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Email to Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember de León Draft#6 5/10/2021

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mayor  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA

The Honorable Kevin de León  
Councilmember  
Los Angeles City Council  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember de León,

I write to you on behalf of the Board and stakeholders of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (DLANC) about the suit filed by the Alliance for Human Rights against the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles.

As you know, our neighborhood is at the epicenter of this crisis. Those of us who live, work and/or have businesses downtown see the pain on the streets which is not being addressed in a responsive, timely, or compassionate manner. The result of this grotesque negligence of government in Los Angeles is the death of numerous unhoused Angelenos on a daily basis. I want to clearly reflect our board's strong feelings that the county, in particular, is missing in action in meeting their humanitarian responsibilities. In regards to the Alliance lawsuit, they have negotiated in bad faith in the last year culminating in their recent motion to dismiss and to appeal the injunction.

This board strongly supports Judge Carter's efforts to get movement from the city and county. We also unanimously supported the goal of the 25 in 25 housing plan for 25,000 housing units in 2025 promoted by our Councilmember and others, but there must be more action. Los Angeles County has one of the world's largest economies - death in our streets as a result of homelessness is unacceptable. Los Angeles can never claim to be a world class city with this humanitarian crisis hanging over us. We have already seen the homeless crisis become the image of Los Angeles to the world - one more powerful than the Hollywood sign or gleaming new towers in downtown.

DLANC stakeholders include our unhoused neighbors, who live with this failure of government every day in an up close and personal manner. We see women, mostly of color, curled up in fear in blankets, we encounter ravaged human souls in tents or in cardboard boxes on the sidewalks or under the freeways and sometimes the connection can feel threatening, especially for women or the elderly who live or work in the neighborhood. I don't even need to imagine what our

unhoused neighbors experience on a daily basis because I witness it. It is their own personal living hell.

We ask for a meeting with you either together or separately so a special working group from our board can explore the way forward with the County. Thousands are saying, "Are you going to help me?" DLANC is saying yes, but we need the county and the city to step up - NOW!

Sincerely,

Richard Nordin  
President

cc  
Mike Feuer, LA City Attorney