

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PARTICIPATION
IN MAYORS FOR GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAM**

INITIATED BY: MAYOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

PREPARED BY: HUMAN SERVICES AND RENT STABILIZATION DEPARTMENT
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(Corri Planck, Strategic Initiatives Manager)
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STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council will consider approving the City's engagement with, and support of, the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income program and authorize staff to develop a guaranteed income pilot program in West Hollywood.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Direct Strategic Initiatives staff to complete the process to join Mayors for a Guaranteed Income.
- 2) Authorize Strategic Initiatives Division staff to develop a guaranteed income pilot program for West Hollywood, including identification of partnerships for research, funding, community implementation, and evaluation.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

The City of West Hollywood has a long and rich history of serving and supporting the most vulnerable in our community through affordable housing programs, a diverse array of social services, and reduced or waived fees for transportation services.

According to the 2019 West Hollywood Community Study, 14% of West Hollywood households were below the poverty level, and 27% were below 200% of the poverty level. The economic impacts of COVID-19 have exacerbated the challenges facing people living in poverty and created significant financial stress for countless others who have lost wages/jobs. Even prior to COVID-19, nearly 40% of Americans could not afford a single \$400 emergency, a reality that has been severely compounded by the pandemic.

As part of the City's efforts to address and reduce poverty, Strategic Initiatives staff have researched several universal basic income and guaranteed income programs. A guaranteed income is a monthly cash payment given directly to individuals. These programs are not conditional, and are designed to supplement, not replace, existing supports and benefits.

Guaranteed income programs are designed to empower recipients to address their most urgent needs and provide a cushion for unpredictable expenses and emergencies. Examples of guaranteed income pilot programs include Stockton, California's \$500 per month guaranteed income to 125 residents and Jackson, Mississippi's \$1,000 per month guaranteed income to Black mothers. Other cities including Chicago, Compton, Los Angeles, Newark, Atlanta and Milwaukee are also exploring guaranteed income pilot programs.

Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI) was founded in June 2020 to create a network to advocate for and support guaranteed income programs, and to utilize guaranteed income programs as tools to build racial and gender equity. Membership in MGI would include: 1) advocating for guaranteed income at the local, state and federal level; 2) investing in narrative change efforts to highlight the lived experiences of economic insecurity; and 3) inviting and engaging with other municipalities to join MGI and provide technical assistance and funding support for new pilot programs.

With Council's authorization, staff will begin to identify partners for research, funding, community implementation and evaluation of a guaranteed income pilot program in West Hollywood.

CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:

This item is consistent with the Primary Strategic Goal(s) (PSG) and/or Ongoing Strategic Program(s) (OSP) of:

- OSP-5: Support People through Social Services.
- OSP-12: Actively Participate in Regional Issues.

In addition, this item is compliant with the following goal(s) of the West Hollywood General Plan:

- HS-1: Maintain and pursue humane social policies and social services that address the needs of the community.

EVALUATION PROCESSES:

None at this time. Evaluation will be a key component of any guaranteed income programs in partnership with the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income/Center for Guaranteed Income Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:

Financial stability can help improve health outcomes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Participation in the Mayors for Guaranteed Income asks for engagement with other municipalities to further the reach, and potential impact, of guaranteed income programs at local levels.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

HUMAN SERVICES & RENT STABILIZATION DEPARTMENT / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES DIVISION

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.