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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - WESTERN DIVISION
HONORABLE DAVID O. CARTER, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

LA ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN)
RIGHTS, an unincorporated)
Association, JOSEPH BURK,)
HARRY TASHDJIAN, KARYN)
PINSKY, CHARLES MALOW,)
CHARLES VAN SCOY, GEORGE)
FREM, GARY WHITTER, and)
LEANDRO SUAREZ, individuals,)

Plaintiffs,)

vs.)

Case No.)
2:20-cv-02291-DOC (KES)

City of Los Angeles, a)
Municipal entity; COUNTY OF)
LOS ANGELES, a municipal)
entity; and DOES 1 through 200)
inclusive,)

Defendants.)

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
STATUS CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020
10:05 A.M.
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

KATHERINE M. STRIDE, RPR, CSR
COURT REPORTER
LICENSE NO. 11773

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12 **ALSO PRESENT:**

13 Honorable Judge Andre Birotte, Federal Judge

14

15 **SPECIAL MASTERS:**

16 Michelle Martinez
17 Hon. James L. Smith (Ret.)

17

18 **CITY OF LOS ANGELES:**

18

19 Mayor Eric Garcetti
20 City Attorney Mike Feuer
21 Chief Procurement Officer Shanno Hoppes
22 Controller Ron Galperin
23 Police Chief Michel Moore
24 Fire Department Chief Ralph Terrazas

22 City Council President Nury Martinez (6th District)
23 Council Member Gil Cedillo (1st District)
24 Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson (8th District)
25 Council Member Curren Price (9th District)
Council Member Herb Wesson (10th District)
Council Member Mike Bonin (11th District)
Council Member-Elect Kevin de León (14th District)
Council Member Joe Buscaino (15th District)

1 **APPEARANCES (CONTINUED) :**

2

3 **LAHSA :**

4 Executive Director Heidi Marston
5 Commission Chair Wendy Greuel
6 Acting Director of Finance Amy Perkins

6

7 **ORGANIZATIONS/SERVICE PROVIDERS :**

8 Pete White (LACAN)
9 Kevin Murray (Weingart Center)
10 Andy Bales (Union Rescue Mission)
11 Pastor Stephen "Cue" Jn-Marie
12 "General" Jeff Page
13 Katherine McNenny (Industrial District Green)
14 Monique Noel (Downtown Women's Action Center)
15 Pastor Don Dermont
16 Jim Hlawek (Volunteers of America)
17 Karl Calhoun (Volunteers of America)
18 Jennifer Hark Ditz (PATH)
19 Amy King (Pallet shelter Company)
20 Patrick Diller (Pallet Shelter company)

14

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17 LOS ANGELES :**

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25 Pastor Josue (Josh) Tiguila

21

22

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1 **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020**

2 **10:05 A.M.**

3
4 JUDGE CARTER: Good morning to all of you
5 present here today, and I really appreciate you being
6 here. I think all of us are adjusting to the COVID-19
7 pandemic, and, Mayor Garcetti, this is a rather
8 extraordinary historic occasion when the Federal Court
9 would assemble in the City Council chambers in
10 Los Angeles.

11 The first thing, I think all of us are
12 conscious about the COVID-19 pandemic, and I see all the
13 attorneys and people gathered here and are doing your
14 best. Could you please distance yourselves six feet
15 apart just to make me feel better. Thank you.

16 This is going to be an extraordinary session.
17 I believe that there's a tremendous amount of hope and
18 reliance of your good faith, and I'm just going to start
19 with just a couple compliments and extend those along
20 the way because some of us very well deserve it.

21 The first is, when the pandemic started, there
22 was a huge concern, and there still is, amongst the
23 homeless population, and while those numbers are
24 certainly overwhelming, it is not what apparently was
25 expected or feared at the very beginning, and I think

1 that's a compliment to the Council, the Mayor, to all of
2 you in a sense of trying to keep Skid Row portions clean
3 and trying to keep distancing.

4 I also think that, in further discussion,
5 there's a historic agreement of 6800 -- 6,000 new
6 beds -- and I emphasize "new beds" -- which we'll talk
7 about. And the question is can we quell any inertia,
8 which is why I'm appreciative of Mayor Garcetti for
9 responding so quickly and humbly to the request, on my
10 part, to have some of the implementers here from the
11 City. And that may involve different folks from -- the
12 fire marshal, who I hope is here, the fire chief, and
13 I'll just call on you, not now, later from the section
14 in the back. I have some questions that are going to be
15 asked to the Department of Water and Power, Planning,
16 Building Safety, Public Works. And the constant
17 question we all have of all the mayors also and the
18 chairman of the City Council -- the chairperson -- is to
19 make certain that inertia doesn't set in. The good
20 faith that's been displayed has to be followed by
21 action.

22 And so I'll begin by humbly saying that the
23 City Council has reached a historic agreement with the
24 Board of Supervisors, but they and the Court are the
25 responsible parties involved; and, therefore, if the

1 worst happens in barely six months, then the City
2 Council and the Board of Supervisors are the responsible
3 parties when they're dealing with complications. No
4 in-between, and I want to have a decision about that and
5 how they're going to implement a timeline along with all
6 of you folks who have done a very good job so far.

7 I also want to compliment you on the
8 cleanliness on Skid Row, but you've done a lot of things
9 that I think were unheard of by the City Council
10 laboring on this. You've kept it as clean as possible,
11 quite frankly. You've installed permanent water
12 stations down there, that I don't think the public even
13 recognizes this at the present time. We've got pictures
14 of that. But while I look forward to our success, I'm
15 mindful of that and any failure eventually, which I do
16 not anticipate and don't want that to simply be the
17 responsibility of the City and County, and I don't think
18 we're ever going to get to that part while we are in
19 partnership together.

20 So before we get into the presentations, which
21 I hope will be quick, I want you to constantly ask
22 yourselves these questions whether you're the City
23 Council, you're the Mayor, or the Board of Supervisors:
24 How do we immediately get more people sheltered? How do
25 we get a low death rate? How do we increase our health

1 and safety conditions as quickly as possible?

2 And, therefore, when we get into a discussion
3 eventually of housing, I'm going to be concerned about
4 how that debate takes place in terms of relationship to
5 this Court because I'm going to constantly ask a
6 question of myself anyway of how many people can we
7 increase their well-being and how quickly.

8 I want to introduce Mike Feuer. Mike, I want
9 to publically apologize. You were present on the last
10 occasion, but I did not recognize and I did not notice
11 you. My humble apologies. You're here, and it's a
12 pleasure.

13 There's a lot of things that we have on our
14 agenda, but I have to ask, with Council's consent and
15 vice chair, if we could invite the speakers just
16 immediately, and so let's start with members of our
17 city. If you would be so kind, sir, please, wherever
18 you're comfortable. And, once again, I want to thank
19 you humbly for having me preside in the City Council
20 chambers.

21 MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you very much, Judge,
22 and thank you, as always to our council present for
23 their leadership, and to our Council Members in these
24 chambers where I spent 12 good years of my life.

25 I always say this is like a temple of

1 democracy, Judge. It's built like a church, and it
2 represents the highest aspirations of our City when it
3 was built in the 1920s, and it is a testimony to how far
4 we've come and our work that's been done.

5 When this was first built, and this is just a
6 side note, the chamber is a horseshoe faced in towards
7 the council with the backs towards the public. After
8 the 1994 earthquake, the one architectural change which
9 the Historical Preservation Society allowed us to do was
10 to open up it up to the people, and certainly this is a
11 place for discussions and gatherings of certainly the
12 most important decisions that move our city forward.

13 I want to start by thanking you because the
14 space that you have opened up, Judge, the sense of
15 urgency, which I have said from the very beginning, I
16 share with you and I know that my fellow elected
17 officials do. You really have not only put your foot on
18 an accelerator; it's like you're driving 16 or 17
19 vehicles at the same time and pushing those accelerators
20 down, and that's what it will take. The longer I work
21 on the issue of homelessness, the more I recognize that,
22 if we don't work on systemic changes, that they will
23 continue to call on local governments to clean up the
24 pieces of our collective failures as a nation whether
25 that's with the housing policies, mental health

1 policies, the scourge of addiction, the trauma that
2 people have from domestic and sexual violence in our
3 society, and so much more.

4 So we're called in the end to clean up.

5 JUDGE CARTER: Right.

6 MAYOR GARCETTI: And I'm very proud of this
7 group, and I've got to say the pandemic has brought the
8 City and County closer than we've ever worked before,
9 but so too have you, and I thank you for that and Judge
10 Birotte and his extremely helpful mediation to say, "Now
11 and do it quickly and figure out those dollars."

12 What excites me too is knowing that we have, I
13 think, the strongest relationship between a mayor and
14 council in our city's history maybe because I come from
15 this body and respect so deeply as these Council Members
16 do in their districts. But for each of them to be able
17 to, with you, go out there and start making the plans
18 for the specifics, Judge, that is something that we feel
19 very strongly about and we both have to have city-wide
20 leadership and listen to communities.

21 Since we started these deliberations with you
22 when this case launched, I believe there's seven
23 different interim housing shelters that have opened up
24 in the districts by men and women who are represented on
25 this council. We had one yesterday in Councilman

1 Krekorian's district. We have one next week in Council
2 President Martinez's district. There's two that we've
3 done just in the last couple weeks and going on another
4 one in Council Member Buscaino's district, and we've
5 done them as well in Councilman Price's district. It's
6 just extraordinary. There's no city in the country
7 building as much, but there's no city in the country
8 that faces what we face, and we're not going to pat
9 ourselves on the back when we see encampments in every
10 single neighborhood.

11 But what we do have is a couple things, Your
12 Honor, one is a historic agreement we never had before
13 between the City and County. It's specific. It's 6700,
14 but we know that's just in the first 18 months, and
15 while the numbers are getting undefined outside of that,
16 I know that the general managers that are here can be
17 the same team that they have been for these
18 interim-housing solutions with Bridge Housing. They've
19 looked at places where there's pipes that can be placed
20 down. The one that we opened up with Councilman
21 Krekorian's district yesterday was on Caltrans' plan,
22 which required the Department of Transportation and the
23 Department of Water and Power to come together and put
24 plumbing in and all this stuff, built by city workers
25 from our General Services Department, and we broke

1 ground less than four months ago. To me, that is that
2 sense of urgency that we have out there.

3 I know for many who are -- and rightfully so --
4 the advocates for people experiencing homelessness --
5 and I consider myself one of those advocates too -- it's
6 never enough and never fast enough, but as long as I
7 think we keep focused on people who are in the greatest
8 need rather than the feelings that we have, the people
9 that are in the greatest need of housing as quickly as
10 possible and needing an infrastructure that is bigger
11 than our term in office, I think we can do great things
12 here.

13 Second, as I would say, too, that I hope that
14 we continue to be bigger and bolder with our ambitions,
15 whether it's at the national level, trying to get
16 Section 8 vouchers to be an entitlement, which is
17 something that at least one presidential candidate has
18 on his platform in order to revolutionize homeless
19 housing in America -- if you can build and house people,
20 a hundred percent of them in need in this country or
21 whether it's what we're doing for the state, and our
22 city is putting forward a \$250-million application
23 project, Homekey, through our Housing Authority. And I
24 don't know if the Housing Authority's representative is
25 here today, but we're more than happy to bring them

1 because it's the most minimal entity in our city to be
2 able to purchase. They already own and run apartments
3 as well as public housing developments, and they can
4 pass them on to the City once those purchases are
5 made. The state gave us that \$250 million of that
6 application, and we know it's a big bold ask, but we
7 also know we want a city that's stepped up with Project
8 Roomkey and more than any other place in the state that
9 has been able to house thousands of people in hotels and
10 motels in Los Angeles --

11 So I won't give any more of a long speech, but
12 I'll let you know that every single day we're committed
13 to getting to solutions, not rhetoric, but results and
14 to make sure that the very specifics to the
15 neighborhoods that now I understand, if I don't have a
16 solution down the block, it ain't going to go away. I
17 can't push it out to some place. We're not going to
18 move everybody out to the desert. We're not going to
19 put them on cruise ships. We're not just going to move
20 them along and have them pop up in somebody else's
21 neighborhood. It has to be solved, and I think that we
22 need to come together with a sense of urgency which the
23 City feels is unprecedented, and I thank you for
24 bringing us to this point.

25 JUDGE CARTER: How patient are you today? I

1 know that you're extraordinarily busy, but there are a
2 number of council people who are going to speak.

3 MAYOR GARCETTI: Yes.

4 JUDGE CARTER: I'm going to have a number of
5 questions possibly of you, just as we have a collegiate
6 dialogue.

7 MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

8 JUDGE CARTER: And I'm just wondering what your
9 time schedule is today because I can come back. I can
10 delay an hour to find you.

11 MAYOR GARCETTI: I have flexibility, and I'm
12 just down the hall. I'll be watching just to make sure
13 I promote as much COVID-19 safety as we can. I'll just
14 be down the hall. I'll be watching and listening to my
15 Council Members, and if you say, "Mayor, come over,"
16 I'll come down right away.

17 JUDGE CARTER: I hope you extend the same
18 invitation to the council -- the chair council, Nury
19 Martinez, and yourself to these chambers again in about
20 five weeks.

21 MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure.

22 JUDGE CARTER: And the reason for that is to
23 keep most of your staff safe. They can be up in their
24 offices, and we can monitor, and we can ask folks to
25 come down at their convenience, and I'm very mindful of

1 your leadership in trying to stem this pandemic. So
2 whatever your patience level is, I'm going to ask if you
3 would return at some point.

4 MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. Just let me know.

5 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you.

6 I'd like to recognize Nury Martinez and thank
7 you very humbly as the chair of the City Council. If
8 you could be so kind and come up.

9 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

10 Welcome, Judge Carter, to this council's
11 chambers where I'm honored serving with my colleagues.
12 You're going to be hearing several updates today, some
13 related to specific items and others related to general
14 efforts and challenges.

15 Judge Carter, when this lawsuit was filed, we
16 could have taken an attitude that this was just one more
17 lawsuit that the City was dealing with in regards to
18 homelessness. We could have chosen to simply fight the
19 lawsuit and risk continuing the status quo, but,
20 instead, you've encouraged us to view this as an
21 opportunity to, once and for all, resolve so many of the
22 issues we're struggling with, to address and put an end
23 to the cycle of litigation that has hampered the City,
24 cities that effectively need to respond to this crisis
25 on our streets.

1 You know my frustrations. It feels like every
2 direction the City goes in, we are faced with
3 opposition. At the same time, we are drowning in a
4 mentality that the pursuit of the perfect and the
5 pursuit of the ideal is more important than pursuit of
6 the greater good. We are drowning in a philosophy that
7 has been so well-intended but has led to the
8 circumstances that we find ourselves here today. The
9 irony is, year after year, we put more and more money
10 into homelessness. Yet, year after year, our homeless
11 count continues to go up.

12 Judge Carter, this process is a difficult one,
13 and you warned us and you warned us about that in the
14 early days of this stage. It's requiring trust to build
15 working relationships, and it is requiring us to
16 challenge each other, and most importantly it's
17 requiring us to challenge ourselves. Through it all,
18 you have been transparent and accessible, and most
19 importantly you have made yourself available to each and
20 every one of our City Council Members. And I know that
21 you've also made yourself available to any party
22 interested or involved in this homeless crisis, so I
23 want to thank you for that.

24 Every day a homeless person dies on the streets
25 of Los Angeles. Every single day. It is a sobering

1 reminder that for all we preach and all the innovations
2 we change, despite all the good work that we're doing,
3 we're failing. As a Latina and as a person of color,
4 how can I be okay that 70 percent of the homeless
5 individuals that are living in the streets today are
6 black and brown, and we're letting them die every single
7 day -- people that look like me or my relatives or my
8 neighbors, black and brown policymakers, leaders, and
9 activists -- despite the best of our efforts? The
10 system and strategy of this approach is failing our own
11 people. That, to me, is completely unacceptable.
12 Unacceptable that, as a society, we should be ashamed of
13 ourselves as we continue to let this happen.

14 Homelessness is not a moment in time or a new
15 concept, and right now our crisis is two-fold. It is
16 the overwhelming number of the people living on the
17 streets of Los Angeles, more than 40,000 individuals in
18 our city alone, and the fact that there is a pipeline of
19 individuals and families that will end up on our streets
20 if we do not address this now.

21 We need to stop the floodgates. I know that.
22 It's obvious, but right now my fear and my concern and
23 my anger is that, for all the solutions, innovations,
24 and approaches that we need to address the floodgates,
25 we are asking those who are currently living on our

1 streets to wait a little longer and to wait their turn.
2 We'll leave them to be and come back later. How is that
3 okay?

4 We are failing to address the individuals who
5 are already living on our streets, and we're failing to
6 address the neighborhoods that are being affected. We
7 have failed them before and, unless we challenge
8 ourselves to deal with the reality on the streets in
9 this very moment, then we're going to be failing them
10 again. There's an old line that says, "Fool me once,
11 shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

12 Judge Carter, the City Council will not be
13 fooled, and now you will hear from several different
14 Council Members here today, and there will likely be
15 frustrations raised and things that some people may not
16 like or want to hear, but we have to be honest. For all
17 the goodwill in this room, it is simply not working, and
18 we can't deny that.

19 The City Council has already set aside
20 \$100 million for homelessness, and we will invest more.
21 The City Council will soon be reviewing several
22 recommendations just released by our administrative
23 officer for a homeless strategy under COVID, and we are
24 pursuing state resources to acquire properties to deal
25 with our homeless crisis.

1 And we have already asked a difficult question:
2 Is the current LAHSA model the best for our city? For
3 everything great about what the City is doing right now,
4 is it enough?

5 Our own city policies and bureaucracies are
6 getting in our own way. We will be challenging
7 ourselves and each other. Are LAHSA and the
8 service-providing agencies truly effective in their work?
9 We often hear individual success stories but take a look
10 outside. Go look outside this window, and you can't
11 help to wonder what is happening. Is there a
12 consistency and effective correlation between LAHSA and
13 the service-providing agencies? In my district, for
14 example, who's the lead at a particular encampment? Is
15 it LAHSA or LA Family Housing? Is the left hand talking
16 to the right hand? Is there a reason we can't
17 immediately get accurate information from the agency
18 that we are part of? When I asked who is being placed
19 in the Project Roomkey, what encampment they were coming
20 from, I couldn't get a straight answer, and that is a
21 problem.

