

HOUSING

MOTION

Board-and-care facilities play a critical role in stemming the flow of certain highly vulnerable groups into homelessness. These facilities offer 24-hour care, including housing and services to seniors and individuals who are unable to live independently and require supervision. Many of these residents rely heavily on their monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to pay for these facilities. A recent survey indicated that 39 homes closed in the Los Angeles County in the last three years, creating a loss of 949 beds. Further, it has been reported that the current SSI rate of \$1,058 per month, or about \$35 a day, per bed, is not enough to cover the increasing costs to operate and maintain board-and-care facilities, putting many of these facilities at risk of closure.

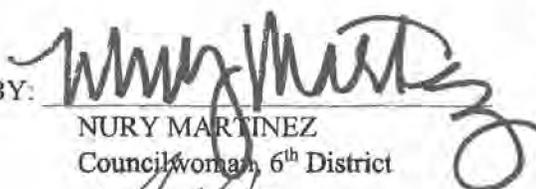
On November 6, 2019, a Resolution (Martinez – Bonin) was introduced, seeking the City's sponsorship or support for any legislative or administrative action which would increase the State payment rate for licensed board and care facilities that serve vulnerable communities (C.F. 19-0002-s184). The Housing and Community Investment Department, which collects limited information on these facilities, and only tracks those categorized as multifamily properties, estimates that there are a minimum of 93 board-and-care facilities, with approximately 2,618 units, in the City.

On November 12, 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a Motion (Hahn), directing County departments to identify funding for board-and-care facilities' operations, capital improvements, and other activities to preserve and expand the number of beds serving low-income individuals and a related implementation plan. The departments were further instructed to report on a preservation strategy, advocacy at the State level to improve funding, data collection on facility closures, and increasing philanthropic support for these facilities.

The City and County have partnered on a number of strategies to address the homelessness crisis. Both entities should continue to collaborate and work toward a robust approach to preserve these facilities. Collectively, the City and County can provide a strong, unified effort to influence legislation that would fund, preserve, and expand board-and-care facilities to continue to serve the most vulnerable residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Housing and Community Investment Department and the City Administrative Officer to work with the County of Los Angeles and any other appropriate entities, and report with recommendations to retain and preserve board-and-care facilities in the City; and recommend any legislative or administrative actions that the City could take to secure resources, including Mental Health Services Act funding, to preserve these facilities.

PRESENTED BY:


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



DEC 03 2019

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