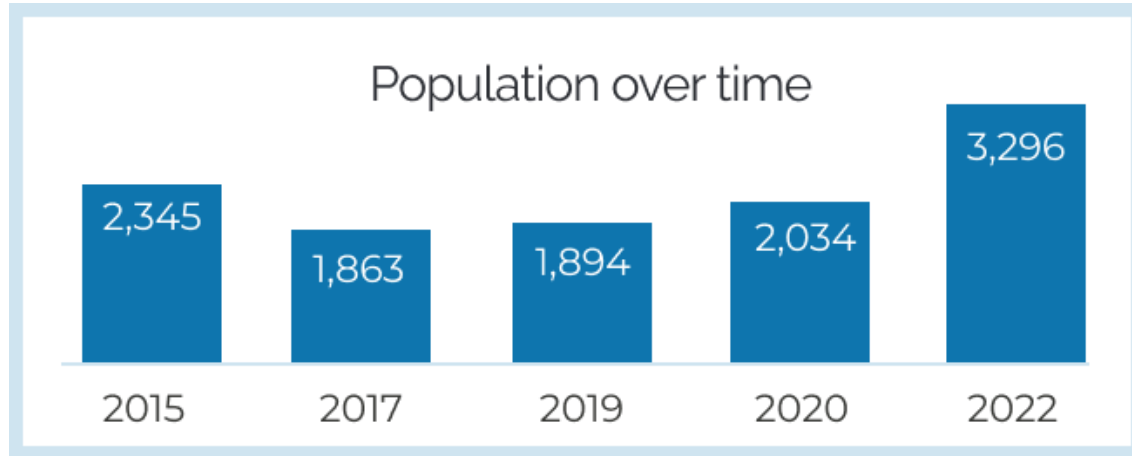




# Emergency Proclamation to Address Homelessness

2-1-2023

# 2022 Point in Time Count at a Glance



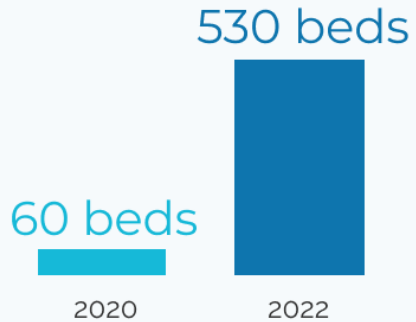
# 2022 Point in Time: Sheltered and Unsheltered

21%

of unsheltered people are living in a vehicle



Increase in Interim Housing



## 2022 Sheltered Vs. Unsheltered

31% Sheltered (1,009)

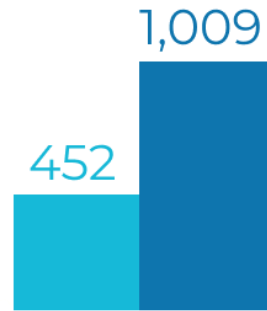


69% Unsheltered (2,287)

2020 2022



People Unsheltered (non-vehicle)  
22% increase



People Sheltered  
123% increase



# 2022 Point in Time: Underlying Conditions Continued



**Nearly 44%**

said they became homeless due to unemployment or financial resources, an increase from 35% in 2020

## Experiences of Violence/Trauma



**645**

people (38%) identified experiencing at least one type of violence in their lives

**210**

were fleeing violence when they became homeless



**480**

were formerly in foster care

## Health & Behavioral Health



**24%**

have a traumatic brain injury (556)

**23%**

have a developmental disability (519)

**1,214**

people interviewed have a severe mental illness (a 143% increase)

**951**

have a substance use disorder (a 70% increase)



**36%**

have a physical disability (826)

**31%**

have a chronic medical condition (704)

## Family Disruption



**27%**

said they became homeless due to family disruption or relationship problems

## Race & Homelessness

**26%**

reduction in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach if the disproportional experiences of homelessness among Black, Indigenous, and Pacific Islander communities were eliminated

A nighttime photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, a body of water reflects the lights from buildings and palm trees. A large, multi-story building with a distinctive tower is illuminated on the right. In the middle ground, a white boat with a red wheel is docked. The background shows a city skyline with various buildings and palm trees under a dark sky.