22 I can't help but to wonder where the hundreds
23 of millions of dollars to this agency are going. When I
24 asked if the County is truly meeting its obligation, so
25 much mental health and addiction, are those agencies

1 doing enough? Is the County truly partnering with us or
2 leading for us to fend for ourselves? Is there a
3 homeless philosophy as committed to address the
4 street-level homelessness as this council is?

5 Judge Carter, I ask you these provocative
6 questions because the moment requires it. I have
7 tremendous respect for my City Council and our County
8 Supervisors and for the people who have committed their
9 entire lives to serve the homeless. I ask my colleagues
10 to ask uncomfortable questions as well and to ensure
11 that we are pursuing the best interest of the people who
12 are being affected by the homeless crisis. As you
13 proceeded this effort, we always commit and agree that
14 ignoring the reality of our streets, freeways, parks,
15 and libraries are no longer an option.

16 With that, Judge Carter, I'm going to ask my
17 colleagues to update you on some of their efforts and
18 their challenges.

19 Thank you.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you very much,
21 Chairperson.

22 Without further ado, I'm going to get into the
23 heart of the issues immediately so that there's
24 substance to this.

25 But for all the department heads, I'm going to

1 ask that later on there's an implementation meeting with
2 the Special Master and with Judge Birotte. I want to
3 recognize that Michelle Martinez works absolutely free,
4 zero; Andre Birotte, almost zero. And we also have
5 Judge James Smith, who's a Special Master, who's
6 completely donated his time. So there's a group of
7 incredible, dedicated figures, quite frankly, at no cost
8 to the City or the County.

9 I'd like to now -- Gil, could you come up for a
10 moment. No disrespect is intended, but this is Gil.

11 Gil, do you mind if I put up some slides to
12 begin with to show your district?

13 MR. CEDILLO: Sure.

14 JUDGE CARTER: Gil, just for the record,
15 because we have a reporter, would you be kind to state
16 your full name? She's right beside you.

17 MR. CEDILLO: I'd be happy to.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you so much.

19 MR. CEDILLO: Whenever you're ready, Judge.

20 JUDGE CARTER: And as you're getting your
21 notes, let me say to the audience that the Court makes
22 some mistakes, and I'm hoping to get it right with your
23 help. By the same token, one of the issues I have is
24 this city is so large, and it's very difficult to move
25 in unison with 15 incredible districts. I hope I'm

1 right in that judgment call to each council person.

2 So first up is Gil.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Gil, whenever you're
4 comfortable.

5 MR. CEDILLO: I'm sorry?

6 JUDGE CARTER: Wherever you're comfortable, the
7 counsel table or where you're comfortable.

8 MR. CEDILLO: Okay. Well, good morning,
9 everyone. I have to tell you it's so nice to wear
10 shoes, so nice to get dressed, and so nice to see
11 everybody, and I know we have grave problems and
12 extraordinary challenges in front of us. This morning
13 in the *L.A. Times*, there's a very specific piece on the
14 challenges confronting Los Angeles and the kind of
15 precipice, the kind of edge or cliff that we're on that
16 affects homelessness, and so I am fully aware of these
17 problems. I live downtown. In the evenings at sunset,
18 I'll take a walk, so I see this intimately every other
19 day or so, and so I have a particular sensitivity for
20 these challenges.

21 Some 10 or 15 years ago, about 35 city leaders
22 went to New York to study the strategies and their
23 efforts and to figure out what we could do to address
24 those problems at that time. Those strategies have
25 failed us or their successes have been overwhelmed by

1 the changing circumstances and conditions.

2 I come here to you today to say that, on the
3 other hand, our district has a record of success and of
4 leadership. I am proud of my staff and proud of the
5 work we have done. It has not been easy. Our greatest
6 challenge, frankly, has been ourselves, the
7 bureaucracies, the commitments to protocols over moving
8 people off the streets, the -- the politicization of
9 this experience and, in this process, the efforts to --
10 to -- to be acknowledged as the leader of this effort
11 rather than simply solving the problems. Frankly, the
12 challenges have been amongst ourselves as the president
13 indicated. And so, for us, I want to note to you that
14 my district's proud to note that we had a drop in
15 homelessness.

16 JUDGE CARTER: 3.8 percent.

17 MR. CEDILLO: 3.8 percent. While the City went
18 up 6.1, we dropped 3.8 percent. We have actual, real
19 numbers of people off the streets. We don't have
20 orders, and so people know my district, and they come to
21 my district. Homeless people know it. Street vendors
22 know it. We're supposed to be the cool place to go
23 because we are less draconian than others, and so we are
24 proud of those accomplishments, 3.8 percent drop when
25 others have gone up. That's almost a 20 percent

1 separation between us, 19.9 percent.

2 And so I come here to state to you that that
3 record of leadership and accomplishments should be
4 acknowledged because we come here to you with specific
5 requests. I have three requests. I have a goal of 430
6 homeless people to get off the street, and I say to you
7 that I can do that if you help me be unencumbered by the
8 bureaucrats of the City and the other departments that
9 we get confronted with and challenged with.

10 We have an example, one is called Casa Azul,
11 and we put some pictures in there to let you know how we
12 bear on this problem with our creativity, with our
13 ingenuity, with our resourcefulness, and with our
14 respect for the dignity and of the -- those who are
15 challenged with homelessness. We built that shelter for
16 women who are whom are fleeing domestic violence, and
17 we're very proud of it. We're proud of the commitment
18 and the effort. It doesn't take much to provide people
19 with that sense of dignity. You know, the cost of a
20 gallon of blue paint and white paint is the same, and
21 if, you know, you are creative and you use color and
22 design and negotiate and -- and keep saying, "Yes," you
23 can do that.

24 One side story, we're not only showing progress
25 in this area, but we're also showing progress in the

1 development of affordable housing and of housing in
2 general. And we do that because we -- as I said the
3 first day in office, we start with "Yes," and then when
4 other people come back with a problem, we say, "Yes,"
5 and then after that, we say, "Yes." And then we really
6 get engaged, and so we have this commitment. We're very
7 bullish about our efforts. My district's the poorest
8 district. It's 90 percent renters.

9 And so that conversation -- the two
10 conversations, one about the precipice that we're on
11 with respect to the homelessness in my district is
12 ground zero. The impacts of COVID-19, ground zero in my
13 district. The homelessness is obvious and abundant. We
14 have density, we have poverty, and we have higher
15 workforce participation. Those three factors, which
16 were articulated in the *Los Angeles Times* this week,
17 shows why there's an adverse impact in the Latino
18 community, low-income community, community of color as
19 our president just articulated.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Several questions, Councilman.
21 You know that the initial agreement is for 6,000 new
22 units within ten months -- almost two months have
23 already gone by -- and another 800 units after, within
24 18 months. This only pertains if they're within
25 500 feet of freeway. We're hoping for an omnibus, and

1 eventually Judge Birotte is prepared, once again,
2 attempting it. So this agreement is a -- is a beginning
3 point. It's really on health and safety standards,
4 et cetera. There's a lot of controversy on that. I
5 understand that.

6 Are you prepared to go forward with this?

7 MR. CEDILLO: Absolutely.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. You and I -- I want to
9 divulge this to the audience -- have had more
10 conversations at 10:00 o'clock at night than I can
11 imagine. I want to thank you. I'm always open.

12 If you could show a couple pictures of the
13 councilman when he was much younger. That's the first
14 shelter. There you are. It's astounding that you were
15 able to reduce the streets 3.8 percent, and I got the
16 document, which I'm not going to cause embarrassment,
17 but I really want the department heads to see the
18 offered and rejected locations, but this is something
19 I'm going to constantly ask: Can we speed these
20 permits? We can break down this bureaucracy? Because,
21 if you look at the second and third pages, which
22 Councilman Gil Cedillo submitted to me, it's a constant
23 request and then rejection.

24 So where I started originally -- so you will
25 understand this, Department Heads -- but don't

1 fault-find me because I need you desperately -- all of
2 us do -- is this: I was told by Caltrans initially or I
3 was told initially that we had -- I'm sorry. Not
4 Caltrans -- 200 to 250 pieces of Caltrans property. One
5 piece of property, 16th and Maple, no particular
6 significance. The parties didn't really know how it was
7 used.

8 I was also told that, at the time, that
9 property had been in negotiation for six months with the
10 State of California, and that this was a negotiation
11 with pallet shelters to go underneath the freeway. I
12 think in good faith the parties agreed to this,
13 including the advocates in this matter -- or the
14 intervenors. I'm sorry.

15 At 4:00 o'clock, I shot an e-mail twice to
16 Brooke Weitzman to call me and said, "This is falling
17 apart." No fault-finding, but from that headline of
18 250 pieces of property, we went to 19, and I think last
19 week we were at three. So you can understand the little
20 concern on my part of what I'm dealing with and that
21 each piece of property that's pursued has a new problem
22 to it. So I'm asking you later on, with the Special
23 Master and Judge Birotte, to get together with us in the
24 back room, and I'm going to humbly ask what can be done,
25 if possible, along with the City Attorney to join us to

1 break down these barriers that's taking so long for this
2 process.

3 I'm going to show you some pictures in a while
4 to ingrain in all of us in the tragedy on the streets,
5 but with your permission, Gil, I'll probably be calling
6 you this weekend if that's okay.

7 MR. CEDILLO: Sure.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Everybody's talked about race
9 disparity. When we talk about race, that's an
10 uncomfortable situation under any discussion. I'm going
11 to humbly ask -- and these figures have been under our
12 nose for years, this statistics gathering -- how we got
13 to this point of disparity. In other words, what woke
14 us up in the last couple months that makes all of us
15 feel uncomfortable of the rate of 70 percent of our
16 black population being homeless on Skid Row and 30 to 40
17 percent, depending upon which figures I'm dealing with,
18 that are of black population, which is four times the
19 amount. By the way, the Hispanic population, if you
20 don't know it, has the most in terms of numbers for
21 their homeless. Don't forget that. And all of a sudden
22 with all of these figures from all of these years, all
23 of us are saying, "Let's do something about it." I ask
24 that question for you to answer and make certain that we
25 do something about it.

1 So, Gil, I'm particularly interested in your
2 district amongst others, and I'd like to see that the
3 efforts we're making can somehow start homelessness
4 downward and getting rid of this.

5 Okay. Now I'd like to get to Curren, but I
6 can't thank you enough.

7 MR. CEDILLO: Yes. Let me finish with my
8 request because you articulate the frustration that I
9 have.

10 We've offered eleven sites that we believe are
11 ready to go and only one was approved, and we have, as I
12 said, a record of success. Let me give you those three
13 sites because each site has a willing owner.

14 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, if I had an Elmo -- and I
15 don't want to embarrass anybody -- but these are the
16 cites, and we don't have an Elmo. So why don't you go
17 through them quickly.

18 MR. CEDILLO: We offered eleven sites; one has
19 been approved. So I'm asking you, as the judge here, to
20 take jurisdiction to direct us. We have a site at 3rd
21 and Alvarado, 318 South Alvarado, former medical
22 building, just needs tenant improvements, access, and we
23 can transform that. It's next to St. Vincent's. So
24 they have the capacity. We have a service provider 200
25 feet away, and then -- so we have an experienced service

1 provider that we work with; it's not far from Casa Azul.
2 We have a group that wants to work with us. They're
3 anxious to do this. We can do this now, as the Mayor
4 said, not rhetoric results. As we say, real solutions
5 to real problems now.

6 We have a turnkey. We have Project Roomkey
7 down the street. Again, across the street from Good
8 Samaritan Hospital. This man has transformed this old
9 hotel into this incredible place, but COVID has changed
10 our world.

11 And so rather than it being a cool, hip place
12 like the NoMad downtown or the NoMad in New York, it's
13 going to be a place to put homeless people in it and
14 provide services there, 294 beds, 30 beds up the
15 street -- 294 beds across the street from Good Samaritan
16 Hospital. There's a museum used as Roomkey operation
17 right now. So it's good to go. We can transfer it into
18 Roomkey.

19 We have another site down the street, more
20 towards the north side, near North Main Street. That
21 can do 70 beds, and we can create that. So we have the
22 capacity to do that if you give us the green light, and
23 I'm talking now. I'm not talking 18 months. I'm not
24 talking 180 days. I'm talking now because we can rally
25 our sources. That community is very aware of what

1 challenges confront us, and we need to act. We can
2 mobilize organized labor. We can get volunteers for the
3 carpentry. We can bring the various providers. We have
4 experienced providers right here.

5 JUDGE CARTER: Volunteers of America and a lot
6 of good folks. I love those folks.

7 MR. CECILLO: Judge Carter, I thank you for
8 your leadership on this, your time. You came on a
9 Sunday afternoon and called me to go down the street and
10 demonstrate, and you were willing to roll your sleeves
11 up and to get right into it, and that's the type of
12 leadership that's needed. We all should emulate that.
13 I look forward to your direction. We have laid out our
14 case, and I look forward for your review and
15 consideration, and I thank you for all that you do.

16 JUDGE CARTER: I'm also looking forward to
17 working with you. If it doesn't work now, it's never
18 going to work.

19 MR. CEDILLO: That's right, sir.

20 JUDGE CARTER: It's right now.

21 MR. CEDILLO: Thank you, everybody, so much.

22 JUDGE CARTER: I want to thank you for your
23 patience. I want to thank Curren and your staff.

24 As you begin, for just a moment, could I just
25 show your district?

1 Armando, if you would be so kind.

2 I just want to start -- because I know there's
3 a lot of controversy about overpasses and underpasses.
4 I want to take that on directly for a moment because the
5 input that I'm getting that I just alluded to about the
6 Caltrans property is either just as misleading as what
7 I'm about to show you, and it's about the ones who are
8 giving this input and is not out in the field and is not
9 looking at these locations. End of discussion.

10 And I want to thank you, Councilman, and your
11 whole staff, and I haven't lived in your district yet,
12 but I'm almost a citizen.

13 Okay. This is 482. That's people who are
14 within 500 feet of a freeway. Now, a person living
15 above the overpass is subject to the same elements, rain
16 or sun, as a person living under it, but there's a
17 concern about the people living in the underpass, and I
18 understand that. The Court's not insensitive to that.
19 But most of these people, most of these homeless, are
20 living right along the freeway, and if you don't know
21 that, then you haven't been out there.

22 So I'm going to show you some photos, and I'm
23 going to have you call me on it.

24 Okay. Is that the freeway?

25 MR. PRICE: Yes.

1 JUDGE CARTER: Do you remember?

2 MR. PRICE: Yes.

3 JUDGE CARTER: That's an underpass. I counted
4 roughly -- and I might have missed a couple -- about 35,
5 maybe 40 people living under underpasses, around 482.
6 Let me repeat that. I could be off by 10. I could be
7 off by 10. Where these folks are is alongside the
8 freeway and along the embankments, on the egress and
9 access routes.

10 Next one. Now, these are within three blocks.
11 We're just going to drive along the freeway -- and, by
12 the way, if you have a chance, just stop because we're
13 not only dealing with the homeless, we're dealing with
14 citizens who live right across the street from the
15 homeless. So the homeless are part of our population,
16 but there's a whole citizenry out there looking at all
17 this.

18 Next one. Next one. This is the underpass.
19 There are people and probably children there. I agree.
20 But what I'm curious about is the lower numbers that
21 we're dealing with. If I'm right about 30 to 40, we've
22 been frozen in inertia because there are 440 people out
23 there. That's just driving along the freeway.

24 Here's another block.

25 Next one. Next one. Next one. Next one.

1 Next one. These are kids crossing. And if you don't
2 believe me, I'm going to invite you to challenge me on
3 what you've just seen so you know I'm not cherry-picking
4 and at 5:00 o'clock tonight, if you want to take a drive
5 with me and cruise down that district.

6 Councilman, I'm going to turn it back to you.
7 Thank you. You've been a guiding light, and you
8 introduced me to your community. Thank you.

9 MR. PRICE: Well, Judge, thank you. You've
10 been the guiding light. I mean, we appreciate your
11 commitment to our community -- and Judge Birotte -- you
12 know, and your willingness -- your willingness to
13 consider a district-by-district approach. In other
14 words, really battling down, seeing what's needed on the
15 ground with that level of sensitivity that you've opened
16 up and expressed.

17 I want to associate myself completely with the
18 comments made by the Mayor and our Council President
19 underscoring the -- the obstacles but opportunities
20 that -- that exists, and so I share -- it's a pleasure
21 to my experiences and that of my colleagues as we move
22 forward.

23 As you know, District 9 has one of the highest
24 concentrations of people who experience homelessness and
25 not just by freeways. Certainly, it's there as well.

1 In addition, after meeting my constituents, they look
2 like me, and so I have a strong desire to do more and to
3 do better regarding this portion of our population.

4 We estimate that 482 people live within 500
5 feet of the 110 Freeway, which runs -- we talked
6 about an area between Olympic Boulevard and Manchester
7 Boulevard, and I share your -- your concern about their
8 vulnerability as we move forward. And so while we --
9 you know, we're not quite sure about that number. It
10 could be more, and we certainly are planning well beyond
11 that as we attempt to create the solution built on a mix
12 of temporary shelters, public-support housing, safe
13 parking, and others.

14 Let me share with you, Judge, some things we're
15 doing. A couple weeks ago, I met with a pallet shelter
16 company I think you're familiar with, and we did a tour
17 of my district. And one of the sites we found was a
18 Caltrans site between -- off near Slauson and Hollywood.
19 It's a parking lot. We're really excited about that.
20 We estimate between 30 and 60 pallets to be placed there
21 and particularly more if the Fire Marshal would work
22 with us on space requirements -- our Fire Marshal. This
23 was ten feet apart. In other districts, these pallets
24 have been set up five to six feet apart.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Can I stop you for just a

1 moment?

