

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern building with a glass and metal facade. The building features several large, circular windows that are prominent in the design. The sky is overcast and grey. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title and committee information. A solid blue horizontal bar is at the bottom of the page.

# **Homeless Emergency Proclamation**

**Homeless Services Advisory Committee**

**February 1, 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

# 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.
- The 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

## Human Resources

### Onboarding & Hiring

- The emergency proclamation will help expedite the recruitment and selection process for unclassified positions and shorten the normal hiring and onboarding timeframe.
- Collaborate with the Civil Service Department and Civil Service Commission to review and modify recruitment and selection processes for classified positions, as needed.
- Engage with the City's labor partners, as needed, on any items subject to the meet and confer process.

# 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
- Increase City Council approval threshold from \$200,000 (normally) to \$1,000,000 during emergency
- Notification to City Council of all purchases between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 can occur after the fact
- Procurement processes will 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

## Services Overview

The Following will be provided as a part of the program:

- Intake screening and assessment
- Entering participants into the Long Beach or LA Coordinated Entry System
- Security on site and well resident assistants
- Housing focused case management services for anyone interested
- Referrals to year-round shelter programs
- 3 meals per day
- Showers and restrooms
- Transportation to and from the site



# 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 the Long Beach skyline. The city lights, including a prominent tall building on the right and various structures along the waterfront, are reflected in the calm water in the foreground. The scene is illuminated with a mix of warm and cool colors, creating a vibrant urban atmosphere.

## Structure of the Emergency Response

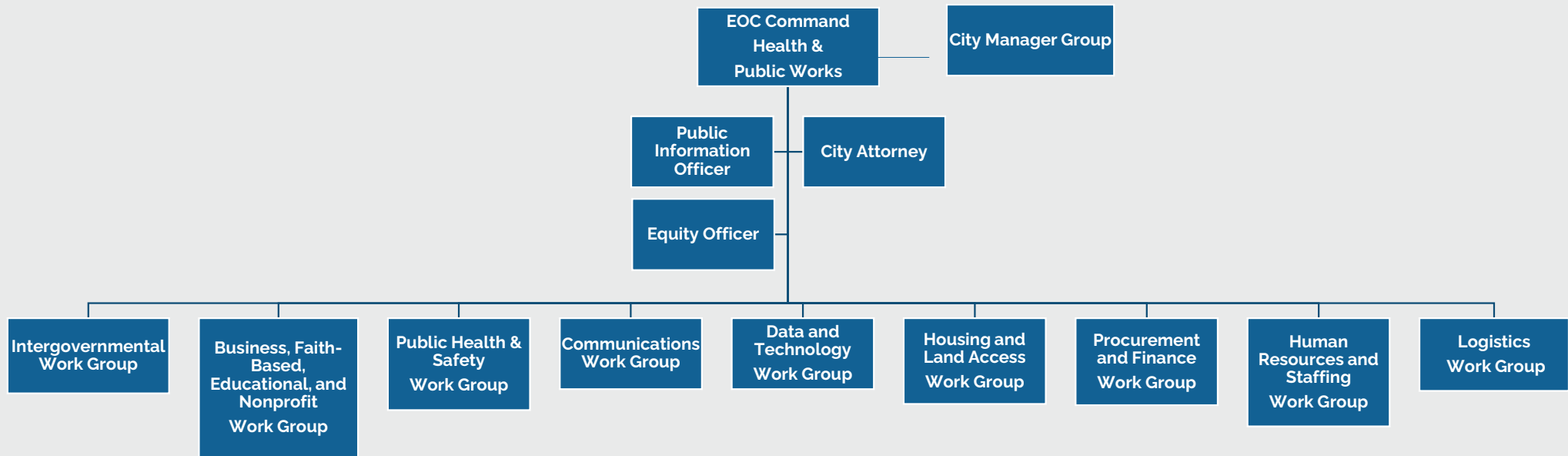
# Incident Command System

## What is the Incident Command System (ICS)?

- The Incident Command System is a FEMA-approved standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response
- The Incident Command System allows organizations and personnel from a variety of departments and agencies to work collaboratively to respond to the incident
- Provides a framework to manage Federal, State, and Regional assets assigned to the incident over a widespread geographic area for a prolonged period of time
- Provides logistical and administrative support to ensure that operational staff, such as Health, Police, Public Works, Fire etc., can meet the overall objectives

# Mission and Organizational Structure

**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.



# Workgroup Members & Objectives

- **Intergovernmental:** Katy Nomura (CM Office)
  - Objective: Collaborate with the County and neighboring local governments in the region to ensure all cities are engaged and contributing local resources to address homelessness in the region.
- **Educational, Business, Faith-based and Non-profit Organizations- "Community Partnerships":** Teresa Chandler (CM Office)
  - Objectives:
    - Strengthen collaborations with local non-profits, businesses, educational institutions, and faith-based communities to expand on current services, capacity and resources provided to persons experiencing homelessness.
    - Engage with local non-profits, businesses, educational institutions, governmental institutions, and faith-based communities to focus efforts on developing and resourcing upstream prevention strategies and identifying the breakdowns leading to homelessness.
- **Public Health and Safety:** Somatra Church and Joel Reynoza (Health Department)
  - Objectives:
    - Support ongoing efforts to expand mental health and substance use prevention and treatment resources and services in the City.
    - Support ongoing efforts to expand mental health and substance use prevention and treatment resources and services in the City.
    - Prioritize access to City services in areas where homeless resources are provided.

