

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the annual point-in-time homeless count conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) revealed that homelessness in the City of Los Angeles has increased an estimated 16% since 2018 with over 36,000 people living on the streets or in vehicles, and;

WHEREAS, the drastic increase in homelessness in 2019 strongly impacted the City's most vulnerable populations, with a 24% rise in youth, 8% rise in families, 13% rise in women and 17% rise in the chronically homeless, and;

WHEREAS, in 2018, there was a 68% increase in Part I crimes involving a homeless victim in the City, and;

WHEREAS, In 2018, there were nearly 130,000 people on the streets on any given night throughout the State of California - the most of any state in the nation, and;

WHEREAS, numerous cities in California are struggling to adequately respond to the homelessness crisis, and;

WHEREAS, deplorable conditions in and surrounding areas with a high density of homeless encampments has led to multiple cases of individuals, both housed and unhoused, contracting diseases borne by fleas and feces, including typhus, typhoid fever, hepatitis A, tuberculosis, and staph infection, and;

WHEREAS, the public health and safety of the residents of California, both unhoused and housed, will be in great danger unless drastic, immediate measures are taken, and;

WHEREAS, despite new funding sources and other resources to aid the City's homeless population, a crisis persists. All tools made available to address the homelessness crisis plaguing all major cities throughout the state must be leveraged, and;

WHEREAS, California Government Code §8625 grants the Governor the authority to declare a regional or statewide emergency and coordinate emergency response activities, and;

WHEREAS, a state of emergency is defined in subdivision (b) of California Government Code §8558 as "any occurrence which by reason of its magnitude is or is likely to become beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions....," and;

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WHEREAS, the declaration of a state of emergency enables state and local agencies to act quickly and without normal constraints to address an emergency situation, request mutual aid from other governmental organizations and seek emergency funding, and;

WHEREAS, when a state of emergency is declared, public employees and governing bodies are afforded certain legal immunities for emergency actions taken, and;

WHEREAS, a declaration of a State of Emergency allows agencies and departments to more efficiently procure materials and services necessary to address the situation, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Los Angeles City Council does hereby find that homelessness has ballooned into a crisis of seismic proportions outside of the control of the City of Los Angeles and the cities of the State of California alone to address with existing resources, and that the plight of individuals living on the streets jeopardizes the public health and safety of those individuals and imperils the broader citizenry of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019 - 2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for action by Governor Gavin Newsom to declare a **State of Emergency on Homelessness** in the State of California.

Gilbert Anthony Cedillo

PRESENTED BY: *Joe Buscaino*
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: *MP*

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