2 MR. PRICE: Yes.

3 JUDGE CARTER: The Fire Marshal -- one of the
4 things we were going to ask you -- and you're the
5 boss -- and that is: There's a six-foot requirement in
6 Los Angeles and six-foot requirement according to Rusty
7 Bailey in Riverside. We just need to know what those
8 parameters are so we all can work on spacing. We don't
9 know if there's a reason for uniform control on spacing.
10 So we'd like to have a quiet limitation session
11 afterwards.

12 MR. PRICE: Absolutely. It's a great location.
13 These plans were given to Caltrans. We're waiting for
14 the Federal Highway Administration to sign off.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Hold on. Where's Caltrans?

16 Hello, Caltrans. Well, then we'll put it on
17 the record you're hiding because I'd like an explanation
18 how we went from 250 pieces of property down to 19 down
19 to 3. There is no good explanation. I'll put that on
20 the record.

21 Please continue, Councilman.

22 MR. PRICE: We believe, Your Honor, once we get
23 the sign-offs that -- that the site will be ready in 60
24 to 90 days; and, again, it's paid already. There's
25 electricity there already. All the modifications to the

1 property and to the land presents an opportunity forward
2 with the bureaucratic holdup.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Counsel, do we have this to be
4 able to put it up on the -- on the ELMO?

5 MR. PRICE: We can work on that, and that's the
6 next project, Your Honor. That's on 68th and Avalon by
7 converting an existing warehouse. On Monday, I met with
8 Volunteers of America, who are apparently doing a
9 160-bed facility on 68th and Avalon by converting an
10 existing warehouse. They've met with the property owner
11 who's also offered to lease remaining warehouse space to
12 create a 100,000-square-foot campus for homeless
13 services. We'll be able to add another 200 beds as well
14 as 60 safe parking spaces to the site.

15 We're excited because St. John's is building
16 out a health clinic on the site already. There will
17 also be a navigation center, water facilities, storage
18 facilities, and because construction is already on its
19 way, there's one section we can really economize or
20 maximize the efforts to build out the remaining section,
21 and that can be done within six months.

22 The first phase, 160 beds, is set to open next
23 month, but BOA is still waiting for the sign-off by
24 Building and Safety, and the sidewalk needs to be
25 repaired in front of the facility and, of course there's

1 an encampment on that sidewalk. Privately held up,
2 Building & Safety said we could repair the sidewalk.
3 There's an encampment on that sidewalk that prevents
4 that to occur. So we need some help.

5 We've got another site on 46th and Figueroa;
6 and, again, this is converting an existing building into
7 15 units to house families, a project developed into a
8 service provider. The building should have opened a
9 month ago, but Building and Safety has yet to sign off
10 because they were not satisfied with the staircase on
11 the site. Now it's estimated the date opening is
12 scheduled to be October, a three-month delay moving
13 forward on that.

14 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

15 MR. PRICE: Further down on Broadway, on 52 and
16 Figueroa -- I'm sorry -- 52nd and Figueroa, we're going
17 to be utilizing two city-owned parcels. We have an
18 agreement with the model developer to build 160 units
19 of permanent supportive housing on these sites, and we
20 estimate completion by April of next year.

21 We already have two safe parking sites in our
22 district. They've been successful, and we're planning
23 on adding two more, one back at my district office that
24 will accommodate about 17 vehicles, another one at the
25 city-owned lot at the convention center that will

1 accommodate 30 vehicles. So we're excited about that
2 being operational within the next -- within the next two
3 months.

4 So, again, Judge, to report, these projects,
5 the ones just described, will create 600 beds, which far
6 exceeds our 482 number; but, again, we need some help
7 from the City to make sure that these sites can be
8 processed in an expeditious manner.

9 In addition, Your Honor, to these units, we
10 have another 224 units of permanent supportive housing
11 in the pipeline. As you know, a developer has offered
12 to build out these sites, and there's four of these
13 properties. These could be up and running in six
14 months; but, again, we need some City Department
15 cooperation.

16 There's another site being held by DWP, and
17 another site held by Building and Safety; but then,
18 again, we just think that these projects need priority.
19 They can't go back and give them the line, "Wait until
20 they come up." I think down the line, we need to
21 prioritize and expedite it if we are really serious
22 about trying to make a difference, especially if we have
23 private-sector developers who are willing to put their
24 money up and to -- to cooperate in a way that helps
25 facilitate the availability of beds, temporary or

1 permanent.

2 Based on our meeting this week with HOPICS,
3 we're excited that they have agreed to house another 90
4 individuals by October 31st. They've identified
5 homeless encampments on Hope and Exposition at Grand and
6 Flower between 50th and 60th and on Broadway Place; but,
7 again, I just want to make sure that we have full
8 support of the City.

9 JUDGE CARTER: And could I just interrupt you
10 and pay special tribute to Veronica with HOPICS working
11 with you? I saw this e-mail from her to me last night
12 about 10:00 o'clock, and she had pledged, by October
13 31st, 90 people currently living near the freeway. So I
14 want to thank you for your introduction.

15 MR. PRICE: Well, you know, HOPICS has been
16 superior in offering their services citywide, and so we
17 rely on them whenever we can for providing services and
18 technical assistance.

19 JUDGE CARTER: Now, let me give you a surprise
20 right here. Volunteers of America can put out three
21 teams. St. Joseph's can put out another team, in two or
22 three weeks' notice, for our severe mental health.

23 I think John is out there.

24 John, how many teams can you put out there? If
25 we go district by district, how could you help us at

1 all?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

3 JUDGE CARTER: 5,000 teams? I'm just kidding
4 you, but you can put out teams also.

5 We need to have the resources because the City
6 is too big to do this alone.

7 MR. PRICE: Right.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Do you want this done?

9 MR. PRICE: Well, again, we appreciate these
10 organizations, big or small. They're the ones who are
11 doing the outreach and establishing relationships, who
12 understand the various areas. So we think it's
13 important that we expand and we work closely with our --
14 our community-based organizations that provide services.
15 They are valuable and necessary because the City cannot
16 just do it alone.

17 JUDGE CARTER: So we need to get our department
18 heads together, good folks trying to knock down some of
19 these barriers.

20 MR. PRICE: Yes.

21 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. And, number two, we need
22 to implement as quickly as possible.

23 Specifically, do you want this done?

24 MR. PRICE: Yes.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. How quick?

1 MR. PRICE: Sooner than later, in the next 60
2 days, or we can come on-line in 90 days if we just
3 happen to have the bureaucratic approvals necessary,
4 some with the City, some with the State, and some with
5 the Feds.

6 JUDGE CARTER: I'll stand right beside you on
7 this out in the district. Okay?

8 MR. PRICE: Okay. Again, outreach is an
9 important point. We talked about the importance of our
10 community-based organizations -- HOPICS, Volunteers of
11 America, United Way, and others who are on the ground,
12 but we think that the Encampment to Home model that was
13 piloted in my area is the -- is the kind of programs we
14 need to remove these encampments from the freeway. We
15 can't just take one person at a time. We have to take a
16 group.

17 JUDGE CARTER: Let's try to do that. Let's try
18 to take a community into a community, okay, so folks
19 know each other. One by one, it's almost inhumane. I
20 think the folks, in my experience, live in 14
21 encampments -- now maybe 12, someplace in there -- but
22 most of these folks are cooperating.

23 MR. PRICE: We think the pilot programs with
24 LAHSA, United Way on the encampments can be expanded,
25 and this is the right time to do it.

1 Finally, Your Honor, if I may, enforcement.
2 You have our commitment to build these beds. It's the
3 right thing to do. Temporary beds and more permanent
4 beds are just the right thing to do to get folks off the
5 street, but we also want to enforce clean streets,
6 having streets cleared of debris of -- of bulky items,
7 of waste. And so we've got to find a way to make sure
8 that, once we provide this housing, we have resources as
9 we promised to do and have an obligation to do.

10 And so, you know, I hear from constituents
11 every day that they are tired of the situation they're
12 in, tired of homelessness, tired of the -- the -- the
13 debris and filth that occurs on our streets. They're
14 tired, Your Honor, and, quite frankly, so am I. This is
15 no way to live, no way to govern, and we have to do this
16 right, not just for the homeless citizens but for those
17 who have a home and who are here or impacted by this.

18 So, again, we hope that these projects can get
19 the priority they deserve for all parts of the city
20 family as we move forward. We appreciate your
21 commitment and your assistance in helping us do so; and,
22 again, we stand ready and willing to collaborate with
23 you and our colleagues to make some progress, some real
24 progress in our city.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Councilman, thank you very much,

1 and I'll be on the phone with you and vice versa and in
2 your district fairly quickly. Okay? Much appreciated.

3 Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, what a pleasure
4 to see you again. Thank you for being here.

5 And, Curren, thank you for being here.

6 Good morning.

7 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. Good to see
8 everyone. I missed everybody.

9 Oh, Mary, you and I are both color-coordinated.

10 So good morning, Judge.

11 It's really good to see you, Michelle.

12 So just in terms of a quick overview, I guess
13 we're just providing you with --

14 JUDGE CARTER: Especially, Paxton and Bradley.
15 You were kind enough to take me there. I saw that. And
16 let me just start by saying I'm extraordinarily pleased
17 with your efforts. You're the controlling entity.
18 You're the legislative and executive branch. I'm just a
19 judge, but one of the things you were able to do is
20 clear out an underpass and showed your frustration along
21 the way.

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Correct.

23 JUDGE CARTER: Now, this isn't a beat-em-up
24 day. It will be a good day by the time we're done.
25 We're going to hopefully work together with this, but it

1 took too long. You had to deal with Caltrans, which I
2 would say was a nightmare for you.

3 Is Caltrans here yet?

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Caltrans.

5 JUDGE CARTER: Caltrans. I'll just keep
6 calling the name until they get here.

7 And I'm particularly interested in how you kept
8 at it because I think all of us and the advocates are
9 worried about what happens next because -- how did you
10 do this?

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: So thank you. Well, I want to
12 kind of give you an overview of what our homeless
13 population, our unsheltered population looks like and
14 then focus on the efforts around Paxton and Bradley.

15 Currently, in my district, we have 677 based on
16 the 2019 numbers. We have 677 unsheltered homeless
17 residents in the 7th District, 134 residents that are
18 under the -- living under the freeway overpasses and
19 that includes the 67 that were previously associated
20 with the passing of Rapid Re-housing. So Paxton and
21 Bradley required upwards of more than a year's worth of
22 outreach efforts, consistent outreach efforts --
23 cleaning and close coordination with both LAHSA and
24 our SPA lead, which is LA County Housing. It takes a
25 ridiculous amount of time with respect to the back and

1 forth that we had endured with determining whether or
2 not we actually had any right to do the clearance
3 related to Paxton and Bradley because of Caltrans. That
4 in itself took, I want to say, about nine months to get
5 that final determination from Caltrans, that we have the
6 authority to continue with the clean-ups and maintaining
7 that area.

8 As a result of --

9 JUDGE CARTER: Could you hold on for a moment.

10 I don't know what resources we have, but the
11 Court has been inviting people. If somebody has the
12 ability to tell Caltrans or call the person I invited, I
13 would really appreciate that, and I'll just sit here and
14 wait for them. This isn't a day to hide, and I'll
15 repeat that.

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I think what we have now,
17 as an example, is the work that we conducted for Paxton
18 and Bradley is the authority to assure that we can
19 maintain that right of way.

20 JUDGE CARTER: As a city attorney, I'm
21 particularly interested in working with you. I think
22 you've got the ability and the wisdom to cut through
23 that with Caltrans, et cetera. And so I'm going to
24 humbly come by again and visit you on this issue, and
25 I'll make that at your convenience, not mine, but I want

1 to keep hearing that it's through good faith; and, as a
2 city attorney, I think you're unique in that position.

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: And so, with respect to that
4 and those efforts, again, while we are maintaining and
5 doing the work that, otherwise, would have been the
6 responsibility of Caltrans -- and this is another
7 example of what the City has taken on: The
8 responsibility and the final obligations of helping to
9 maintain and sustain these areas.

10 As a result of the extensive outreach that was
11 conducted at Paxton and Bradley and the immediate
12 availability of units associated with COVID-19 and
13 Project Roomkey, many of the residents in that
14 encampment were eligible, because of their age and/or
15 their health, for Project Roomkey. And so we did a one
16 week -- after more than a year's worth of outreach, we
17 had a one-week coordinated both cleanup effort and
18 relocation, also, the -- the collection of the personal
19 belongings and the storage of those items with the
20 Bureau of Sanitation. The tonnage that was involved --
21 I mean, I don't have to tell you what we -- what we
22 discovered there, and this is after a sustained amount
23 of cleanup efforts that we engaged in that area.

24 After the cleanup -- at the conclusion of the
25 cleanup, Paxton and Bradley was fenced off. It was --

1 the fencing was compromised a day later because of
2 individuals that were still trying to diverge and access
3 the freeway areas. And as I had shared with you, we had
4 discovered a drug run that was running from the Paxton
5 and Bradley location to San Fernando Road. And so, as a
6 result of it, again, reaching out with both Metrolink
7 and Caltrans, it was just a really comprehensive effort.

8 Once we actually secured the fencing, we were
9 concerned about the re-population of the area and, as a
10 result, had river rock stored behind the -- the fenced
11 area so that we could secure that location, and it's for
12 several reasons. Number one, it took a great deal of
13 work and effort to clean those encampment areas, but the
14 community deserves it. It's adjacent, as you saw, to
15 very highly populated residential and commercial areas.
16 Many of these residents, as a result of living in their
17 residences that abut the industrial areas, have become
18 the bearer of the biggest burden when it comes to the
19 regulations that allow some of this activity to -- to be
20 contained in these areas, and that's something -- I know
21 Ms. Martinez and I have given the makeup of our
22 districts -- particularly difficult.

23 But with respect to how we go forward, if we
24 take our 134, by the housing that we've completed with
25 Paxton and Bradley -- and I also want to say, again, our

1 continued work with placing these individuals in
2 permanent supportive housing is still also ongoing. Of
3 the 67, nearly a dozen have already been established
4 into permanent supportive or re-connected with family.

5 We currently have a pipeline among the two -- I
6 inherited a district that had two city-owned parcels
7 remaining. Those two city-owned parcels are currently
8 under construction for permanent supportive housing, one
9 in Lakeview Terrace at the Summit View site, which will
10 house -- which provides 45 units for veterans, and then
11 another location that we have currently in Sylmar.

12 We just opened, about two weeks ago, an interim
13 Bridge Housing for women. As a result of COVID-19, the
14 85 beds will only allow for 57 to be utilized to comply
15 with COVID-19 regulations, but we have currently
16 prepared to house 57 individuals, 57 women that are from
17 the immediate area and associated with that.

18 We have our Rapid Re-housing and our
19 shared-housing models, which collective will be the also
20 200 additional units. So I'm very confident about the
21 level of progress that we're making in this area to be
22 able to take care of the needs for the population, those
23 134 that were particularly under encampments within and
24 around the freeways.

25 That said, we recognize that we're keeping the

1 flexibility in continuing to secure the locations of the
2 facilities that extend beyond that to address the
3 remaining unsheltered population in my district.

4 JUDGE CARTER: Will the -- well, I can't see
5 that. Will the Rapid Re-housing opening by January 1st,
6 2021 --

7 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Uh-huh.

8 JUDGE CARTER: -- accommodate this initial
9 primarily 134?

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Well, the 134 is the number
11 before Paxton and Bradley. So we're basically cutting
12 that almost in half.

13 JUDGE CARTER: Bringing it down.

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Right.

15 JUDGE CARTER: I personally don't care -- of
16 this long-term supportive housing of \$4- or \$500,000, I
17 personally don't care if it's pallet shelters, and I'll
18 explain why on that, but I personally care if it's
19 government encampments. Okay?

20 Here's what I'm deeply concerned about: I
21 think, because of the ability of the City -- as a
22 compliment to the City -- to try to get this COVID with
23 the homeless under some kind of control, that they be --
24 will be criticized for what we have, but maybe the
25 goodness of this will avoid a catastrophe. I don't know

1 yet.

2 What I'm worried about is, historically, I've
3 asked about the 2,019 deaths among the homeless. Is
4 there somebody that could --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 2,019 deaths in L.A.
6 County, approximately a thousand.

7 JUDGE CARTER: About a thousand. I'm going to
8 make that a rough guesstimate. My guess is that's gone
9 up from probably 2018 and 2017, which is pretty
10 significant.

11 What I'm worried about is -- I personally
12 believe that I can absolutely be wrong -- we're losing
13 more people because of pneumonia and secondary health
14 causes that we've grown so callous to that we've just
15 absorbed a thousand people a year.

16 And I'm going to show you some pictures that
17 are just pathetic just to remind us that they're human
18 beings and not numbers.

19 And when I gave up this power, in terms of this
20 agreement between the City and the County, I gave up the
21 Preliminary Injunction to work together, not to come in
22 and find fault necessarily. I really wanted to make
23 that attempt. I then gave up ten months -- and I'm not
24 certain till this day if I was right on because I'm
25 really worried about November when this death toll takes

1 off again on secondary causes, and I guarantee you it's
2 from pneumonia and secondary conditions and ailments and
3 asthma living on the street, going into the hospital, by
4 the way, getting treated, and getting dumped right on
5 the street because we just lost -- is Pastor Don here?
6 Pastor Don just lost -- 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon
7 picked up, into the hospital, dead or dumped back on the
8 street at 9:00 o'clock. Now, that is a story that just
9 goes on and on.

10 So one of my colleagues calls it "poverty
11 pimping," and I'm going to have a lot to say later on
12 about getting right down to what my hospitals are doing
13 and who's making a profit off this. This is going to be
14 a pretty good conversation.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I think it's well
16 warranted. One of my frustrations, in terms of the
17 consistency of the outreach efforts, which I believe are
18 not being tracked effectively in order for us to be
19 assured that it's consistent, in my district, what I'm
20 working on with my staff is to assign the service
21 providers specifically to encampments to hold them
22 accountable because right now we have a situation where
23 there's who's doing the outreach? And that is the
24 problem. I can't -- I can't account for individuals
25 because of HIPAA and all the other restrictions that

1 we're concerned about disclosing information.