# Workgroup Members & Objectives

- **Communications:** Kevin Lee (CM Office) and Jennifer Rice-Epstein (Health Department)
  - Objective: Inform residents and the business community about strategies and resources the City is providing to reduce homelessness and ensure the safety of people living, working and visiting the City.
- **Data and Technology:** Behrang Abadi (Technology and Innovation)
  - Objective: Provide timely and accurate data that identifies areas of highest need, current gaps, Citywide resources provided, and number of persons assisted.
- **Housing and Land Access:** Alem Hagos (Development Services) and Alison King (Housing Authority)
  - Objectives:
    - Increase housing opportunities, both permanent and temporary, that provide greater access for persons experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.
    - Identify land and property, both public and private, that can be used for interim and long-term housing, safe places to sleep, and emergency shelters for persons experiencing homelessness.

# Workgroup Members and Objectives

- **Procurement and Finance:** Michelle Wilson and Augusta Gudeman (Finance)
  - Objectives:
    - Increase State, County, and regional funding opportunities, resources, capacity, and access to services available to persons experiencing homelessness.
    - Streamline City processes that impede the City's ability to expeditiously develop new housing and shelter facilities and sites to address homelessness.
- **Human Resources and Staffing:** Fred Verdugo (HR) and Christina Winting (Civil Service)
  - Objective: Facilitate and accommodate staff reassignments to activation and focus areas, as necessary.
- **Logistics:** Sandy Wedgeworth (Health Department)
  - Assigned Staff: PHEM logistics and distribution center, Meghan Weeks, Rob Centeno, Toni Miller



A nighttime photograph of the Long Beach skyline. The city lights, including a prominent tall building on the right and various structures in the background, are reflected in the calm water in the foreground. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text "Actions Since Declaring Emergency".

## Actions Since Declaring Emergency



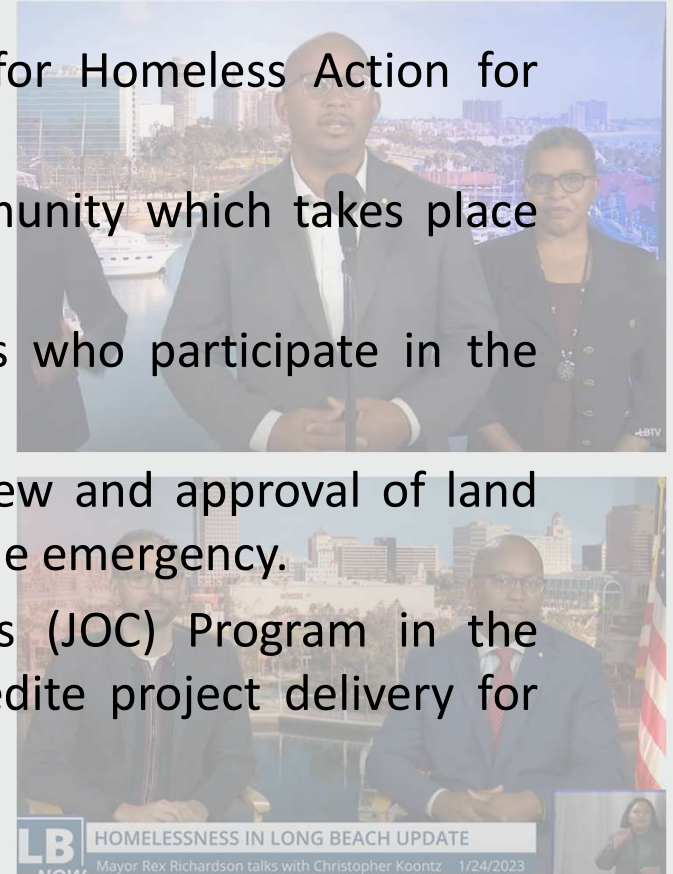
# Actions to Date

- 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 housing providers 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.
- Approved a request to modify the Job Order Contracts (JOC) Program in the Department of Public Works that will allow staff to expedite project delivery for required homelessness response facility improvements





## Forthcoming Actions

# Forthcoming Actions

- Launch the Field Command Center in downtown Long Beach
- 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

# Additional Forthcoming Actions

- Launch business partnerships through grant programs for damaged businesses
- Launch of partnerships with the Business Improvement Districts for safety, cleaning, and activation
- 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



# Additional Forthcoming Actions

- 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

A nighttime photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, a body of water reflects the colorful lights from the city and boats. A large white ferry with a red wheel is docked in the middle ground. The background features a city skyline with various buildings, including a prominent tall one on the right, and palm trees illuminated by streetlights.

## Discussion from the Community Partnerships Workgroup

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a night sky filled with various colorful fireworks (yellow, green, white) exploding. The bottom half shows a large, brightly lit ship, likely a cruise ship, at night, with its lights reflecting on the water. To the right of the ship, there are some industrial structures or cranes also lit up.

**Thank you**

**Paul Duncan**

**Homeless Services Bureau Manager**

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**LONG BEACH**