

MOTION

In September 2018, the United States Ninth Court of Appeals made a ruling in the case of Martin v. City of Boise. The case did not directly apply to the City of Los Angeles, but addressed issues similar to those which had previously been considered and litigated in Los Angeles.

On September 24, 2019, the City Council held a public discussion of the issues relating to the case and how and where persons experiencing homelessness can legally situate themselves in Los Angeles. The Council then referred the file (CF 19-0602-S1) back to the Homelessness and Poverty Committee for further discussion. At that time Councilmembers were encouraged to offer additional proposals for addressing these issues.

The challenges associated with trying to enforce existing or contemplated laws make it clear that the City needs more options for unblocking sidewalks and managing random homeless encampments so as to combat public health hazards. Recent experience in Modesto, California may offer a useful interim approach that could better manage where and how unsheltered homeless persons can safely situate themselves. Modesto has created an "Outdoor Emergency Shelter (OES)" which consolidates scattered encampments into one location and the concept has drawn considerable interest from the state and other local jurisdictions.

Another concept is "Shared Housing," which places small numbers of formerly homeless persons in houses leased for the purpose. Shared Housing has effectively been introduced on a limited basis in CD 11 and elsewhere.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CAO explore the applicability of the Modesto model in Los Angeles, as well as the feasibility, including potential funding sources, of identifying at least one appropriate OES location in each Council district where manageably-sized and well-managed homeless encampments could be established featuring restroom facilities, sanitation service, homeless outreach services, security and law enforcement as necessary, and report back to the Council within 60 days; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the City intensify its effort to explore the feasibility and implementation of a Shared Housing program, including potential funding sources, as discussed in Council Files 15-1138-S18, 17-0100, 18-0475 and 19-1023 as a potentially cost-effective methodology for moving persons experiencing homelessness into housed situations with fewer delays and lower expense than the A Bridge Home and HHH housing programs have experienced thus far.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ, Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY:



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