2 All I want to show is that you've been to this
3 location that, perhaps, had ten individuals and that, of
4 those ten individuals, at least eight of them are
5 participating in CES because our only way of
6 facilitating these individuals to be placed in the
7 housing and to facilitate that is to get the cooperation
8 to assure the consistent outreach efforts are happening.
9 And because I can't get consistent data from the service
10 providers or LAHSA on that information, it's rough.

11 And that's the lack of accountability and
12 oversight that I think is required right now at what
13 I've been changing in my district specifically because
14 I've been tired of it. I've been asking it from the
15 beginning, three years ago when I first got here, was to
16 get that data because there were -- before the outreach
17 dollars became available through HHH, we -- there were
18 private individual discretionary funds that were
19 allocated to service providers to do that outreach, and
20 yet we couldn't get tangible feedback on what outreach
21 was completed, how many, how many contacts were made,
22 et cetera. So I welcome that conversation because I
23 think it's -- I think it's necessary, and I think
24 there's accountability on all sides to make sure that we
25 can eliminate this problem going forward.

1 And what I also want to say, with respect to
2 what you've raised regarding the -- the cold winter
3 months and the projections of those that will perish as
4 a result, I have the only winter shelter in the entire
5 San Fernando Valley. I accommodate in that location,
6 not just from my immediate territory in my district, but
7 also for the City of Burbank and also from outlying
8 areas. Those numbers of that shelter population, when
9 we do a homeless count, my homeless count is based on
10 having those numbers reported under my council district
11 when they're actually being accommodated from other
12 areas, and those are some of the -- you know, those are
13 some of the reporting conversations we need to have in
14 terms of pegging down more accurately where the
15 population lies, where the services are being provided
16 for those populations so that we can also hold the
17 municipalities within the county accountable to do their
18 part.

19 JUDGE CARTER: I was going to bring this up
20 later, but let's have a conversation just for a moment.
21 I really appreciate your attendance on behalf of the
22 County.

23 I want to tell you a complaint that I would
24 have and I'm hearing consistently, whether true or not
25 on the City's part, and that is the City will say,

1 "Look. We're a large entity, and we're playing by the
2 rules, and we, on the City Level, are consistent in
3 terms of our -- you know, our efforts."

4 But when we listen to the individual council
5 people, they may have a county city right next door that
6 they would consider would be egregious, egregious
7 enforcement, and what that does is that egregious
8 enforcement, like you can't breathe -- and I'm not
9 kidding at all -- these folks camp, and they have to
10 move because they can't exist, and so they're getting
11 shoved over into the city that's playing fairly across
12 the board while some of these smaller cities are getting
13 very difficult.

14 Now, I've heard that from one, two, three,
15 four -- nine to twelve of the council people. So
16 it's -- it's not a well-known. Okay? I'm just saying
17 to the County and the City, get your act together with
18 consistency because it's not fair to the City if we're
19 getting our individual cities, like two stones to the
20 swallows, but you're obeying as a city attorney, and
21 then there are cities over there at the county level.
22 That, somehow, needs to be coordinated.

23 I want to thank you. And by the way, if you
24 get into Project Roomkey, I'm a big fan. That is an
25 exemplary program. I just don't know that they can keep

1 up with the pace that's needed right now. We're going
2 to discuss that later today.

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Well, the goal is to be the
4 first one completed of the 15 districts. So I'm working
5 on getting that done.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you. Pleasure seeing you.

7 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Herb Wesson, who's on Zoom, if
9 you could be so kind. Hi, Herb. Hi, Herb. Good
10 morning. You're on mute. No politician should be on
11 mute.

12 MR. WESSON: Hey. Sorry. I have a dental
13 appointment today. That's why I'm not at City Hall. So
14 when I finished with you, I'm off to see the dentist.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Listen. Whatever you'd
16 like to say, I apologize for not calling you before, but
17 thank your staff again for being so gracious taking me
18 around your district.

19 I've got the stats right here. We're not going
20 to take long today because we're going to have another
21 meeting, but about 77 within 500 feet of the freeway.
22 This is not an omnibus agreement. You've got 1,084
23 homeless folks out in your district. But right now,
24 it's just a preliminary settlement. It's a step
25 forward, 77 people, and you've got Rapid Re-housing and

1 safe parking. So, please, let me turn this over to you.

2 Oh, by the way, Armando -- never mind.

3 MR. WESSON: Well, you know, Judge, we want to
4 be as cooperative as we can. Things are going along. I
5 know at one point there was property that would have
6 worked perfectly except for it had those high tension
7 wires above it, but we -- we now have come to the
8 conclusion that we can use some of that area as storage
9 to store some facilities, and I'm excited about the
10 opportunity to do that.

11 Our office is working with the -- the CLA's
12 office or the CAO's office within the City looking at
13 the possibility of acquiring one of the local motels or
14 hotels in the district that could give us about 70 beds,
15 you know. So we're doing everything that we can to move
16 forward and so that's, in a nutshell, where we are
17 today.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Herb, before you go -- I'm
19 sorry. Councilman, I've known you so well now as Herb
20 -- I'm desperately concerned. I'm frantic. I'm
21 panicked about the death rate that we've so callously
22 accepted amongst our homeless population that becomes
23 numbers. You know, we lost a thousand, and then we pass
24 it on as the next conversation. And I'm really
25 convinced that, because of that -- and the Federal Court

1 is responsible for this. I'm going to bear my share of
2 complicity in this just in waking up. We're all in this
3 together.

4 MR. WESSON: Yes.

5 JUDGE CARTER: What could we do? Because
6 Judge Birotte is working on an omnibus agreement with
7 the City. We don't know whether it's going to be
8 successful for the County, the advocates, et cetera.
9 But, certainly, with these 77 people out in your
10 district near the freeways, alongside of overpasses and
11 underpasses, is recuperative care primarily something
12 you're looking at out there to get these folks into
13 shelters?

14 MR. WESSON: I think we're looking at all of
15 that, Judge. So we're -- we're open, and we're -- you
16 know, wherever there's an opportunity for us to try to
17 reduce and remedy this situation, we are open to that.
18 Definitely, there's a need for recuperative care as
19 well, but I'm about as flexible as any other member on
20 the council. I'm committed. I take the death rate
21 seriously. And, you know, I -- whenever -- so I'm going
22 to be one of the easy Council Members to work with.
23 That's my -- my goal. You know, this is personal with
24 me
25 and --

1 JUDGE CARTER: Because you're so difficult
2 right, Herb? I'm just kidding. Okay. I know you are.
3 So let me ask this -- I'll stand right beside you on
4 this. I'm concerned about the weather. The agreement's
5 for ten months. I'll repeat it to you. I'm concerned
6 about pneumonia.

7 MR. WESSON: Yes.

8 JUDGE CARTER: I think the City's done as good
9 a job as they can under the circumstances. I think
10 we'll always be criticized about the pandemic rate. I
11 think the tragedy in all of this, we hope to avoid.
12 Hopefully, the death rate is relatively low amongst the
13 homeless population. So I mean that's true to the City
14 as well. I don't know where it goes from here.

15 You've got Venice and the I-10 Freeway, you've
16 got Washington and the I-10 Freeway, you've got Western
17 and the I-10 Freeway, a little bit of Koreatown, and
18 Leimert Park, I was going to show on some photos.

19 MR. WESSON: You see the Western portion of the
20 district?

21 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah.

22 MR. WESSON: That's where we have the -- the
23 power lines, where we could look at placing some of that
24 storage items, which I think -- I would think that that
25 would be helpful. That's one of the things that we know

1 we have to put in place.

2 And what I don't want to do is not take
3 advantage of this open space, and I think that we can
4 structure it in a way where we could have storage of
5 some significance that would not make the community grow
6 crazy. It's just a matter of figuring out where we can
7 come up with some of these pallet homes or pallet
8 shelters, and we're working, you know, as hard as we can
9 to try to figure that out. It's just in that Western
10 portion is where we have just a -- a whole lot of area,
11 but a whole lot of that DWP tension wires.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. We're going to talk to
13 the heads of the departments today and see, you know,
14 what their suggestions are in terms of speeding up this
15 process if possible.

16 MR. WESSON: Yeah. And, you know, the Mayor's
17 office has been real flexible with us, you know,
18 listening to our recommendations and suggestions. So I
19 would be optimistic that they would be willing to work
20 with us to creatively try to solve this situation. But
21 if we -- if we add any kind of legal flexibility related
22 to this high-tension areas, we could do more because we
23 do have space that are just right in -- in those areas
24 that, I guess, have health concerns themselves.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. If you're ready to go,

1 we're ready to go. I'm going to ask each councilperson
2 if they're ready to implement this, and if you are, then
3 let's get going. If not, then I can move on to a
4 different district and pay more attention to that, Herb.

5 MR. WESSON: I'm a team player, Judge.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Well, thanks a lot. Nice
7 visiting with you.

8 MR. WESSON: Okay. Always good. Thank you.

9 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you.

10 Marqueece Harris-Dawson? Oh, he's on Zoom.
11 Marqueece, where are you? I have a bunch of photos to
12 show.

13 Marqueece? Marqueece?

14 MR. HARRIS-DAWSON: Hello.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Hello. I have a bunch of photos
16 of your district. Okay? But I can't show them because
17 you're on Zoom, so I'll show them later on. Let me just
18 turn this over to you for a moment. We've got a lot of
19 folks still to talk, and I've got a few minutes.

20 You've got District 8, 84 people within 500
21 feet of the freeway. One of the camps you and I visited
22 was, once again, right alongside that freeway where we
23 visited all the ladies out there; remember?

24 MR. HARRIS-DAWSON: Yes, yes.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Your thoughts. Yeah, your

1 thoughts. You've got shared housing, interim housing.

2 MR. HARRIS-DAWSON: We've got a lot of
3 categories of housing. We've got about 84 people we
4 counted near freeways. Today, we've got about 50 -- a
5 little over 50 empty beds that we know about. There may
6 be more that we can find out about as each day goes on,
7 including 20 Bridge Home shelters. But you and I
8 visited one of the encampments there at the 105 Freeway
9 and for miles saw that, you know, it was place where
10 there were infants and really people of all ages.

11 JUDGE CARTER: I'm going to show that in a few
12 moments after we get off the Zoom so the folks see, once
13 again, what we're dealing with alongside the freeway out
14 there.

15 Marqueece, are you ready to move on and try to
16 do something about these 84 people? Because I can pass
17 and move on to a different district. You know, this all
18 can't be done at one time.

19 MR. HARRIS-DAWSON: Yeah. I mean, we're
20 prepared to move on. Like I said, we have 50 beds that
21 we know about. If we've got the authority and tools
22 that we need to remove people, I think we can do that
23 and do it in relatively short order.

24 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. I'll get back to you in
25 the future, and I humbly thank you.

1 MR. HARRIS-DAWSON: Thank you.

2 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Mike Bonin. If Mike's
3 here.

4 Councilman Bonin? Okay. He's on his way down.

5 Well, Marqueece, I'm going to cut you off
6 because I want to show some pictures of your district
7 while Mike comes down. Okay? I want to show the
8 folks -- I don't think half the people -- I don't think
9 they've been out there.

10 MR. HARRIS-DAWSON: Yeah, I don't think they've
11 been out there.

12 JUDGE CARTER: I've been out there.

13 MR. HARRIS-DAWSON: Okay.

14 JUDGE CARTER: Put up Councilman Harris-Dawson
15 for a moment.

16 And if it cuts out, Marqueece, my apologies.

17 Okay. Let's just stop for a moment. This is
18 an encampment right beside the freeway. It's not an
19 overpass or underpass, which is the majority of what
20 we're dealing with. And, again, I just want to put a
21 human face to what we're dealing with out here. This is
22 primarily women.

23 And the next one. Now, stop for a moment.

24 There's the freeway off to the right. There's
25 absolutely no reason why there aren't pallet shelters

1 there or tents or toilets or, for goodness sake, a
2 shower. This is a very vulnerable population, and let
3 me repeat to you now. You may be the experts, but I've
4 been through 14 encampments, and this city has very
5 little experience in terms of clearing encampments. Let
6 me say that right from you beginning. One of them is
7 1,500. Our lowest -- what was it, Brooke? I forget --
8 was about 80 -- about 80 in Stanton, 90, something like
9 that. So that's about our lowest number.

10 So while I'm overwhelmed with your resources
11 and your ability, I'm not overwhelmed with your
12 practical experience, and we're going to talk about
13 getting to all this and being humane and talking to
14 folks because 99 percent of these people can be moved
15 without any problem at all, if it's done correctly, to a
16 better place, hopefully. This is tragic.

17 And what you'll find when you talk to people --
18 and I think now, minimally, 1200, maybe as many as 1500,
19 homeless people, I mean, I've had the privilege to talk
20 to firsthand. It's been my privilege. It's humbled me.
21 The women will tell you, "You know what? I sleep here
22 because I'm surrounded by other women, and the guys are
23 women-friendly, and it's safe for us here, but I won't
24 go down to that encampment down the road because those
25 folks down there, they're going to hurt me. They're

1 going to rape me. And, number two, you know what? I'll
2 go to a better place, Judge, if you guarantee two
3 things. First of all, I'm not going to get dumped out
4 if you take my bicycle and my tent because your office
5 will promise me 30 days of Roomkey or whatever."

6 Mike, come on up for a second.

7 "And, number two, there's a group of us, and we
8 formed a community out here." And I give these people
9 justification, by the way. These people are basically
10 very, very compliant, and that's --

11 Hi, Mike, come on up here.

12 MR. BONIN: Here?

13 JUDGE CARTER: Well, this is Mike Bonin. What
14 a privilege, and you and I are going to have a more
15 extensive conversation than normal.

16 Have you gotten some rooms at the Ritz-Carlton
17 yet, Mike?

18 MR. BONIN: Not yet.

19 JUDGE CARTER: No?

20 MR. BONIN: No eminent domain yet.

21 JUDGE CARTER: No, I'm waiting here because you
22 know the question I'm going to ask eventually because I
23 went over the question with you; right?

24 MR. BONIN: Yeah.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. If you can't get -- by

1 the way, we'll show a couple more pictures.

2 Armando, could you show -- this is your -- next
3 one -- the freeway.

4 MR. BONIN: Yeah.

5 JUDGE CARTER: Do you recognize the district?

6 MR. BONIN: Yeah. I can't tell if that's the
7 city of L.A. side or the Culver City Side.

8 JUDGE CARTER: There you go. Do you recognize
9 it?

10 MR. BONIN: Yeah.

11 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Next one. Recognize
12 that?

13 MR. BONIN: Oh, yes. Yeah.

14 JUDGE CARTER: This is your -- your troublesome
15 spot, and I don't have any jurisdiction over it when I
16 wrote this health and safety agreement.

17 MR. BONIN: One of many, many troublesome
18 spots, yeah.

19 JUDGE CARTER: And I'm told, because of the
20 health and safety agreement, there's no jurisdiction.

21 MR. BONIN: Sure.

22 JUDGE CARTER: I'm going to start with a really
23 simple, tough question for you, which I hope you're
24 prepared to think about because you haven't given me an
25 answer. If you don't get the Ritz-Carlton -- just

1 kidding you, but I'm not -- and you can't have eminent
2 domain and the rains coming, what can we do to make
3 these folks' lives better in your district before we
4 kill them, quite frankly, with the rain and the
5 temperature in November? And I toss that back to you --

6 MR. BONIN: Sure.

7 JUDGE CARTER: -- because I tossed out
8 government camps to you, pallet shelters, for God's
9 sake, anything that keeps life. So I'm going to put out
10 the script. You've been talking about housing for a
11 long time. I'm putting the script on you, like I said.
12 I'm talking about what saves lives and what makes
13 people's lives better, and I'm getting tired of hearing
14 the excuse that it's about \$600,000 a unit.

15 MR. BONIN: I here you.

16 JUDGE CARTER: So your turn.

17 MR. BONIN: Great. So let me start off by
18 saying we don't have the Ritz-Carlton, and we don't have
19 eminent domain, but we do have some stuff in place to
20 get people off the -- the street quickly. But as you
21 know from our previous conversations, I have some
22 personal reservations about the pallet system because it
23 keeps people in the shelter.

24 JUDGE CARTER: By the way, I agree too.

25 MR. BONIN: And I think that there are

1 opportunities to use some other interventions that get
2 people off the street.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Now, stop. Stop. This is going
4 to be the best conversation you and I have had on the
5 record.

6 MR. BONIN: Yeah.

7 JUDGE CARTER: What are those other
8 opportunities, Councilman, now so that I'm not waiting
9 for promises that are not going to be fulfilled.

10 MR. BONIN: Those other opportunities -- and
11 we've worked with LAHSA on some of them -- keeping in
12 mind that my population, freeway population is
13 significantly smaller than others.

14 JUDGE CARTER: And primarily Caucasian, also.

15 MR. BONON: Yeah, like -- like the rest of
16 Los Angeles, and it's sort of more reflective of the --
17 of the population on the west side, yes.

18 JUDGE CARTER: So tell me how we're going to do
19 it and time frame because I don't care if it's 600,000 a
20 unit.

21 MR. BONIN: So we have a population, a freeway
22 population in our district of anywhere between 45 to 60
23 people. It fluctuates. The -- underneath the 405 is
24 partially my district and partially Mr. Koretz's
25 district.

1 JUDGE CARTER: Let's go back to the previous
2 slides and show that underpass. Can you keep going.

3 MR. BONIN: So the south side of this is not
4 the city of Los Angeles. The north side. It's the
5 boundary between me and Mr. Koretz. So Mr. Koretz's
6 side would be partially jointly dividing this population
7 of 50 or about 25 of my 45 or 60 people. So we're
8 looking to use a combination of Rapid Re-housing, master
9 leasing, and shared housing. And we have been talking
10 with LAHSA, and they have agreed because they also had
11 provided pallet shelters to work with me to make this a
12 pilot for using these faster interventions.

13 JUDGE CARTER: So --

14 MR. BONIN: They told me they will --

15 JUDGE CARTER: Slow down. Just help me.

16 Again, I heard you partially worked with LAHSA. What
17 are we going to do?

18 MR. BONIN: So they have agreed to provide me,
19 for our freeway interventions, as many Rapid Re-housing
20 vouchers as we need. They have set those aside.

