UPDATE

Los Angeles County's State Advocacy Effort to Combat Homelessness

Community Web Meeting

June 16, 2016

PANELISTS

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor, District Two
County of Los Angeles

Phil Ansell
Director, Homeless Initiative, CEO
County of Los Angeles

State of Emergency: Legislative Advocacy

6-14-16: Board of Supervisors vote to ask the California Assembly and Senate to urge the Governor to declare a state of emergency because of California's homeless crisis

AGN. NO. A-6

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL

JUNE 14, 2016

Declaring Homelessness to be a Statewide Humanitarian Crisis

Los Angeles County (County) is facing a pervasive and deepening homelessness crisis that currently endangers the health and safety of tens and thousands of residents, including veterans, women, children, LGBT youth, persons with disabilities and seniors. The tremendous scale of homelessness in the County threatens the economic stability of the region by burdening emergency medical services and the social services infrastructure.

According to the 2016 Homeless Count released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the number of homeless persons in the County on any given night is roughly 47,000, including over 6,000 parents and their children. Over 4,000 of the homeless are veterans. Nearly two thirds of the homeless persons live in the City of Los Angeles. Since 2013, the number of homeless women has risen 55%. The number of homeless persons living in encampments, tents and vehicles increased by a staggering 123% from 2013 to 2016. Furthermore, according to the Economic Roundtable, approximately 13,000 people on public assistance become homeless every month in the County.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

June 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Speaker Rendon:

We are writing to respectfully request that the Assembly pass a resolution urging Governor Brown to declare a state of emergency due to the increased number of homeless persons in California.

Los Angeles County is facing a pervasive and deepening homelessness crisis that endangers the health and safety of thousands of County residents, including veterans, women, children, LGBT youth, persons with disabilities and seniors. On any given night, roughly 47,000 persons in Los Angeles County are homeless. This includes over 6,000 parents and their children. Since 2013, the number of homeless women has risen by 55 percent, and the number of homeless persons living in encampments, tents and vehicles has increased by a staggering 123 percent.

The statewide numbers are similarly alarming. In 2015, with 115,738 homeless persons, California accounted for 21 percent of the nation's homeless population. Among all states, California had the highest percentage of homeless people counted in unsheltered locations (64 percent or 73,699 homeless unsheltered persons).

The tremendous scale of homelessness in Los Angeles County threatens the economic stability of the region by burdening emergency medical services and the social services infrastructure. Many homeless persons face severe threats to their health and safety on a daily basis. Research has shown that homeless persons are three to four times more likely to die prematurely than the general population often from acute and chronic medical conditions that are aggravated by homelessness.

It is imperative that we act now to address the crisis of homelessness in California. Therefore, we request that the Assembly pass a resolution to respectfully urge Governor Brown to declare a state of emergency on homelessness that would include:

- Access to $500 million from the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties to implement statewide re-housing efforts including street engagement, service triage, crisis housing, permanent housing navigation, rental subsidies, case management, other appropriate and essential services, and any other resources once the state of emergency is declared.

- Immediate orders to deploy State agencies and personnel to help provide housing assistance to homeless camp hotspots in Los Angeles County and other heavily affected areas in the State and to set up emergency command posts and triage site for the coordination of homeless service delivery.

- Assembly of a State public sector/private sector "Red Team" to develop a short-term plan to combat homelessness; and

- A commitment to identify and develop streams of ongoing funding for localities so they can sustain successful efforts to combat homelessness.

We look forward to working with you to address this humanitarian crisis and to mobilize needed local and statewide resources to ensure that over 115,000 homeless persons receive vital housing and supportive services.

