

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON
HOMELESSNESS**

PREPARED BY: **HUMAN SERVICES & RENT STABILIZATION DEPARTMENT**
(Christof Schroeder, Director)
(Corri Planck, Strategic Initiatives Manager)
(Elizabeth Anderson, Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator)

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness will receive an update on the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness recommendations for improved governance of the Los Angeles region's homeless and housing crisis.

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to submit a written public comment on behalf of the Council Subcommittee on Homelessness, at the relevant LA County Board of Supervisor meeting, to express support for the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness recommendations and encourage greater investment in local solutions to support cities serving community members experiencing homelessness.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Per the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office: on July 27, 2021, the LA County Board of Supervisors established the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH), as part of an ongoing and focused effort to address homelessness.

The mission of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) is to comprehensively study the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) governance structure by reviewing existing reports and recommendations, identifying and analyzing the challenges inherent to the existing system, and to provide recommendations to change and improve its efficiency.

The BRCH was tasked to research and analyze various homelessness governance reports, study models from across the nation, and provide feedback to the Board regarding the most relevant and effective models with the intention of implementing governance reform to help solve the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County.

According to the UNESCO, International Bureau of Education, "governance" refers to structures and processes designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment, and broad-based participation. Governance also represents the norms, values and rules of the game through which public affairs are managed in a manner that is transparent, participatory,

inclusive and responsive

The BRCH produced a [report](#) with seven recommendations for creating a new governance model for Los Angeles County; the full report is hosted online at, brch.lacounty.gov, where members of the public can also access meeting agendas, minutes, a press release and context on the effort.

The seven recommendations are as follows:

1. Create County Entity and Identify County Leader
 - a. Create County entity with responsible charge, accountability, and authority over homelessness
 - b. Establish inter-county workgroups
 - c. Establish subregional leadership infrastructure
2. Measure H / Local Solutions
 - a. Renew and re-start relationships with cities and Councils of Government by establish a multi-year “local solutions” fund within Measure H using an algorithm or funded at an amount to be defined by the Board for jurisdictions that will make a commitment to provide in-kind or matching contributions for the development of service programs and housing
3. Streamline LAHSA
 - a. Refocus on role as CoC (Rehousing) Lead
 - b. Governance: Maintain number of seats (10) on LAHSA Commission but change who sits in those seats (e.g. department heads, lived expertise representative, COG or cities representative)
4. Continuum of Care Governance (Modify CoC Leadership)
 - a. Consolidate LAHSA commission, CoC Board, and CES Policy Council into a single decision-making entity
5. Improve LAHSA’s operations
 - a. Define decision-making responsibilities and embed Ops Team to improve LAHSA’s operations
6. Data and Metrics Excellence
 - a. Require access to, sharing of, and tracking of data between cities, the County and LAHSA. Define success, track equity goals and establish tools for accountability.
7. Executive Level Action Team
 - a. Create a forum for Executive Level Action Team to drive urgently needed reforms, discuss issues of common interest, and facilitate data development and sharing.

The BRCH recommendations promote accountability, delineation of roles and responsibilities and appoint a clear lead with authority to comprehensively address the

regional crisis, which is lacking at this time. In theory, these proposed governance changes should benefit City of West Hollywood because it should slow the inflow of people into homelessness and accelerate the rehousing process. While the BRCH calls for more involvement and engagement with city stakeholders, staff note that the FY 22/23 Measure H budget which funds the County's Homeless Initiative, sets aside 2% of Measure H revenue, or \$10 million, for local solutions. Spread across the 87 cities (other than City of Los Angeles), this does not divide into a significant amount for each jurisdiction to work with for local projects.

LA County Board of Supervisors action on the BRCH report and recommendations is expected at the May 3, 2022 meeting.

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-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.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

The Strategic Initiatives Division will continue to monitor the progress of the report and recommendations of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

None