21 We are also looking to do --

22 JUDGE CARTER: What time frame? How fast?

23 MR. BONON: They have outlined a pilot, and
24 they started going out last week. I don't think based,
25 on their three-to-four-week calendar, it will be

1 September 1, but it should be September. It should be
2 Should be September.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Sure.

4 MR. BONIN: Yes.

5 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Terrific.

6 MR. BONIN: We are -- I am hoping -- if this
7 works, it's a launch pad of doing things such as that of
8 the other encampments in the district, Rose Penmar and
9 others. So we're also trying to master lease units, and
10 we have identified the not-signed contracts yet for 46
11 new beds through master leasing, which is essentially
12 the size of our population. So between Rapid Re-housing
13 and master leasing, we're looking pretty good.

14 We also are looking to do shared housing where
15 people share a home and a bed. There are right now --
16 and I would actually encourage the Court to invite
17 future hearings about the Health and Recovery Exchange,
18 which provides very quick intervention as quick as
19 pallet shelters.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Quicker.

21 MR. BONIN: Yes, because you don't have to
22 construct them.

23 JUDGE CARTER: Great.

24 MR. BONIN: They have available right now 30 to
25 35 vacancies in 50 houses, and they have 6 more homes

1 coming on-line in the next month or two for another 50
2 beds. Now, they do not have, currently, a contract with
3 the City, and one of the reasons, I think, is the City
4 wants flexibility in not having everything go through
5 LAHSA. So we can contract with them for \$2 million. If
6 they can hire the peer navigators, they can -- they say
7 they can house 200 people. That's at a cost of 2,000
8 per person. That doesn't require any utility upfront
9 costs. It's not construction. It's no installation,
10 and they're motto, which is not for everybody but at
11 least for many, is based on sort of the 12-step recovery
12 approach, and so they have peer counselors that come
13 with it. So that -- that 2 million for 200 people would
14 be inclusive of the service.

15 JUDGE CARTER: So we've got a continuum. We're
16 just not warehousing people.

17 MR. BONIN: Yes.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Because this whole idea of
19 pallet sheltering and government camps are strictly
20 temporary and will eventually lead to a better place. I
21 just don't want to wait anymore.

22 MR. BONIN: Well, on the website, it says
23 they're good for five or six months. So these will all
24 be long term, and you also want to know where our
25 hurdles are, and one is we would need to actually move

1 from these deliberations to the Council approving, you
2 know, the 14 plans and funding, and we need 2 million
3 for that.

4 JUDGE CARTER: If you need help, we've got a
5 help. There's some really good folks here today. We've
6 got the fire marshal. We have get planning, public
7 Safety, public works, et cetera, the folks sitting in
8 the back, and that's because of all of you being so
9 gracious for your help in the months to come.

10 What do you need help with?

11 MR. BONIN: So for -- for these interventions,
12 because the units already exist, we don't need to have,
13 you know, DWP or utility installations. I imagine for
14 Project Roomkey or master leasing to come on board, they
15 need a building inspection, but that's about it.

16 JUDGE CARTER: Roomkey, are these rooms
17 available to you in the next month or so? And how do
18 you have authority over other districts who may have a
19 terrific program? Let me keep repeating that, terrific
20 program.

21 I just showed some slides right now that cause
22 me great concern about their ability to meet the
23 volumes.

24 MR. BONIN: Yeah.

25 JUDGE CARTER: So I don't want to detract from

1 people who are making an effort. By the same token,
2 we're still killing people --

3 MR. BONIN: Sure.

4 JUDGE CARTER: -- and I'm a little concerned.

5 MR. BONIN: So I used Project Roomkey
6 incorrectly to describe any sort of hotel. I know
7 there's also Project Housekey. I'm talking about master
8 leasing hotels and motels.

9 I've got a current project --

10 JUDGE CARTER: Just a moment. Do you have
11 priority for these rooms? Because we have about 3900
12 rooms, a little by bit more. There's about 3400,
13 approximately, give or take, people inside. There's a
14 little bit of leeway, but they may be moving out of your
15 district to another district where these rooms are
16 available.

17 Do you have some kind of priority ahead of the
18 other council people?

19 MR. BONIN: Well, to a certain extent, yes.
20 It's not a guarantee for every room, but the way they
21 have been doing Project Roomkey, at least in my
22 district, is they have been drawing from the nearby
23 community.

24 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

25 MR. BONIN: But what I want to do for the 46

1 new beds that we've identified, and we actually have,
2 not before September 1, potential for potentially 500
3 more rooms before the end of the year.

4 JUDGE CARTER: I know the project. You already
5 mentioned it.

6 MR. BONIN: Yeah, that would not require -- we
7 would not want that to be Project Roomkey because that
8 has an acuity eligibility that we don't want the project
9 case done.

10 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. I can't thank you enough.
11 I'm going to frequently call you. I want to represent
12 you. Let me know when you get eminent domain then call
13 me. Let me know when you get the Ritz-Carlton.

14 MR. BONIN: I understand you'll be talking to a
15 number of my colleagues by the end of the day, and if
16 you can line up a bunch of votes for me, I'd be happy to
17 pick up a lot of stuff under eminent domain, but it may
18 be too aggressive.

19 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, if you can do it, great.
20 But in the meantime, you understand my point, and that
21 is, while we're waiting in the pulpit, we've got people
22 lying on the street out there who are dying. I don't
23 know how else to say it, and I'm getting sick and tired
24 of waiting for the \$600,000 per unit, and you and are a
25 champion; right?

1 MR. BONIN: Yeah.

2 JUDGE CARTER: No problem. But I'm not a
3 champion of waiting for \$600,000 a unit while we mess
4 around while people are dying.

5 MR. BONIN: And as part of my desire to do this
6 approach is I don't want to have to wait for utility
7 hookups. If there's a room available tonight, let's
8 move somebody tonight.

9 JUDGE CARTER: You know, I only have
10 jurisdiction over 84 people in a sense, and that's not
11 jurisdiction anymore because I gave that back to the
12 City and the County by agreement. Okay?

13 MR. BONIN: Yes.

14 JUDGE CARTER: So if you fall on your face and
15 you're putting your trust and faith in LAHSA or any
16 other bureaucracy, the City Council and the Board of
17 Supervisors are ultimately responsible that we get into
18 a discussion in about eight months. Okay? I want to
19 avoid that discussion. Fair enough? I think we can do
20 that. And you know what? You're the champion of my
21 voice. I'm begging. I'm humble. I'm more worried
22 about November than anything else because people are
23 dying, and I think we just cast those folks off to the
24 side just like we didn't recognize them for years.
25 There's disparity. We knew it.

1 MR. BONIN: Well, I'm just haunted as you are
2 by the slides here, but I'm also haunted by Rose Pinmar,
3 you know, the people who are outside of the elementary
4 school at Mar Vista and Venice. And, you know, as you
5 know, Judge, the last time you and I met in person in my
6 Westchester office, while I was waiting for you, someone
7 died inside the office.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, I'm sick and tired of it.
9 Yeah, there's no excuse.

10 So here's the bottom line: We can do this
11 humanely. Bottom line. If we need to, we can put
12 together an implementation team, I mean, right here,
13 right on the spot. We can walk through that exercise
14 and have two to three weeks' notice teams, mental health
15 teams try to help the needs of the people out there.
16 I'm open to anything like that that makes it humane.

17 JUDGE CARTER: Well, based on our last
18 conversation, we worked to put together that team, and
19 they actually began doing the outreach and the
20 assessments here over the past few days. And one of the
21 reasons why it's not as easy as saying, "Here's a part
22 number for this resource or this one," is because, until
23 they do the assessments, they don't know whether the
24 housing unit is better or the room.

25 So the assessments are the first step. They

1 have outlined that as a three- or four-step process, and
2 they have actually, as part of their recovery plan, they
3 have created a few different Rapid Re-housing programs
4 as potential pathways. I get it, as well as anybody,
5 that -- that the bureaucracy, whether it's the City or
6 the County or LAHSA -- I don't point my finger at one
7 rather than the other.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Oh, I do if they start telling
9 me they can't walk and chew gum at the same time with
10 \$2 million.

11 MR. BONIN: This is going to make my office,
12 continuing on a daily basis, making sure that these come
13 through and going out with them.

14 JUDGE CARTER: How soon?

15 MR. BONIN: Well, before -- before the end of
16 September. I mean, their -- their plan is -- let me
17 just pull it up here. They started doing assessments
18 this week --

19 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

20 MR. BONIN: -- which is a one- to two-week
21 process, then weeks two to four is when they start
22 determining where folks go, and anywhere from week three
23 to week eight or so is when folks will actually get
24 placed.

25 JUDGE CARTER: I'll go out there with you, and

1 I was out there six out of the seven days with Pastor
2 Don.

3 Where's Pastor Don? Pastor Don, wave your
4 hand.

5 And it was quite an experience. The folks will
6 move. They will eventually be given some sort of a
7 deadline, like something happens on July 15th.

8 MR. BONIN: And what will be interesting here,
9 because it's also jointly responsible with District 5,
10 is, since their approach is more pallet-shelter-based,
11 we'll be able to see -- it's a good opportunity to see
12 what you and I have discussed, not doing it with a
13 single bullet, but having models to choose from. The
14 people here with the CD 5 interventions will have the
15 opportunity of multiple avenues, and we'll see -- we'll
16 be able to see side by side what's faster, what's more
17 palatable, and what's more successful.

18 JUDGE CARTER: I'll share with you the last 48
19 hours. You know, we said July 15th out in Pastor Dan,
20 which was the last one, and the folks won't move
21 initially because they just don't leave. So we'll see.
22 You'll get 5, 10, maybe 15 people, but we've got to get
23 bed housing for them. In fact, oftentimes, we need to
24 drive them over and show them what that housing is going
25 to be or at least give them a picture.

1 Number two, it's got to be guaranteed that
2 they're not just getting run of the place for 30 days.
3 They give up their bicycles. They give up their
4 blankets. They give up their place, and then they get
5 dumped right back out on the street, and we kind of need
6 to give them a uniform of solidarity.

7 I'll tell you what I've heard with a lot of
8 folks out there in the community. One person said, "I
9 won't go. Just give me some kind of guarantee. I'm not
10 going to be toyed with because I gave up my space,"
11 et cetera. And if you can move communities at the same
12 time, that's great.

13 MR. BONIN: Because you've got to be able to
14 give people a place to go when they say yes.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, I'll stand right beside
16 you on that, and I'll take the hit. How's that?

17 MR. BONIN: I look forward to it. That's
18 great.

19 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Mikey, thanks a lot, and
20 I'll call you soon.

21 MR. BONIN: Thank you, Judge.

22 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Councilman Joe Buscaino
23 of District 15.

24 MR. BUSCAINO: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 Just listening to our colleague Councilman

1 Bonin and others before him and Madam President, thank
2 you for your guidance of this leadership and this body
3 here.

4 And I'm just proud of the fact that we are
5 embracing solutions, removing all solutions, but we
6 can't move fast enough.

7 Your Honor, back in September of 2015, I held a
8 forum on homelessness at the Warner Grand Theatre in
9 San Pedro where 1,200 people packed the seats desperate
10 for solutions.

11 Five years ago, in April of 2018, we are
12 reminded that Mayor Garcetti in the State of the
13 Speech -- State of the City speech, rather, introduced
14 the concept A Bridge Home.

15 And while 19 of these facilities had opened,
16 including three in my district along with a storage
17 center, none of us were happy with the pace in which
18 they were constructed.

19 Today, we're dealing with our toughest
20 challenge. You, Judge Carter, will order to move 6,000
21 people from overpasses and underpasses quickly. It's
22 taken us over two years to house about 2,000 people.
23 Now we have less than a year to house 6,000 people.

24 JUDGE CARTER: Six months.

25 MR. BUSCAINO: Six months, to be exact.

1 Now, people talk about this subject as if it's
2 "Mission Impossible," but, in reality, these next 6,000
3 will be a test. We're talking about a test run here,
4 because, if we can pull this off, real challenge, I
5 feel, will stand in front of us, the challenge of
6 organizing another 50,000 homeless individuals
7 countywide. And the biggest obstacle, as you heard from
8 colleagues of mine, is the City and County bureaucracy.

9 While A Bride Home is a great tool and it works
10 to get people off the street with better services and
11 safety, we simply don't have enough of these facilities.
12 We must -- we must do more quicker and more cost
13 effectively. We're not seeing shared responsibility
14 with other cities across L.A. County in regards to the
15 homeless solutions.

16 These solutions we're talking about are
17 permanent supportive housing, rental assistance, master
18 leasing, hotel and motel acquisitions, Sprung shelters,
19 pallet shelters, safe parking, and even safe camping.
20 And I do want to add -- based on Mr. Bonin's testimony,
21 I want to add shared housing costs. We're -- we're not
22 seeing other cities step up and provide immediate basic
23 humanitarian resources like restrooms, showers, storage
24 facilities, public drinking fountains, out of fear that
25 these basic amenities will be magnets and draw more

1 homeless people.

2 Now, here I am promoting the concept of all of
3 the above, a menu of options for homeless solutions.
4 Everything will have to be on the table, and we can't
5 let perfect be the enemy of better. And I know that
6 there are homeless service providers who do God's work.
7 They're our foot soldiers, and some of these providers
8 don't like the idea of safe parking, safe camping, or
9 even pallet shelters because it doesn't achieve the goal
10 of permanently housing people.

11 In my district, I have 2300 homeless residents.
12 We saw a slight decrease in 2019, but only 194 reside
13 under or near a freeway. I do, however, have a thousand
14 individuals living in their vehicles, which is more than
15 any other council district, Your Honor. And that's why
16 most of my plan to address homelessness includes putting
17 up safe parking sites where people can feel safe, have
18 access to showers, and get -- as well as get the
19 services that they need.

20 Now, it may not sound perfect to many, but it
21 will bring more immediate improvement to the health and
22 well-being of our homeless residents and surrounding
23 neighborhoods.

24 With over a thousand homeless people dying on
25 our L.A. County sidewalks every year, with more homeless

1 people becoming victims of crime, we must act now.
2 There must be a reward also for the neighborhoods who
3 accept homeless solutions, who say yes to homeless
4 solutions. When a neighborhood agrees to host A Bridge
5 Home or any of other possible solutions, and if they've
6 done their part, they must be given the opportunity to
7 introduce no-camping zones around the shelter or
8 supportive-housing development or safe parking or safe
9 camping. If camping continues to be allowed after a
10 shelter is built in a neighborhood, it would only
11 disincentivise neighborhoods for saying yes to
12 solutions.

13 Now, we saw the City of Torrance and saw an
14 increase. Now, I know that Torrance would be able to
15 build 200 beds if it will earn them a no-camping zone in
16 their city, and others will follow because the
17 alternative is tents on the sidewalks.

18 Now, let me create a picture for you. If each
19 city in this county were to produce one Bridge type of
20 shelter, we would have an additional 8700 beds and
21 accommodate nearly all the chronically homeless people
22 in the county, and we must regularly clean up
23 encampments throughout the city. If we don't, we don't
24 just stop -- we stop street cleaning. If we don't clean
25 our encampment picture today, we stop street cleaning,

1 or stop picking up trash on a regular basis. If we
2 don't move swiftly on solutions, we'll continue to
3 experience pure chaos in our streets. Without
4 consequences, we'll continue to allow chaos, violence,
5 filth, and disease.

6 Now, unless we all agree to all the solutions,
7 we're only pretending to try to solve this problem,
8 Your Honor. Thank you.

9 JUDGE CARTER: You got 194 within 500 feet of
10 the freeway?

11 MR. BUSCAINO: Yes, sir.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Some of those are on city --
13 well, you've got interventions that are proposed at
14 Figueroa Place, Beacon, et cetera. It's on the bottom
15 of that diagram you submitted to me. With the folks
16 inside recreational vehicles, it's still inhumane to be
17 in the rain and elements. They need some protection.

18 What do you have, Councilman, on the streets
19 out of 194? Because I don't have jurisdiction over the
20 2,377 right now.

21 MR. BUSCAINO: We are ready to deploy pallet
22 shelters on rec-and-park sites right next to the L.A.
23 Harbor College at 1221 South Figueroa Place. We can
24 start tomorrow, sir.

25 JUDGE CARTER: And that's the diagram you

1 showed me out there, that same lot?

2 MR. BUSCAINO: Correct.

3 JUDGE CARTER: And how many?

4 MR. BUSCAINO: That would accommodate 150 beds.

5 JUDGE CARTER: 150. Wow. And that's -- I want
6 to compliment you. Nothing's changed since our
7 conversation. You're starting tomorrow. What do you
8 need? In other words, we still need two- to three
9 weeks' notice to get teams out there, hopefully,
10 Department of Health Services, Volunteers of America,
11 St. Joseph's.

12 MR. BUSCAINO: We -- again, there are systems
13 in place both in the County and the City that prevent us
14 from moving quickly. So in our case here, Your Honor,
15 we need -- we need to have the Bureau of Engineering to
16 prepare a site plan. We also -- rec and park are doing
17 further maintenance assessments, and they're also
18 looking at an internal review.

19 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Just a moment. What
20 pushes that? Because I heard that literally not from
21 every single councilperson. So this isn't about a bad
22 day for the folks of these different agencies. They're
23 good people, but the end result is it's stifling. It's
24 glaring. And one of the things that Michelle Martinez
25 did -- and I saw -- was she literally took a building

1 inspector and put that building inspector on site and
2 signed off on it sitting in the chair because, once it
3 went back to a person's office, it sat there, in good
4 faith, for days and weeks. It went back for approval,
5 et cetera.

6 What could we suggest -- how could we work
7 together, for the folks in the back, to start speeding
8 this process?

9 MR. BUSCAINO: This is going to -- this can be
10 all in one room and get it done before we leave.

11 JUDGE CARTER: Why don't you stick around
12 today.

13 MR. BUSCAINO: Yes, sir.

14 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. If you can. Let's find
15 out.

16 Mitch O'Farrell. Mitch, you're here. If you
17 could be so kind. And this is District 14, of course,
18 and I've got photos that we'll see momentarily.