Sincerely,

HILDA L. SOLIS
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District

DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District

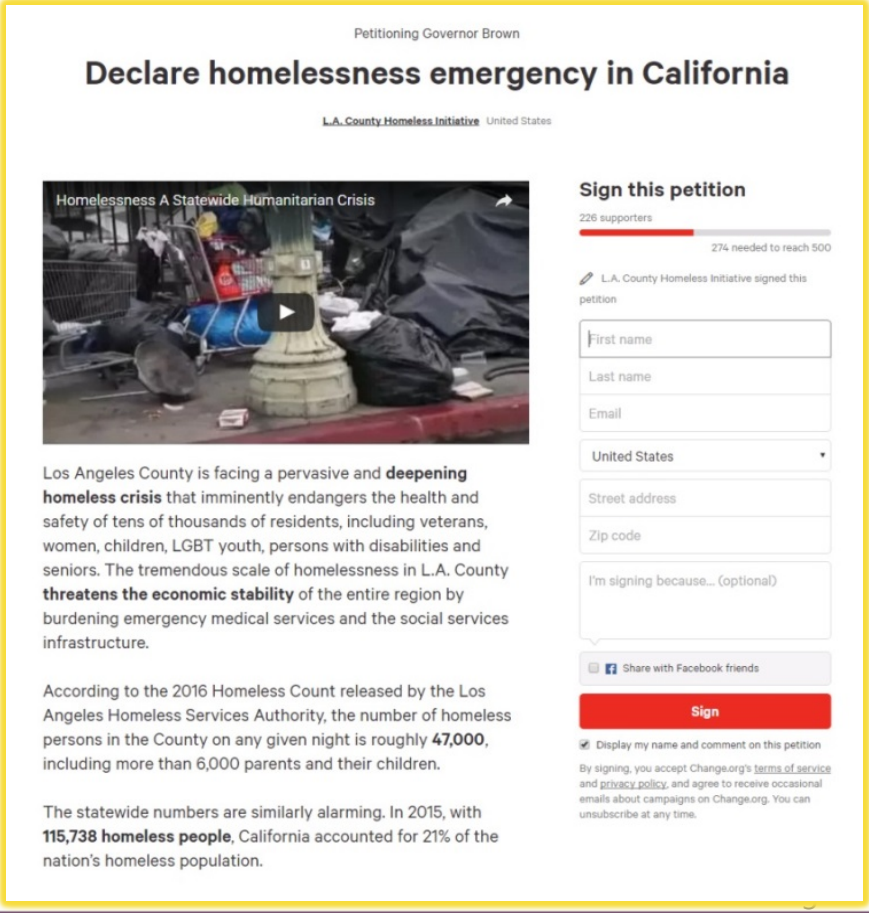
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor, Fifth District

c: Each Member California State Assembly

State of Emergency: Public Petition

Public petition urging Governor Brown to declare homelessness emergency in California

- Petition at
  - Change.org https://www.change.org/p/declare-homelessness-emergency-in-california
  - County Homeless Initiative website http://priorities.lacounty.gov/homeless/



Petitioning Governor Brown

Declare homelessness emergency in California

L.A. County Homeless Initiative United States

Homelessness A Statewide Humanitarian Crisis

Los Angeles County is facing a pervasive and **deepening homeless crisis** that imminently endangers the health and safety of tens of thousands of residents, including veterans, women, children, LGBT youth, persons with disabilities and seniors. The tremendous scale of homelessness in L.A. County **threatens the economic stability** of the entire region by burdening emergency medical services and the social services infrastructure.

According to the 2016 Homeless Count released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the number of homeless persons in the County on any given night is roughly **47,000**, including more than 6,000 parents and their children.

The statewide numbers are similarly alarming. In 2015, with **115,738 homeless people**, California accounted for 21% of the nation's homeless population.

Sign this petition

226 supporters

274 needed to reach 500

L.A. County Homeless Initiative signed this petition

First name

Last name

Email

United States

Street address

Zip code

I'm signing because... (optional)

Share with Facebook friends

Sign

Display my name and comment on this petition

By signing, you accept Change.org's terms of service and privacy policy, and agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

State of Emergency: Public Petition continued.

Call to Action:

- Sign the petition today!
- Share/activate your community

Letter to Governor Brown

On any given night, there are over 115,000 homeless people in California - 21% of the entire nation's homeless population.

Counties across the state are facing a pervasive and deepening homeless crisis that imminently endangers the health and safety of tens of thousands of residents, including veterans, women, children, LGBT youth, persons with disabilities and seniors.

Nowhere is this more evident than in L.A. County - 47,000 homeless, including more than 6,000 parents and children - where the tremendous scale of homelessness threatens the economic stability of the entire region by burdening emergency medical services and the social services infrastructure.

It is time to treat this crisis like the emergency it truly is. The increasing numbers of displaced homeless people and the lack of ongoing resources to stably re-house them require immediate and extraordinary action.

I strongly urge you to declare a state of emergency in CA to address this growing humanitarian crisis throughout the State.