# The Emergency Proclamation for Homelessness

# Emergency Proclamation

- 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.

# Emergency Proclamation

## Human Resources

### Human Resources & Staffing

- Under California Government Code Section 3100-3109 all Public Employees, including City of Long Beach employees, are designated Disaster Service Workers and may be called upon to help serve during an emergency, including a local emergency.
- The emergency proclamation will allow greater flexibility to reassign staff resources to specific focus areas as needed.
- Goal will be to seek volunteers from work areas with specific expertise necessary to serve in the emergency response.
- Afford the City the ability to utilize contracts to supplement specific staffing needs.

# Emergency Proclamation

## Procurement

- Increase staff purchasing authorization during emergency
  - Purchasing Agent increased from \$100,000 to \$500,000
  - City Manager increased from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000
- Notification to City Council of all purchases between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 can occur after the fact
- Procurement processes can be streamlined to expedite homeless related purchasing and contracts, including for required construction activities associated with this proclamation

## Finance

- This is a local emergency, so there is no FEMA reimbursement opportunity
- Staff will identify unspent previous appropriations that City Council could choose to redirect to this emergency



# Emergency Proclamation

## Examples of Opportunities

- As the City identifies locations for additional emergency shelters or Safe Parking sites, the Public Works Department will be able to construct the required site improvements and the Homeless Services Bureau would be able to move quickly to contract a provider to operate the location.
- Allows Homeless Services Bureau to quickly fill vacant positions to conduct outreach and provide mental health services as well as to manage additional funding sources.
- Allows other City staff to support housing access by participating as a calling team to request landlords partner with the Housing Authority to accept housing vouchers.
- Builds a cross-departmental team to establish strategies and outreach to surrounding jurisdictions to determine how they also work to reduce homelessness.
- Allows for faster contracting, procurement of supplies, and construction to improve interim and permanent housing opportunities – including improvements to the Luxury Inn, construction of new shelters and tiny homes.

# Emergency Ordinance

## Streamlining City Process

- Provides flexibility for property-owners to install adequate fencing to secure vacant buildings and lots.
- Provides for expedited approval of shelters, safe parking, mental health care and other regulated land uses.
- Keeps tenants in place when unpermitted units are discovered, coordinates Code, Planning and Building activities to legalize units when safe and possible.
- Accelerates processing of permanent supportive housing to provide longer-term solutions.
- Assures that homeless-related capital improvement projects are given priority in permitting and inspections.

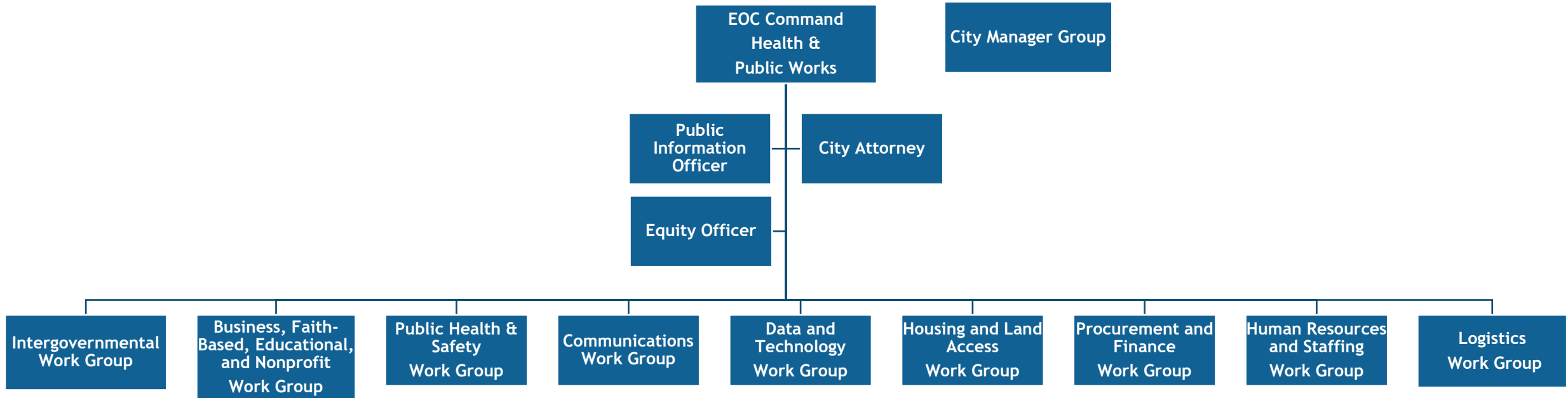
A nighttime photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, a large white boat with a red water wheel is docked at a pier. The water is dark, reflecting the colorful lights from the buildings and streetlights. In the background, several tall buildings are lit up, and palm trees are visible along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