19 MR. O'FARRELL: Good morning, Your Honor. We
20 have two more minutes of good morning. Good morning.

21 JUDGE CARTER: Good morning.

22 MR. O'FARRELL: So I can talk a little bit
23 about the 13th District. I can talk about what I find
24 important in order for us to achieve the order, and then
25 I can talk about our interventions and then the -- the

1 challenges but also how we're working on the challenges.

2 So I'm not going to offer a bunch of empty
3 complaints. We've got challenges, bureaucratic and
4 otherwise, and I'll go over those, but also to convey
5 that I think collectively we're working on breaking down
6 all those barriers that exist, that Mr. Buscaino said as
7 part of his presentation we all know exist.

8 So we'll just talk a little bit about the
9 district profile. Geographically, we're the smallest in
10 the Council District. We also have some of the densest
11 neighborhoods anywhere in the City of Los Angeles, also
12 some of the census tracts that have the lowest income
13 levels of any census tract in the City of Los Angeles.
14 So I did refer to a lot as the Hollywood Council Member,
15 but that is misleading because I always say this: That
16 just beneath the glitz and glamour are real struggles in
17 real neighborhoods where -- where people need help.

18 So we also have three freeways running through
19 the district, which is where this -- this order, in
20 particular, comes into play: The 101, the 5, and the 2
21 Freeways.

22 JUDGE CARTER: About 568 folks.

23 MR. O'FARRELL: That's right. So you have all
24 of that, and we have, again, that number and even more
25 that are living in vehicles and/or RVs.

1 Now, here's something that's really very, very
2 important, Your Honor. The interventions that we engage
3 in to reach our legal obligations from your settlement
4 must be reserved and offered to those who are currently
5 homeless and receiving services in the 13th District
6 before opening to SPA 4. SPA 4 includes, you know, all
7 of Skid Row and everything else.

8 So what I need -- and this is what we're
9 working with all of our partners to achieve from LAHSA
10 to the service providers -- is to understand that we
11 must meet the needs of those in our own districts as we
12 strive to create these new beds; otherwise, our numbers
13 won't move in the direction this settlement requires.
14 In other words, in order to meet our legal obligation,
15 we must focus on district-specific reductions of people
16 experiencing homelessness, in other words, goals to get
17 people housed, which is what I've been really focusing
18 on since being in office, and I think we all need to
19 focus on making sure that we have homelessness
20 reduction, people to be housed.

21 I'm sure you've heard this all morning, too,
22 but all of these interventions and efforts are fluid.
23 And even the document that we supplied to you last month
24 shows there are dynamics taking shape in searching for
25 new hotels for Project Roomkey, Project Homekey. We're

1 taking a look at all available motels and real estate in
2 our district and some Homekey acquisitions.

3 Right now, we're vetting properties in the 13th
4 District for consideration to purchase. We may have an
5 answer today for 42 rooms for purchase, and so that will
6 be important. Right now, the five that we're vetting --
7 and that's not all that's on the list -- but the five
8 that we're currently vetting will get us to over 200
9 rooms by late this calendar year or early next year;
10 interim housing, expanding on existing partnerships.
11 We've got the Salvation Army in Hollywood that opened 40
12 beds as a temporary shelter during the winter, and
13 they're in the process of making that a permanent
14 shelter.

15 JUDGE CARTER: By the way, they're in the room.

16 MR. O'FARRELL: Oh, terrific. They've been
17 wonderful to work with, and maybe you've heard from them
18 as well.

19 And then we are identifying new sites with
20 willing partners as well as looking at city-owned
21 property. We have all sorts of schematics that we want
22 to --

23 JUDGE CARTER: You heard -- maybe you weren't
24 here -- of my little talk about Caltrans owning 250
25 pieces to 19 to 3 and who knows what we've got today.

1 I want to start with the City property. I
2 started with the belief from the advocates and the
3 statements that we have thousands and thousands and
4 thousands of pieces of City property. It was told to me
5 by Carol Sobel that we have 15,000, and I think in good
6 faith. But now we've got those documents, and we've got
7 400-something and 250 aren't available. This isn't
8 directed at you, but it sure is to the City.

9 What the Court's trying to discern and trying
10 to make certain is we don't get into a contempt process
11 or proceeding, you know, down the line because I'm not
12 going to take gobbledygook for an answer. I've got
13 problems with the data I'm given, you know, we have 250
14 Caltrans property and now we're down to 3. I'm being
15 told we have thousands of pieces of property, and now
16 we're down to 400. Oops, 250 available for some magical
17 reason. I've got double-accounting going on because the
18 6,800 is not 6,000. That's public property.

19 It's really about 3,000 that was created
20 because the City almost had to account for a thousand
21 people who are in the recreational shelters. They
22 always had to account for about 2,000 to 2,200 when we
23 struck this agreement. So the City was on the hook for
24 3,200 people that they had to do something with anyway;
25 you understand? And I know that they had to come to my

1 federal court, and they probably hoped for an injunction
2 that said, "You're not ruling these people out because
3 politicians have a tough time making that lifetime type
4 of decision."

5 Okay. So let's just assume hypothetically that
6 the federal court isn't going to let those people back
7 out on the street, you know, to this type of
8 deprivation. So the public is being told 6,800 units,
9 and I'll go along with that, but we only had 3,000;
10 right?

11 MR. O'FARRELL: I wasn't in the room.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Oh, don't tell me that.

13 MR. O'FARRELL: I'm sure I can tell you about
14 the properties in the 13th, though. I don't know what
15 you've been told.

16 JUDGE CARTER: Now, well, I'll just wait.
17 That's another discussion. So what I'm concerned about
18 is whether this input I'm getting to try to make, you
19 know, decisions in health now, that that could be
20 malfeasance. I don't know what that is, but I'm going
21 to take it as malfeasance right now, and I need
22 accuracy. So that's not your discussion, but that is a
23 discussion we're going to have later on with the Mayor,
24 I think, who's been called that verified this, but I'm
25 all done with the fiction and hope we can fix this,

1 quite frankly.

2 MR. O'FARRELL: All right. So I know the 13th.
3 When I'm talking about publically owned properties, I'm
4 talking about parking lots. I'm talking about
5 recreational and library parking lots. As far as
6 publically owned property available, we have slivers
7 that you couldn't build or put a pallet on, like slivers
8 along the river and weird places, and the 13th doesn't
9 have vast holdings of publically owned property.

10 So when I'm talking about using spaces that are
11 not being currently utilized or under-utilized, if you
12 will, or we have to make room for it to put pallet
13 housing --

14 JUDGE CARTER: Remember when we leave your
15 office on the driveway to the street and kind of take a
16 left turn and there's an encampment right there?

17 MR. O'FARRELL: The field office?

18 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, yeah, the field office.
19 I'm sorry. The recreation center where I first met you.
20 When you drive up, there's -- there's no jurisdiction
21 that Judge Birotte or I have on that piece of property.
22 That's not within 500 feet of a freeway; you understand
23 that? Okay. And there's no agreement now between the
24 City and the County when I put out that Preliminary
25 Injunction. So that has to wait for an omnibus

1 agreement in some of these places, and if we don't reach
2 it, then it will be just litigation time. Okay.

3 Well, how quickly are you able to move on some
4 of this?

5 MR. O'FARRELL: We think that we can get to the
6 requirements of your order in the timeline that was
7 given based on all that we're working on now and the
8 searches that we're doing to acquire properties, whether
9 it's Project Roomkey or Homekey acquisition, which the
10 deadline is -- is this month for purchases, but we hope
11 to do that. But we feel that we can reach your
12 settlement agreement with us, but we're looking way
13 beyond that. I don't want to get sucked in -- in the
14 limitations of just housing a bare minimum based on the
15 settlement. We're looking so far beyond that. I come
16 from the belief that everyone who is experiencing
17 homelessness needs to be -- needs to have a roof over
18 their head.

19 So we're -- in my view, we're going to reach
20 the requirements of the settlement, but my goal is to
21 house every single person who we can cajole into
22 accepting it at the earliest possible convenience, and
23 part of that is through our housing efforts through HHH
24 and beyond. We're also building permits for housing not
25 under the HHH umbrella and lots of extremely low-income

1 housing. We're at 20 percent in Hollywood, and so --
2 it's -- it's the whole totality of the approach, and
3 this settlement falls into that. So I think -- I think
4 it behooves us all to look way beyond just making sure
5 we've reached everything you required of us.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Well, I do too, and hopefully we
7 can all move forward. I just want to make certain that,
8 if we can't do this, I don't know what we can do in the
9 future because this is a baby step. And so the end
10 result is I want to pass back to you the housing fight.
11 I want to say to you, "Move over to the human dignity,
12 human rights, human safety, human health fight," and
13 I've come to the conclusion -- and this is a bias on my
14 part -- that anything that improves a person's life 10
15 percent like a shower and shave is where I'm at now.
16 It's as simple as that, and if we can do that, it's a
17 good night and we can sleep peacefully. The death rate
18 is absolutely unacceptable. Same as disparity, it's
19 unacceptable, and it was right under our noses.

20 So we're going to get together in September.
21 I'm not going to ask what you're going to have done.
22 I'm going to ask you what you have done. These promises
23 of 15,000 units or 6,800, from now on, my criteria is
24 what have you done. Okay. Fair enough?

25 MR. O'FARRELL: Fair enough.

1 JUDGE CARTER: And by the way, don't worry. If
2 you break that log jam, we're all in it. There's a lot
3 of a success out there. We open the doors -- we open
4 the doors to funding, quite frankly.

5 MR. O'FARRELL: Well, I hope that everyone in
6 this gallery, everyone at this hearing -- because I know
7 we have advocates, we have critics, we have
8 journalists -- needs to unite in this effort.

9 JUDGE CARTER: I hope so. I hope we come out
10 of this with a little bit of bruising today in all
11 parts, including -- all of us need to be uncomfortable
12 right now. And if we can come out of that in some kind
13 of unified form and we cut through some of this
14 bureaucratic inertia, quite frankly, this malaise, and
15 lower the death rate, then the Court really wants to
16 work with you.

17 MR. O'FARRELL: I'll close with this: I was at
18 a forum yesterday evening with constituents with County
19 Services experts, with the City Attorney's Office, and
20 we talked about how homelessness has only grown over the
21 years. It didn't start this year or last year or ten
22 years ago. It has been building for decades. Clearly,
23 there's something wrong with the system. That's --
24 that's a given. If the system was working, we wouldn't
25 have 41,000-plus homeless living in the City of

1 Los Angeles.

2 However, having said all that, it's no time for
3 us to wring our hands. It's time for us to find
4 solutions and either repair the system or create a new
5 one that's going to work.

6 JUDGE CARTER: You don't want to blow something
7 up unless there's something to replace it. It's as
8 simple as that. It may need to get re-imagined, et
9 cetera, but by the same token, if it's not working year
10 after year, then there has to be a dramatic change, and
11 I don't know where I stand even theoretically on that
12 right now. It's not my position to stand anyplace, but
13 I know right now it doesn't appear, at least to the
14 public, that this isn't working, and it doesn't appear
15 by the numbers, and it doesn't appear by the deaths in
16 any immeasurable amount.

17 I'm back to how many people can we get off the
18 street as quickly as possible and do something more
19 humane while we wait for that perfect solution. If we
20 get the Ritz-Carlton, hey, I'll be the first to sign it.
21 I'm just kidding you. If it's eminent domain, I'll be
22 there tomorrow. But in the meantime -- I think Mike was
23 really candid with me today, you know, as he always is.
24 He said, "You know, Judge, along the way, we're going to
25 do something on the basis of where it doesn't become

1 permanent." So I think, right now, I hope that gets
2 re-imagined by everybody.

3 MR. O'FARRELL: Well, your solution as a judge,
4 I think, is what the motivating factor is for all the
5 parties to get on board and put differences aside and
6 keep deaths down, which is ask what we had wanted all
7 along.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Let's try.

9 MR. O'FARRELL: Thank you.

10 JUDGE CARTER: I'll talk to you soon. So in
11 September, I'll be asking what have you done.

12 Councilman Blumenfield, I just saw you. There
13 you are. Pardon the formality. It's nice to see you.

14 MR. BLUMENFIELD: First off, because of quorum
15 issues, I only got here a bit ago, so I don't know quite
16 the flow of the room, but I really appreciate you doing
17 this, putting us together.

18 I know a lot of people don't expect us to
19 succeed. I'm sure there are people in this room who
20 believe that we're going to fail and that the Court is
21 misguided in terms of this approach, but I really
22 believe in what you're doing, and we've talked about
23 this, and I want to -- I want to help. I want to help
24 you and appreciate that you're here trying to help us
25 move forward on real solutions on homelessness.

1 What I gave you -- and I'll go through it in a
2 minute -- is a little rundown of what's happening in the
3 district. But what I gave you -- and I'm happy to make
4 a copy available -- is some of the stumbling blocks. I
5 wanted to put it in writing so that it was -- it was
6 clear because I know there was a lot going on, and
7 things get lost. Although, the last two speakers that I
8 heard, I really agree with the messages that they've
9 been putting forward.

10 So just to give you a sense, I mean, you've
11 been in my district. We're fortunate in that, of all of
12 the districts, I had the fewest number of homeless
13 people in my district. However, you wouldn't know that
14 by the reactions of my constituents. In fact, it has
15 been more than once where we -- in my district, we broke
16 the record on 311 on the number of calls about homeless
17 encampments even though we have fewer encampments than
18 other -- other cities. So that tells you something that
19 this is -- it's a serious issue in our community, and
20 obviously it's a very serious issue because people are
21 dying on the street. So we are trying -- I'm trying in
22 my district to move as quickly as we can on a number of
23 solutions.

24 In order of certainty, I'll give you some of
25 the things that we've got going. The most certain is

1 that we have a Bridge Home opening up on December 31st.
2 That's -- I don't know what that document is, and I
3 can't read it that far. But, you know, that's 80 homes,
4 and that's money in the bank. That's there.

5 And then we are looking at pallet shelters in a
6 couple of locations -- in a number of locations, but at
7 least two are -- are very likely. The one that's most
8 likely is in Reseda on public property, and we're
9 looking at about 50 pallet shelters, and we already have
10 BOE looking at the design and trying to figure that out.
11 We are plagued by what other people have raised, which
12 is the fire marshal issue and the fact that they have to
13 be 10 feet apart, which I'm hoping we can come up with
14 some more creative solutions, but we're plagued by the
15 cost of the utilities. I put a motion in to create a
16 temporary -- a temporary rule with regard to electric
17 hookups so that, like other cities have done, where it
18 would be cheaper than all of the things that we have to
19 do. There's a lot of hoops we have to go through even
20 for pallet shelters.

21 Similarly, we have -- I'm looking at about 50
22 bed pallet shelters in Canoga Park where we would lease,
23 and it's already in a public motion, and it's at the
24 Knights of Columbus. They're building --

25 JUDGE CARTER: You don't have to tell me the

1 location.

2 MR. BLUMENFIELD: Okay. It's already in a
3 public motion. It's already out there, and we are in
4 active -- GSD is negotiating currently on a lease price,
5 and we're optimistic that that will -- that will happen.

6 This has been part of the creative solution
7 where myself and my team have been going out and talking
8 to different folks and different properties and saying,
9 "Can you help us with this? Can we lease this,"
10 because, unlike a lot of areas, I don't have public
11 lands. I have very, very few public properties and even
12 city properties, and the ones that we have are being
13 actively used for parking lots or other things.

14 JUDGE CARTER: Let's go over this for a moment
15 just on the agreement between the City and the
16 County concerning the 500 feet within the freeway,
17 because the Court has no jurisdiction, and there's no
18 agreement between the City and the County or the
19 advocates or the plaintiffs about an omnibus agreement
20 with the City. I saw that freeway underpass.

21 MR. BLUMENFIELD: Yes.

22 JUDGE CARTER: And there you have some
23 situations like where women are living underneath the
24 underpass, and I have some photos of it.

25 MR. BLUMENFIELD: That's the --

1 JUDGE CARTER: It's a small number of people.
2 There, would you be able to take advantage of Operation
3 Roomkey or something else to get those folks, you know,
4 housed immediately and in a much better situation or
5 create a better situation? Your numbers are so small
6 that it seems to me that you're one of the districts
7 moving very quickly because we're not dealing with 482
8 people. That's a big undertaking.

9 MR. BLUMENFIELD: And I've been out -- you're
10 talking about the Winnetka underpass, which is -- which
11 is the most complained about spot, I think, in the city
12 on many occasions. It's certainly in my district, and I
13 go out there regularly. I was just out there a couple
14 weeks ago. In fact, this one kid, 20 years old or
15 something, I talked to him and talked to his mother back
16 in Colorado. Long story, I bought him a bus ticket and
17 got him back on his way.

18 JUDGE CARTER: But there --

19 MR. BLUMENFIELD: They don't qualify -- most of
20 them don't qualify for Project Roomkey.

21 JUDGE CARTER: No, but that's what I'm pointing
22 out. You might have pallet shelters, and maybe it's
23 economical to build out if you've got 50 or more because
24 you need hookups, but it may not be economical at all if
25 you build four pallet shelters. You might have Roomkey

1 available. You might have a group care available. You
2 might have somebody else available that you know is
3 quick that you can accommodate these folks more.

4 MR. BLUMENFIELD: Well, the problem -- I mean,
5 I go out there with the LAHSA workers, and I say, "What
6 does it take to get these folks out of this underpass?"
7 They are -- they are clearly suffering." I mean, I
8 could give you their names and story, I've been out
9 there so many times. And what I did was -- most of the
10 people under that particular underpass are drug addicts.
11 That's the reality. I mean, I'm not saying all
12 homeless. But that particular underpass, for whatever
13 reason, most of those folks have major addiction.

14 I had these three guys, just the other day, say
15 say to me, "If you could get me to a treatment program,
16 I would go tomorrow."

17 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

18 MR. BLUMENFIELD: And can we get them into a
19 treatment program? No.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Why?

