

# Emergency Proclamation to Address Homelessness

Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting  
February 1, 2023

CITY OF  
**LONG BEACH**

# Presentation Agenda

- Introduction and Welcome Remarks
- Homelessness Emergency Response Overview
  - Mission, Structure, Metrics, Work Groups, Objectives, Focus Areas
- Work Group Focus Areas and Discussion
- Opportunities for Partnership and Discussion
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks

# Introductions and Welcome Remarks



**Teresa Chandler, MPH**  
Deputy City Manager  
Co-Lead for Community Partnerships



**Rebecca F. Kauma, MPA**  
Digital Equity and Inclusion Officer  
Co-Lead for Community Partnerships

A nighttime photograph of a city harbor. In the foreground, several boats are docked at a pier, their lights reflecting in the water. A large red water wheel is visible among the boats. In the background, a city skyline is visible with several tall buildings, some of which are illuminated. Palm trees and streetlights are also visible along the waterfront. The overall scene is vibrant and colorful due to the city lights.

# Overview of the Work Group Structure at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

# Homelessness Proclaimed an Emergency in Long Beach

- On January 10th, the Mayor and Long Beach City Council adopted the City Manager's proclamation of a local homelessness emergency. The local emergency will strengthen the City's preparedness and ability to respond to homelessness.
- The emergency will allow for increased ability to hire or contract critical roles and recruit qualified candidates; more quickly engage needed services, material and labor; speed up large-scale construction projects such as motel conversions and tiny homes; and work through zoning requirements that currently exclude certain uses of existing properties.

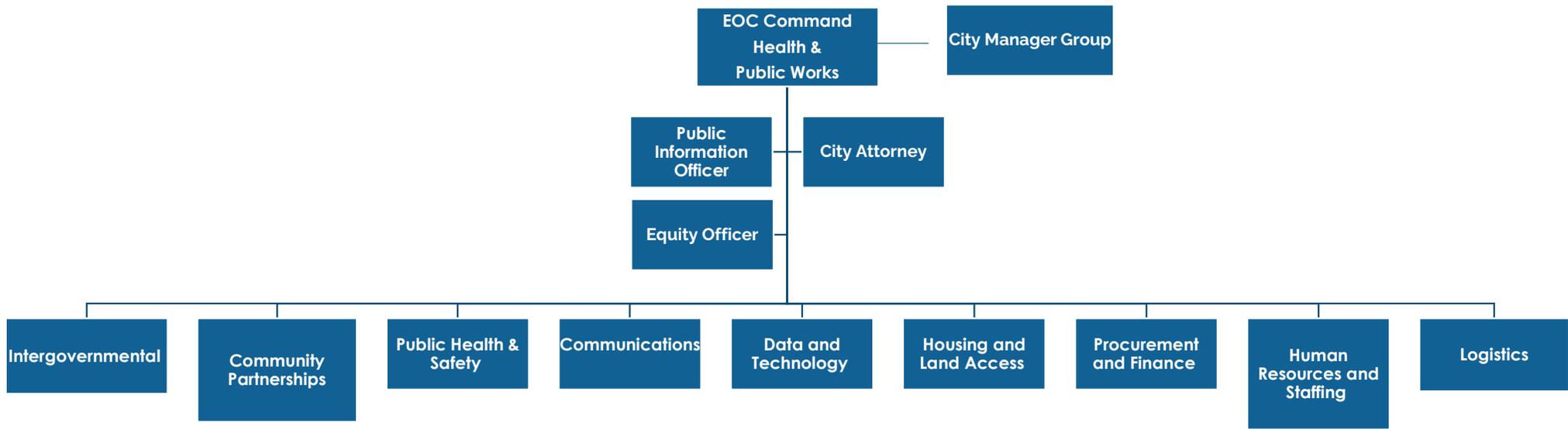
# Homelessness Proclaimed an Emergency in Long Beach

## Streamlining City Processes

- 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.

