

MOTION

One of the critical elements of the Regional Homelessness Response System is helping people who are housed and at risk of becoming homeless. Prevention programs are a critical opportunity to stop homelessness before it even starts. Until recently, though, there have only been limited efforts to develop prevention programs that are successful. Only in the last few years have new programs emerged to help people before they become homeless.

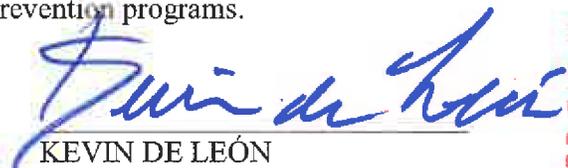
The City has invested in the very effective Solid Ground program, operating through the FamilySource Centers, to help households seeking assistance through City programs. The City has also established an Eviction Defense program and established the COVID-19 Emergency Renter Protections as significant efforts to help keep people housed. But many of our City departments are working with households and families that could be at risk of homelessness and they should be engaged in this prevention work as well.

In addition, the County of Los Angeles has a Homeless Prevention Unit that uses analytics developed by the California Policy Lab at UCLA, using data from multiple County departments to identify individuals and families that could be at risk of homelessness. Also, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority operates a prevention program through the suite of Problem Solving interventions as a means to help people before they become homeless or immediately upon a housing crisis such as family reunification.

These prevention programs are newly developed opportunities to help people before they fall into homelessness. Every effort should be made to evaluate what works, expand the most effective programs, identify new tools, and support people before they become homeless.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance of the Los Angeles Housing Department, Community Investment for Families Department, Department of Aging, Department on Disability, Youth Development Department and other departments as appropriate, to evaluate homelessness prevention programs operated by the City, the County, and LAHSA; identify opportunities to expand homeless prevention programs; and report with recommendations to expand prevention programs.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



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