21 MR. BLUMENFIELD: Because they're not
22 available. Just to be straight up, there is a long
23 line. We don't have the power of the City. It's the
24 County's responsibility to have these programs, and
25 they're not there. And -- and this is a big issue, too,

1 because, if you move people into a pallet shelter -- in
2 fact, these guys were friendly with me because I asked
3 each of them, under this freeway, "If I could get you
4 into a pallet shelter tomorrow, would you go?" Every
5 single one of them said, "Yes."

6 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

7 MR. BLUMENFIELD: However, these three guys,
8 they said to me -- well, two guys and a gal, and they
9 were Reseda High School graduates. They were local
10 folks. They said, "Yeah, we'll go to a pallet shelter,
11 but we're drug addicts. Unless we get into a program,
12 we're still going to be using drugs." And they said to
13 me, "If you get me into a program, I'll go."

14 JUDGE CARTER: I heard that the 14 or 15 people
15 you visited -- and I'll round off a bit -- but 10 or so
16 aren't drug addicts. 10 or so would go into a pallet
17 shelter or something else, a hotel or motel or whatever
18 pretty readily. If I'm hearing we have a special case
19 with the three, we should obviously have some continuing
20 services.

21 So here's my thought: I've come to believe,
22 and may be naive, but I'd like to think we've got the 10
23 off the street as quickly as possible. I'd like to
24 never forget the three, but I'm afraid that we'll need
25 the three or the one, before we get to the vast

1 majority. You know, Carol Sobel, I'm going to believe
2 what she said, "You know, Judge, 70 percent of the folks
3 that I represent don't need any support services. They
4 just need a handout." And if she's right about that,
5 which I tend to believe, then I keep thinking that our
6 resources are so focused here, which they should be, but
7 that we keep forgetting about that 70 percent that we
8 could do something about immediately, and they're dying.

9 MR. BUSCAINO: Judge, can I?

10 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah.

11 MR. BUSCAINO: In realtime, this is happening
12 right now in Wilmington right behind my municipal
13 building in an alley. With extensive outreach, showers,
14 COVID-19 testing, sanitation, the Care Plus team, and
15 offering a bed at Bridge Home in Wilmington, 31
16 individuals. Out of the 31 individuals, Your Honor, 11
17 accepted and are moving to the Bridge Home. 20 declined
18 and said, "Absolutely not. This is what I want. This
19 is a way of life." But we should not take those 20 and
20 we should not give up on those souls. That's the thing.
21 But at the same time, we need to see that, the
22 frustrations and the challenges in -- in holding folks
23 accountable, and sometimes it's through consequences,
24 Your Honor.

25 JUDGE CARTER: You can continue, please.

1 MR. BLUMENFIELD: Well, I agree with you in
2 terms of the folks -- there are a lot of folks who we
3 don't provide services to because they're not sick
4 enough or they're not homeless enough. I have safe
5 parking behind my office. We used to do that almost a
6 year ago, and I have met regularly with those folks.
7 I've had dinner with these folks. They are all sort of
8 the middle class and the homeless. Most of them have
9 jobs. They pretty much lost a lot of things, but they
10 held on to their vehicle, but none of them qualify for
11 getting any sort of assistance or handout because
12 they're not acute enough. They don't score high enough
13 to get any sort of assistance with first month, last
14 month, or the kind of little things we can do that could
15 give them that boost that could get them out of their
16 vehicle and into a better life. And that, to me, is
17 extremely painful as well because I think there are a
18 lot of folks that we could help before they spiral down
19 and become the person under the Winnetka underpass who
20 has hit that bottom multiple times.

21 JUDGE CARTER: I hope so. I'm going to get in
22 contact with your colleague Paul Krekorian, and I'll be
23 back on the phone with your office.

24 MR. BLUMENFIELD: Your Honor, can I just say a
25 couple --

1 JUDGE CARTER: Please.

2 MR. BLUMENFIELD: I gave you the memo, and I
3 didn't get to finish with the different things that
4 we're doing with Project Roomkey. We've got 125 beds
5 that we could convert into actual rooms, is my hope, as
6 well as we have some private property.

7 I was talking to someone yesterday who owns a
8 very large piece of property. They purchased it, and
9 they're putting up a major development that's going to
10 take a number of years to go up, and I talked to them
11 and I said -- as I said, I do this creative thing, I
12 talk to different property owners to see if they can
13 help. Usually, I get laughed out of the room. These
14 folks were willing to listen, and he said, "They're
15 just parking lots and not going to be used for a while."

16 "Could you help us with either pallet shelters
17 or RVs on the property because I have nowhere to put
18 these RVs?"

19 So many people live in RVs or other vehicles,
20 and at first they said, "No, we're trying to be a good
21 neighbor in this area. We've become, you know, an
22 encampment, and we build a project, everybody's going to
23 hate us, and we're not going to get any tenants." And
24 then when we started talking about it, I said, "Well,
25 actually, you could be a hero here by helping get people

1 off the streets." They were interested.

2 But one of the key things they said was they
3 would only consider this -- and they are seriously
4 considering this, which would be a huge gift in the
5 sense that I can get a hundred RVs onto their property.
6 They said, if, and only if, we did this, and then we
7 were able to tell with neighboring buildings with RVs in
8 front of their buildings, the RVs are no longer there
9 because we are taking them and if we could -- if we
10 could basically be able to enforce.

11 And I bring this up because I heard Joe and
12 other people talk about the need for enforcing around
13 these Bridge Homes and around the pallet shelters. I
14 think it's critical, not just for the community
15 acceptance, but also for us to be able to leverage
16 properties like this. Here's an opportunity. We could
17 leverage this property potentially -- and as private
18 property, and they would essentially give it to us for
19 five years or so. But we'd have be able to show them
20 that we can enforce.

21 Like I said, if I can take RVs here, then the
22 entire community will not have RVs, and they'll all know
23 because you've taken the burden off of them, and we'll
24 be able to enforce that, where you're not going to have
25 tents on the Winnetka underpass or close to the Winnetka

1 underpass because you have taken in pallet shelters.

2 And they're willing to do that, but they say --
3 and they're very familiar with you because they actually
4 have an Orange County link, and they said, "If this will
5 help you get to Judge Carter's final deal and where you
6 could actually start enforcing, then we will be there,
7 help as a good community person. But if it's just to
8 create, you know, more encampments on our property,
9 we're not interested."

10 So I think that's important as another
11 perspective on why it's important to be able to have an
12 enforced cleanup around these sites, not just for
13 community acceptance, which is important, but also to
14 leverage more housing.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you very much. I
16 appreciate it.

17 MR. BLUMENFIELD: Thank you.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Councilman Krekorian, thank you
19 so much for being here.

20 MR. KREKORIAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor, and
21 welcome to our council chambers. I'm delighted to have
22 the opportunity to talk to you about some of the
23 progress that we've already made and what we still plan
24 to accomplish in my district.

25 And let me say, first, how important I think it

1 is that you are inviting us all here to have this
2 discussion. There are so many other stakeholders who
3 are concerned about this issue because I think all of
4 us, every single member of this council and probably
5 every resident of Los Angeles, has had it with
6 grandstanding and posturing and blame, and they just
7 want action. These are solvable problems. They're
8 complicated and difficult solvable problems. But every
9 member of this council is dedicated to finding
10 solutions, and your engagement in this, I believe, is
11 going to help us to do that.

12 So let me tell you a little bit about what
13 we've accomplished in the last few months, and then what
14 I expect to accomplish in the next few months.

15 First of all, in my district, we established
16 the first safe parking lot in the San Fernando Valley
17 and the first one to be built anywhere in the city on
18 city land.

19 In the last six months, we've constructed the
20 first homeless services navigation center in the City of
21 Los Angeles at an expense of \$6.5 million dollars. The
22 navigation center has been widely successful. We've
23 been able to provide over 3,600 showers. There are
24 restroom facilities. We've provided storage for over
25 160 individuals and case intake for 430 people operating

1 in March. When COVID-19 hit, this navigation center was
2 the only hygiene facility operating in the entire San
3 Fernando Valley to the homeless population.

4 Last month at the navigation center, we had a
5 client who had just been beaten by her so-called
6 boyfriend. A case manager was able get her into a
7 domestic violence shelter within an hour of her arrival
8 at the navigation center. We've also connected many
9 clients through the navigation center to Project Roomkey
10 rooms, and in September, the operator of the navigation
11 center will also be operating the site as a day labor
12 center so we'll be able to provide job opportunities
13 with the other services that are provided at the
14 navigation center and storage and hygiene and so forth.

15 We also in recent months have initiated an RV
16 pilot program because, in my district and in much of the
17 San Fernando Valley, RV residents are a significant
18 portion of our homeless population. So under our pilot
19 program, we have used septic tank emptying and intensive
20 LAHSA outreach and trash pick-up and clean-up in the
21 area to ensure that centralized location residents are
22 provided with extra service, a better opportunity for
23 them to find their way into a continuum of care through
24 contact with LAHSA outreach workers, but it's also been
25 much better to the surrounding neighborhood. We're

1 serving 85 RVs in two specific areas in this program.

2 In July, we opened the first Bridge Home site
3 in my district. The first one is in the San Fernando
4 Valley and spent \$2.5 million dollars. This was also
5 the least expensive Bridge Home site in the City of
6 Los Angeles today. That facility, which Your Honor had
7 an opportunity to visit while it was still under
8 construction, has 88 beds and has been in operation
9 since July.

10 Yesterday we cut the ribbon on a Bridge Home
11 site on Van Nuys Boulevard at an expense of \$6 million.
12 That site will be open to participants on August 17th.
13 It has 100 beds. It is the largest Bridge Home facility
14 built in the City of Los Angeles to date.

15 Lastly, of course, we have the permanent
16 supportive housing units that we have already opened.
17 We have over 200 that we've already opened, and there
18 are another 250 or so that are in the pipeline for
19 groundbreaking this year.

20 Now, I want to look forward because, as
21 Your Honor knows, because you have emphasized the
22 importance of the population residing in and around
23 freeways, we examined the population -- the amount of
24 our population that is in that category, and it turns
25 out that my district has over 200 people living there --

1 JUDGE CARTER: About 203 according to LAHSA.

2 MR. KREKORIAN: And it appears that we are the
3 5th largest population of freeway-adjacent residents in
4 the city.

5 Well, I'm pleased to say, Your Honor, between
6 the two Bridge Home facilities that we have just opened,
7 we can accommodate 188 of those 200.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Let me write that down. So of
9 203, you can accommodate 188.

10 MR. KREKORIAN: We have space right now for
11 188.

12 JUDGE CARTER: How soon you want to move on
13 this?

14 MR. KREKORIAN: Well, we are moving on it.
15 It's a question of LAHSA outreach getting out to those
16 people and bringing them into the facilities.

17 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. I'm going to ask LAHSA in
18 a few moments after this about a participation list,
19 along with Volunteers of America and other groups.

20 MR. KREKORIAN: Now, obviously, Your Honor,
21 that -- that population is not the entire homeless
22 population.

23 JUDGE CARTER: But you are ready to move now.
24 I went out and looked at three sites. You and I went
25 out to one site and out the driveway and made a

1 left-hand turn and went up the hill and go down the
2 street and walked down.

3 MR. KREKORIAN: Yes, Your Honor.

4 JUDGE CARTER: What do you have? In other
5 words, do you need to go to pallet shelters, or do we
6 need to move directly to something else and not use
7 anything in the interim?

8 MR. KREKORIAN: So, Your Honor, in addition to
9 the 188 beds that we have open, that we'll have open
10 this month, we also have the three sites that you had
11 visited, which we'll be proceeding with right now.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Are they still going to be
13 pallet shelters?

14 MR. KREKORIAN: Yes, that is the plan, and I
15 can give you a progress report on each of the three
16 sites.

17 First of all, as to the sites at --

18 JUDGE CARTER: You don't have to give me the
19 address, just location.

20 MR. KREKORIAN: So the park site, which was
21 near the shopping center that was adjacent to the
22 freeway, that one as well as the one in North Hollywood
23 Park were approved yesterday by the Board of Recreation
24 and Parks Commission.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. I got a document this

1 morning, and I don't think the City Council -- they're
2 just receiving it. Often, the City of Administrative
3 Office -- I'm not sure if you're aware of this yet, but
4 I got this at 6:00 or 7:00 o'clock this morning. I was
5 trying to read it quickly. I don't think you've got
6 time to look at this. This needs to be analyzed further
7 and subject to approval, but it's the beginning,
8 apparently, of something, and I'm not certain how -- how
9 this plays.

10 But on page -- on Page 6 of this report, other
11 interim beds including pallet shelters, 740. I'm
12 assuming -- and you're probably not aware of this.

13 MR. KREKORIAN: I'm not aware.

14 JUDGE CARTER: So I caught you by surprise.
15 Some of those are vague, and one of the advantages or
16 disadvantages may be that at least you own it. If you
17 use it in an interim fashion, it could be moved to
18 another district as an asset that you can retain, you
19 own. What I'm always concerned about is not being able
20 to purchase hotels quickly enough and how long the
21 funding lasts with COVID-19. And if there is a back
22 seat eventually -- God help us -- hopefully soon, what
23 happens to that funding?

24 So everything in the interim basis I'm
25 concerned about. But if we get people off the street in

1 hotels is fine, temporary is fine, or interim is fine to
2 stop the inhumanity placed out there, but I want you to
3 be aware we've got 740 on this one, which is a pie in
4 the sky.

5 MR. KREKORIAN: Well, I'm not sure what that
6 document represents, Your Honor, but I can tell you
7 what: My plans are not at all a pie in the sky.

8 JUDGE CARTER: No, not yours.

9 MR. KREKORIAN: In fact, I can show you the
10 diagrams right now.

11 JUDGE CARTER: I've seen that. I've seen that,
12 Paul, and I believe you can do this -- I think you can
13 do this pretty quickly, in fact.

14 MR. KREKORIAN: We will be breaking ground on
15 two of the projects in September.

16 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

17 MR. KREKORIAN: And we will be completed with
18 these projects within six months.

19 JUDGE CARTER: Are those the two sites you
20 showed me? The pallet homes?

21 MR. KREKORIAN: Yes. There are three sites,
22 two of which are ready to go, the third is --

23 JUDGE CARTER: Now, I want to walk you through
24 a scenario that caught me by surprise -- no
25 fault-finding -- and that is originally these pallet

1 homes were presented to me on March 17th, and we had 50
2 of those purchased by the Mayor, and I was very
3 complimentary. That was a great step forward. Then
4 later on, it may have changed. They may have switched
5 back to more long-term supportive housing, but I don't
6 know. But I was caught by surprise when there was no
7 order placed, and supposedly it had passed from the
8 procurement officer of the City to the individual
9 councilperson. That was the complete surprise because
10 the councilperson that I visited had no idea that this
11 passed to their responsibility to order. Have you
12 ordered these?

13 MR. KREKORIAN: So, Your Honor, with any
14 project we work on, we work hand in glove with the
15 Bureau of Engineering.

16 JUDGE CARTER: I know that. Now, my question
17 is: Have you ordered these?

18 MR. KREKORIAN: So the -- the contractor is
19 still to be selected by the Bureau of Engineering, and
20 that will conclude the purchase of the --

21 JUDGE CARTER: I don't mean to interrupt. I'm
22 going to say it again, and then there's where my
23 curiosity is in the breakdown or, you know, the goodness
24 of this, and that is one entity thinks these things
25 being ordered because, of course, they were ordered, is

1 cheaper, and there may transportation costs, but there
2 storage costs involved. So nobody cares if it's 3,000
3 or 100 one or whatever that is. That's up to the City
4 if they're interested in them. But it caught everybody
5 by surprise when it was supposed to be with the City,
6 and then it's with the individual councilperson. That's
7 going to be a decision I want to have after you and I
8 finish.

9 MR. KREKORIAN: Yes, Your Honor, that's --
10 that's an issue that I was not aware of because we have
11 site-preparation work on the three sites that needs to
12 be done. So on two of the -- the two projects, the
13 Alexandria, which has a capacity for 200 beds; the
14 Chandler, which has a capacity for 64 beds, we are on
15 pace and ready to go. We've been approved by the Board
16 of Recreation and Parks, and so we're ready to break
17 ground.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Well, when will you order these?

19 MR. KREKORIAN: Well, again that's going to be
20 a --

21 JUDGE CARTER: Come on. If you want to help
22 us, this is only going to take a second for you to help
23 the Court and council.

24 Where's the City Engineer? Is he here? He's
25 right behind you.

1 MR. MOORE: Good morning. Good morning,
2 Your Honor.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Hi..

4 MR. MOORE: Yes. Gary Lee Moore, City
5 Engineer. We had planned and ordered these pallet
6 shelters within the next three weeks.

7 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Thank you. I really
8 appreciate it. So next three weeks.

9 MR. KREKORIAN: Okay. So within the next six
10 months we'll be completing those projects with a
11 capacity of 264 beds between the two of them.

12 So in addition to my 185 that we have built,
13 another 264 in-house.

14 JUDGE CARTER: And when you're done with them,
15 hopefully this will temporarily get these people off the
16 streets and move them into better housing, you know, in
17 the meantime, hopefully.

18 MR. KREKORIAN: In the interim, we're
19 continuing to move forward with construction of 250 more
20 permits for housing units as well as our Project
21 Homekey, which we have a problematic motel on that
22 property, and I'm not pleased it's a problem. We have
23 long-struggled with problematic hotel in my district,
24 and I'm pleased that we appear to be on the precipice
25 requiring it so that we can use that for Project

1 Homekey.

2 JUDGE CARTER: It's a terrific program.

3 MR. KREKORIAN: So if I can get to my problem,
4 Your Honor, because it's a -- I hope it will be a
5 relatively minor problem, but one of the sites that you
6 visited, which we are very much looking forward to
7 putting up 138 beds in pallet shelters on that site, is
8 a city art site that has been leased to the City by
9 Caltrans because it's a remanent property for
10 construction near the freeway.