# Homelessness Emergency Response Mission and 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.



# Homelessness Emergency Response Key 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

# Homelessness Emergency Response Work Groups

**EOC Command: Kelly Colopy (Health) and Eric Lopez (Public Works)**

- Intergovernmental Work Group
- Community Partnerships Work Group
- Public Health and Safety Work Group
- Communications Work Group
- Data and Technology Work Group
- Housing and Land Access Work Group
- Procurement and Finance Work Group
- Human Resources and Staffing Work Group
- Logistics Work Group

# Community Partnerships Work Group Departments Represented

- City Manager's Office
- Economic Development
- Health and Human Services
- Library Services
- Pacific Gateway
- Parks, Recreation, and Marine
- Public Works
- Technology and Innovation

# Community Partnerships Work Group Subgroups

- Businesses Subgroup
- Education Institutions Subgroup
- Faith-based Organizations Subgroup
- Grassroots and Community-based Organizations Subgroup
- Non-profit Organizations Subgroup

# Community Partnerships Work Group Task Development

- **Mission statement:** A general statement that summarizes the vision and goals of the response
- **Objectives:** Specific actionable targets that support the overall mission
- **Tasks:** Key actions that show how an objective will be achieved
- **Metrics:** Data-driven outcomes that track progress and success
- **Elements of a SMART objective and task:**
  - Specific
  - Measurable
  - Achievable
  - Relevant
  - Time-bound

# Homelessness Emergency Response Work Group Objectives

## Intergovernmental Work Group Objectives

- 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.

## Community Partnerships Work Group Objectives

- Strengthen, leverage, and develop 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 (e.g., private sector), educational institutions, governmental institutions, and faith-based communities to focus efforts on leveraging, developing and resourcing upstream prevention strategies and identifying the breakdowns leading to homelessness and those that affect the community.

# Homelessness Emergency Response Work Group Objectives

## Public Health and Safety Work Group 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.

## Communications Work Group Objectives

- 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.

# Homelessness Emergency Response Work Group Objectives

## Data and Technology Work Group Objectives

- 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 Work Group 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.

# Homelessness Emergency Response Work Group Objectives

## **Procurement and Finance Work Group 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 Work Group Objectives**

- Facilitate and accommodate staff reassignments to activation and focus areas, as necessary.

## **Logistics Work Group Objectives**

- To be determined

# Community Partnerships Work Group Focus Areas

## What Are We Missing?

- **Prevention resources and services** (e.g., education and workforce pathways)
- **Family structure and community supports**
- **Supportive services** (e.g., mental health services, social services, legal services, health care, public benefits, etc.)
- **Supportive resources** (e.g., food, clothes, blankets, toiletries/hygiene kits, etc.)
- **Shelter and interim/rapid rehousing**
- **Affordable housing** (e.g., public or private housing development)
- **Permanent supportive housing** (e.g., short-term, long-term rental subsidies)
- **Job preparedness training and employment services**

# Community Partnerships Work Group Opportunities

## Partnering with CoC Board/HSAC/General Membership

### ➤ What Can this Look Like?

- Hosting townhalls across the City (per the Mayor's request)
- Convening of Faith-Based Organizations
- Implementing a Community Call to Action
- Administering a Community Partner Interest Form

# Homelessness Emergency Response 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.

A nighttime photograph of a city waterfront. In the foreground, a body of water reflects the colorful lights of buildings and palm trees. A large white boat is docked in the middle ground. The background features a city skyline with several illuminated buildings under a dark sky. The text 'Next Steps' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Next Steps

# Community Partnerships Work Group Next Steps

- Subgroups from the Community Partnerships Work Group are meeting to co-design SMART action items and next steps
- The Leads will present to HSAC and General Membership
- Start the planning process for the townhalls and faith-based organizations convening
- Connect with community stakeholders across the City
- Design the “asks” for support in partnership with stakeholders



Thank you

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