Potential Ongoing Revenue

- State budget process and status
  - Ongoing effort to secure ongoing revenues to address the crisis
- Status of Trailer Bill Language to secure State authority for the County to seek voter approval of a tax on personal income above $1 million/year to combat homelessness

Community Support for Millionaires' Tax

- Growing list of supporters including cities, statewide associations and community-based organizations

Los Angeles County Trailer Bill Proposal to Combat Homelessness Support List
(as of 6/15/2016)

Statewide Associations

- California State Association of Counties
- Urban Counties of California
- County Welfare Director's Association
- Children's Defense Fund of California
- California Nurses Association

County Partners

- Local 721- Service Employees International Union, CTW,
- Los Angeles County Commission on Older Adults
- Los Angeles County Probation Officers AFSCME Local 68

- **Call to action!** Send a support letter today - http://priorities.lacounty.gov/homeless/

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- Children's Defense Fund of California
- California Nurses Association

County Partners

- Local 721- Service Employees International Union, CTW, CLC
- Los Angeles County Commission on Older Adults
- Los Angeles County Probation Officers AFSCME Local 685
- Association of Community Human Services Agencies
- Partners in Care Foundation
- Los Angeles County Community Development Commission
- Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs
- Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control
- Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services
- Los Angeles County Department of Health Care Services
- Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
- Los Angeles County Department of Probation
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Los Angeles County Military and Veterans Affairs
- Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender
- Los Angeles County Public Library

Cities

- Mayor Eric Garcetti – City of Los Angeles
- City of Los Angeles Resolution
- City of Carson
- City of Compton
- City of Compton, Council Member Emma Sharif, 4th District
- City of Cudahy
- City of Culver City
- City of Huntington Park, Police Chief Cosme Lozano,
- City of Inglewood

Los Angeles County Trailer Bill Proposal to Combat Homelessness Support List
(as of 6/15/2016)

- City of Lawndale
- City of Lynwood
- City of Malibu
- City of Pomona
- City of South Gate
- City of Torrance
- City of West Hollywood
- Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

Community-Based & Business Organizations

- A Community of Friends
- Abode Communities
- AIDS Project Los Angeles and APLA Health & Wellness
- Apex Realty, Inc. & The Conga Room
- Brilliant Corners
- Brotherhood Crusade
- Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.
- Clifford Beers Housing
- Courage Campaign
- Downtown Women's Center
- Freedom Assembly, CDC
- Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership
- Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System
- Homes for Life Foundation
- Inner City Law Center
- LA Family Housing
- LA Voice
- Los Angeles Mission
- Managed Career Solutions, Inc.
- Nancy Lewis Associates, Inc.
- Sanctuary of Hope
- Shelter Partnership
- South Los Angeles Homeless TAY & Foster Collaborative
- Southern CA Association of NonProfit Housing
- Southern CA Health & Rehabilitation Program
- Special Needs Network, Inc.,
- Special Services for Groups
- SRO Housing
- The Community Coalition for Change, Inc.
- The Good Seed
- United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council (UFCW)

Los Angeles County Trailer Bill Proposal to Combat Homelessness Support List
(as of 6/15/2016)

- University of Southern California, School of Social Work, Professors Benjamin Henwood and Suzanne Wenzel
- Venice Community Housing
- Ward Economic Development Corporation
- Watts Labor Community Action Committee
- Weingart Center Association
- Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services (WORKS)

More Support

- Former State Senate Leader Darrell Steinberg: Los Angeles County Half-**Percent** Tax: A Model for Right Action Huffington Post 6/7/16

Additional Coverage

- Tax the rich, give to the poor: LA County seeks to use millionaires' money to assist homeless RT Question More 6/3/16

- L.A. County Is Proposing To Tax Millionaires In Order To End Homelessness LAIST 6/2/16

- L.A.'s Millionaires Tax Is Gaining Fans L.A. Weekly 6/2/16

- Old and on the Street: The Graying of America's Homeless New York Times 5/31/16

- Time Now to Narrow, Refine and Justify Homeless Tax Proposals L.A. Times Editorial Board 5/28/16

Call to Action

UNPRECEDENTED HOMELESS CRISIS:

Los Angeles County and the State of California face a pervasive and deepening homelessness crisis.

We need the CA Legislature to urge the Governor to declare a state of emergency.

Sign the petition…NOW.

http://priorities.lacounty.gov/homeless/

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Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
County of Los Angeles
500 West Temple Street, Room 493
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974 - 2326
homelessinitiative@lacounty.gov

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION VISIT US AT:

http://priorities.lacounty.gov/homeless