## Structure of the Emergency Response

# 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.

# Organizational Structure



A nighttime photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, a large white boat with a red water wheel is docked at a pier. The water is dark, reflecting the colorful lights from the buildings and streetlights. In the background, several tall buildings are lit up, and palm trees are visible. The sky is dark. The text "Actions Since Declaring Emergency" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Actions Since Declaring Emergency

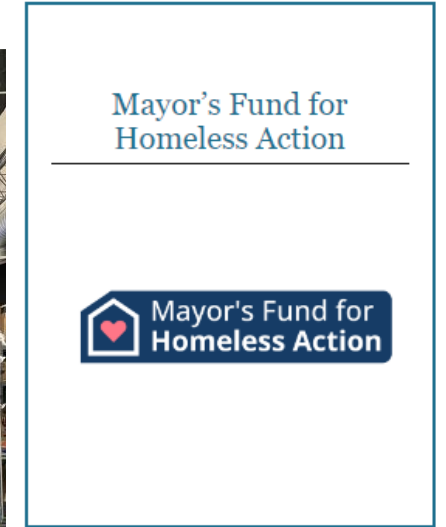
# Actions to Date

- Created a mission statement and focus areas for the emergency, and designated nine topic-specific workgroups
- Informed all City employees about the emergency and that reassignment may be needed as disaster service workers
- Staffed the Emergency Operations Center, dedicating over 100 leaders from the City team
- Embedded the Equity Officer in the response to ensure equity considerations in policies, priorities, and resource allocations
- Announced the response at Billie Jean King Library and the immediate focus on the Downtown Area



# Actions to Date

- Launched a donation effort through the Mayor's Fund for Homeless Action for funding and supplies
- Kicked off the City's weekly update program to the community which takes place every Tuesday at 11:00 AM
- Announced the incentives available for landlords who participate in the Emergency Housing Voucher program
- Received authority from City Council to expedite the review and approval of land acquisition and facility improvements required to address the emergency.
- Launched a Field Command Center on First and Elm.





# Actions to Date

## Launched the Mobile Access Vehicle (MAC)

- Currently located in downtown Long Beach
- Currently providing 10 hours of expanded services; will expand to 30 hours/week
- Services include:
  - Intake and assessment for services
  - Case management services
  - Vital document attainment
  - Sign-up for mail services
  - Linkage with shelter opportunities
  - Basic medical screening and support with care coordination
  - Referrals for mental health services





Focus Areas now and upcoming

# Actions in these weeks

- Announce an additional Emergency Winter Shelter site with at least 80 new beds
- Announce a new Safe Parking Site with 50 spaces
- Announce an RV Sewer Dump Station
- Launch business partnerships through grant programs for damaged businesses
- Launch partnerships with the Business Improvement Districts for safety, cleaning, and activation

# Forthcoming Actions

- Further development of the emergency response efforts through the nine identified workgroups
- Development of a proposed budget to support the response effort for City Council consideration
- Work underway to develop data dashboard
- Efforts to Engage Partners
  - Long Beach Harbor, Water and Transit
  - Educational partners such as City College, LBUSD, and Cal State Long Beach
  - LA Metro
  - County of Los Angeles
  - Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) in a discussion of regional cooperation to address regional homelessness response and services



Thank you

Kelly Colopy, Director  
Department of Health and Human  
Services

Eric Lopez, Director  
Department of Public Works