11 Now, under the Quartering Act of the
12 legislature, when the state leases property like this,
13 it is restricted to park use. Now, it's my contention
14 that building cabins that can be tapped in on a park
15 adequately satisfies that requirement as park use. We
16 have camping in other parks in the city. There's no
17 reason that we can't have camping in this park in
18 compliance with the lease. How we select the people to
19 camp there should be entirely a municipal decision
20 that's not the concern of the state. So I hope we can
21 work this out with Caltrans and the California
22 Transportation --

23 JUDGE CARTER: Well, he's on Zoom right now
24 finally, but I'm not going to interrupt your
25 presentation as courtesy of you being present because,

1 if he's interested, he could come down.

2 MR. KREKORIAN: Thank you. AND I believe we
3 can work this out. I believe that they see that that is
4 the case and that they see this is not, at all,
5 inconsistent with the transportation concerns of the
6 state and that we'll be able work this out. But it may
7 result in a little bit more delay because there is a
8 Sacramento aspect of approval to this that will take a
9 longer period of time, but that's 138 beds with
10 Caltrans' support and approval.

11 So to sum that up, Your Honor, that would bring
12 us up to 590 -- approximately, 590 beds. The entire
13 nonshelter homeless population in my district, excluding
14 vehicle dwelling is 693.

15 JUDGE CARTER: So just a moment. The homeless
16 population of 1,613 includes your vehicles?

17 MR. KREKORIAN: Right.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Taking away from that, it would
19 come out to 600--some basically sleeping in tents or on
20 the sidewalk.

21 MR. KREKORIAN: Exactly.

22 JUDGE CARTER: But you're awfully close to
23 that.

24 MR. KREKORIAN: 590 of the 690.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you all. Okay. I'll be

1 back to you and vice versa. My phone's open to you
2 anytime.

3 MR. KREKORIAN: Very well. Thank you very
4 much, Your Honor.

5 JUDGE CARTER: And it's been a pleasure.

6 MR. KREKORIAN: Thank you very much,
7 Your Honor.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you very much. You've
9 been exemplary. I appreciate the tour.

10 Okay. I'd like to take council of District 4
11 in just a moment.

12 Armando, would you show -- go back.

13 Okay. This is the river bed, I guess, dry
14 river beds now. This is your district. See that
15 bridge? Who's living up there? It looks like human
16 beings; right? Is that acceptable?

17 MR. RYU: I'm sorry, sir?

18 JUDGE CARTER: Is that acceptable?

19 MR. RYU: It is completely unacceptable.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Good. We're on the same page.

21 Armando, next one. Totally and completely
22 unacceptable.

23 I'm going to turn this over to you. No one
24 should be under the bridge like that, and if that's our
25 understanding of Los Angeles, that's the gateway to the

1 city.

2 MR. RYU: Thank you, Judge. Thank you for your
3 collaborative efforts with the entire City Council. I
4 know we've met on several occasions and have spoken on
5 the phone as well, and you've also done that with all my
6 colleagues as well.

7 I do have some pictures of my -- some of my
8 projects that are open today that I can share with you
9 as well as a hot sheet map of some of the hot spots,
10 homeless encampments, and the pictures that you've shown
11 are actually those unhoused neighborhoods that is kind
12 of invisible to the public because they all at the LA
13 river, but we have lots of homeless individuals that are
14 camped out especially under the freeway underpasses.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Now, before I take that trip
16 with you, we only have jurisdiction initially because of
17 the Preliminary Injunction, which I vacated a good faith
18 to work with everybody to give this a shot, and so I can
19 only talk to you today -- and, unfortunately, I'm going
20 to delay it. Until we have an omnibus settlement, I
21 don't have any jurisdiction. So what I've got is I've
22 got the number -- can you help me. I can't see that
23 one.

24 MR. RYU: 47.

25 JUDGE CARTER: 47. What do we do with 47

1 people?

2 MR. RYU: Thank you, sir.

3 JUDGE CARTER: And later on there would be an
4 omnibus agreement in order to work together for the
5 benefit of your district.

6 MR. RYU: So these pictures are for projects in
7 my district that can house those who are in the
8 settlement area.

9 JUDGE CARTER: Can you house them now?

10 MR. RYU: I'm sorry?

11 JUDGE CARTER: Can you house 47 people now?

12 MR. RYU: Yes, sir. So it is fortunately our
13 unhoused population under or near freeway underpasses.
14 We have about 47 in District 4.

15 JUDGE CARTER: What kind of housing do we have
16 for them? How do we improve their lives?

17 MR. RYU: So right now I have a hundred beds
18 open that opened two weeks ago with vacant beds. That's
19 the Riverside Bridge Housing facility, which you have
20 pictures for there. I don't know, latest, what the
21 vacancy is. I'm sure we have over 50 vacancies, you
22 know, for every single one of our unhoused neighbors in
23 Council District 4 near bridges. I'm trying to report
24 from PATH, who is -- so there's pictures behind too.
25 No, behind the inserts.

1 JUDGE CARTER: Oh, got it.

2 MR. RYU: And we do have great reports early on
3 that some of the unhoused neighbors in the freeway
4 underpasses are willing to accept services and accept
5 housing. We're getting an updated report, as we speak,
6 to see how many has actually accepted. We believe 11
7 expressed interested in the past, recent past. So we're
8 very hopeful that those 11, if not more, or we actually
9 have the ability to move the entire encampment indoors.

10 Now, every single one of the individuals
11 accepting might be another sorry, but we are lucky
12 enough to have 100 beds that just opened two weeks ago,
13 and we also have another 80 beds that are going to open
14 also in the Los Feliz area. We don't have an exact
15 date, but we're very confident, with support from the
16 Mayor's office, that they will open by the end of the
17 year. That's 180 beds, plus we'll also have RV parking,
18 safe parking in the Sherman Oaks area. It looks like it
19 will be 13 and will actually open by the end of the
20 year. So by the end of the year, we'll have about
21 200 units, which is probably four-fold of the population
22 that we have in Council District 4.

23 But more importantly in Council District 4, we
24 have about, depending on which LAHSA and County numbers
25 you look at, we have roughly about 1100 homeless

1 individuals overall and about a thousand of them are
2 unsheltered, and those numbers could be off maybe --
3 maybe by a hundred, or something like that, pending on
4 the number account.

5 So the goal in my district is to try to build
6 housing for every single one of those individuals
7 because, as you know, Judge, my district borders many of
8 my other neighboring council districts. So just because
9 we are successful in Council District 4, does not mean
10 we can solve the homeless problems, and we are working
11 very closely with Councilman Mitch O'Farrell's office,
12 which is bordering the Hollywood area, and also with
13 Council Member Paul Krekorian and Council Member Nury
14 Martinez because we have bordering jurisdictions. And
15 we try to work together because, like I said, just
16 because an encampment is on my side of the district and
17 offers services, it doesn't solve the homeless problem
18 because the homeless problem is a citywide issue, and so
19 we're trying to, in my district, build as much housing
20 as possible. I already have 272 beds already open in
21 the past year. We have another 300 and -- about 335
22 coming on-line hopefully by the end of next year with --
23 with additional programs, like having interim housing;
24 safe parking; Rapid Re-housing, known as scattered-site
25 housing so we can eventually hit that entire thousand or

1 so unhoused individuals in District 4.

2 JUDGE CARTER: I want to thank you, and you
3 know the phone's always open. In five weeks, I'm going
4 to ask you what happened to these 47 people? There's no
5 jurisdiction, either by agreement or by litigation over
6 an omnibus settlement at the present time with the City.
7 That's what Judge Birotte's working on hopefully with
8 all the parties, and we'll resume that shortly, but
9 there is an agreement concerning 500 feet within freeway
10 overpasses and underpasses.

11 I want to show you -- Armando, go back to
12 the -- there's a shark -- just a joke -- but I'm really
13 curious how all these folks are living on this river,
14 and if they're seeking a place that they can live and if
15 there's place with some kind of dignity, some kind of
16 place where they're not being harassed and moved around,
17 so whatever we do, we got to get them something better
18 than what they've got because there's no reason for them
19 to move unless we're offering something better; right?

20 MR. RYU: Correct.

21 JUDGE CARTER: And I'm going ask what that
22 better is and how to define that because I'm having
23 trouble deciding on which district to have any
24 consistency on my part. It varies from district to
25 district. With Curren, I think he's got a huge problem.

1 You, you've got a much smaller problem, which may be
2 easier to deal with. Maybe you've got better access to
3 LAHSA. Maybe they've got better operations with
4 Operation Roomkey. Maybe others may have to go to
5 another methodology.

6 But the death has to stop or it has to start
7 decreasing, and that's the way I'm going to measure this
8 from now on. I'm a little tired of the discussion
9 about, you know, \$600,000 shelters versus encampments
10 versus whatever. I'm going to constantly ask what can
11 we do better for these folks.

12 MR. RYU: So, Judge, my last comment on that:
13 I think that's why scattered-site housing is something
14 that the City of L.A. is looking towards because that
15 gives permanent supportive housing that we could put
16 individuals in. So we have immediate placement
17 available for my constituents living on the L.A. river,
18 but one challenge that we do have is it is easier to
19 build Bridge homes and Bridge shelters as well as pallet
20 homes. But, in many cases, many of our unhoused
21 neighborhoods don't want to go to an open setting of
22 that kind.

23 JUDGE CARTER: And if these were permanent, how
24 could we possibly get them to leave and they're not
25 lying on the walk?

1 MR. RYU: Uh-huh.

2 JUDGE CARTER: Let me say that again: This
3 idea of permanency is ridiculous, but living on the
4 sidewalk also with this death rate is also ridiculous.
5 So, in a way, I don't see us making a lot of progress
6 with \$4- to \$600,000 of long-term supportive housing,
7 quite frankly, in the volume we need. And I just want
8 you to take \$400,000 or take the minimum amount that's
9 been tossed around times 60,000 people. What is that?

10 MR. RYU: About five, six. No, seven.

11 JUDGE CARTER: Billion. So I don't see any
12 problem diverting a little bit, like \$2.6 million that
13 the City's had and the County's had over the last
14 24 months; do you?

15 MR. RYU: No, sir.

16 JUDGE CARTER: So if could probably walk and
17 chew gum at the same, we can.

18 MR. RYU: Yes, sir.

19 JUDGE CARTER: I'm just waiting for somebody to
20 come up here and tell me we don't have any resources and
21 money.

22 MR. RYU: Well, we have it now.

23 JUDGE CARTER: We'll have a discussion about
24 that.

25 MR. RYU: Yeah, and that's in the long-term.

1 In my district, I've approached it from having temporary
2 shelters all the way permanent supportive housing. We
3 know the permanent supportive housing model is ideal and
4 is very expensive and takes two to three years to build
5 if -- if we're lucky.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Or much people will die.

7 MR. RYU: Right. And that's why we're pushing
8 for scattered housing, which will get people into
9 housing immediately, and that's going to require a huge
10 effort on our part, but that also needs the services you
11 mentioned from the County.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Let's get them off the street
13 and give them a shower, shave. Let's get them some help
14 in the meantime, okay, temporarily; fair enough?

15 MR. RYU: Fair enough, sir.

16 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Thank you very much. I
17 want to thank you again. You know me as Dave on a
18 first-name basis.

19 MR. RYU: Great name, sir.

20 JUDGE CARTER: John, I apologize. I see you
21 right there. Nice seeing you.

22 I'm going to show you a photograph, John, and
23 thank you for taking me on a tour of your district.

24 MR. LEE: Of course.

25 JUDGE CARTER: And could you put up, Armando,

1 District 12.

2 I'm absolutely positive that this is your
3 underpass.

4 MR. LEE: I'm sorry?

5 JUDGE CARTER: Is this your underpass?

6 MR. LEE: It could possibly be.

7 JUDGE CARTER: I think it is, but there are
8 folks there seeking shelter.

9 And next. Next one.

10 Do you recognize this, John?

11 MR. LEE: No. I apologize, Your Honor.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Next one. Next one. Next one.

13 I think we walked down this street?

14 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah.

15 JUDGE CARTER: That young man lifting weights;
16 remember?

17 MR. LEE: I do remember.

18 JUDGE CARTER: You reached out and gave him a
19 lot of help.

20 MR. LEE: Yeah, we reached out to him, and we
21 asked him. We know that he has shown interest in
22 moving. He's willing if where able to find someplace
23 for him.

24 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Federal Court signs all
25 sorts of orders.

1 Can you keep going, Armando. I want to see the
2 effect of our orders. Could you keep going back. Keep
3 going. Keep going. Right there.

4 Did a wheelchair pass?

5 MR. LEE: Yes, sir.

6 JUDGE CARTER: I'm sure a lot more of the
7 people down in Skid Row walking the street, but also
8 there's some of the builders down there putting nice
9 planters, but we'll get to that in just a moment.

10 Okay. Your numbers and what can you do?

11 MR. LEE: Your Honor, you and I discussed this
12 a few weeks ago. It's been a little busy. It's more
13 than a year since I was elected. So I think we've made
14 incredible advances in trying to identify different
15 properties that can hold a whole host of different
16 needs.

17 As expected, Your Honor, as we move to the
18 initial process of identifying properties, the
19 properties come off for whatever reason. We find just
20 as many that pop up. So it's a constant movement of
21 trying to identify as many places as possible. We have
22 very little in the way of vacant City-controlled
23 property.

24 JUDGE CARTER: Just a moment.

25 Armando, can we go back to that initial slide.

1 This is what is of concern to me, and that's
2 the numbers. I'm going to kick you a little bit because
3 we have a very little City property; right? And all I
4 hear is excuses and too expensive. All these look like
5 they're under review.

6 MR. LEE: Correct.

7 JUDGE CARTER: But if we added up the numbers
8 and you were successful, that's a lot of capacity. I
9 mean this would be -- you would not only take care of 70
10 people, but you would be well on your way down to a good
11 portion of --

12 MR. LEE: Yes, Your Honor. As identified,
13 while we do have the lowest number of unhoused living in
14 the underpasses, that's definitely not the goal that
15 we're setting. We're obviously setting our sights much
16 higher. There's a lot of different properties that we
17 are moving on.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Part of my frustration is we
19 started with thousands of pieces property I'm being told
20 the City had, and now it went down to 400, then 250 of
21 those are in some kind of magical consideration.
22 There's a problem.

23 MR. LEE: I'm sorry?

24 JUDGE CARTER: There's a problem. These
25 properties, they're all under review. How long have

1 they been under review?

2 MR. LEE: Those individual properties? I'm
3 sorry, Your Honor. I don't know exactly which
4 properties because --

5 JUDGE CARTER: Well, why don't you and I get
6 together so we don't belabor this.

7 MR. LEE: Sure.

8 JUDGE CARTER: We got MetroLink, Park and Ride,
9 the courthouse property, the House of Worship. They're
10 all under review.

11 MR. LEE: Yeah. I believe the properties that
12 are located under the Department of Transportation,
13 we're trying to look at those. We just asked the
14 Councilman Ryu about having that whole -- what we can do
15 for those immediate people that live under our
16 underpasses. I think that's a goal that we definitely
17 can achieve the next time we meet. That's something
18 that we are in the process of not only identifying some
19 City property that we do have not only safe parking, but
20 we also met with seeing the pallets and the uses of it
21 in places, and also met with different service providers
22 to make sure that we have a good fit in moving forward.

23 JUDGE CARTER: I don't want to be blunt, but I
24 will be. I hear the problems, but what's the solution?

25 MR. LEE: So, you know, we have -- I just want

1 to give you some updates on where we are.

2 So we're moving on the safe parking location
3 that has been identified in the area close to where we
4 were walking together that day. In discussion with City
5 agencies, we are trying to identified service providers.

6 We're currently looking at roughly a
7 2,500-square-foot site that we think will accommodate at
8 least 150 interim beds. We met with someone. I believe
9 you know the name, Bill -- is it Taormina? He said that
10 he could work with you in Orange County -- Taormina.

11 JUDGE CARTER: Taormina?

12 MR. LEE: Yeah. We met with his --his family
13 members and the property owners at the site yesterday.

14 JUDGE CARTER: And I know all about the legacy
15 interest, and you don't have to divulge any of that.

16 MR. LEE: Correct. Correct. And so I think
17 this is a perfect site. We want to take a look at it to
18 see the different uses for what I think that we want to
19 see there, and what we talked with the providers about
20 not just having shelters and not just having a roof over
21 their heads. This is a perfect facility that would
22 provide medical facilities, job training. If you know
23 the site, it just seems like a perfect site, and
24 Mr. Taormina's company said they can absolutely get that
25 done for you in Orange County.

1 JUDGE CARTER: I want to thank you and just say
2 that hopefully we're going to meet and hopefully you'll
3 be kind enough to join me here, once again, with the
4 Council Members, and I'm certainly going to ask one
5 question, and that is: What's occurred between today
6 and the next meeting date? What promises have you made?
7 What can you point to between today's date and when we
8 meet in five weeks?

9 MR. LEE: Well, I believe that we have -- we
10 have just identified something for Project Homekey,
11 approximately, I want to say, 60-plus -- 60-plus beds
12 that we're looking to acquiring or putting applications
13 in for --

14 JUDGE CARTER: So Homekey might be 60 beds?

15 MR. LEE: Correct.

16 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

17 MR. LEE: Correct, sir.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Great.

19 MR. LEE: And we are also moving toward the
20 property we were just talking about, the
21 2,500-square-foot property. We will have a project
22 moving forward at that location. I think the way that
23 it's built, if we are talking about the same property,
24 it is ideal that we can immediately provide, not only
25 just for family units but individuals, a safe place.

1 And, again, we're trying to look at all the different
2 uses of the one company that we are trying to partner
3 with, and we met with Hope of the Valley, which can be
4 utilized as both a shelter and also Bridge Housing, and
5 also they can expand the kitchen because it's already a
6 commercial-size kitchen on site. If they we can expand
7 that, then they can sort of use that as the center hub
8 for the entire valley.

9 We're unclear of the numbers, but Mr. Taormina
10 is supposed to get back to us an actual amount, but I
11 believe that project can go forward -- the safe parking
12 on the DOT sites, possible pallet identification, and
13 Project Homekey -- in nine weeks.

14 And then we have long-term private sites, like
15 industrial property using, like, philanthropic
16 investments. We found in these times that, you know,
17 instead of just giving money, people are willing to give
18 a little bit more, and we're partnering with a bunch of
19 companies that I think are going to be private and will
20 truly transform what is involved, and that's potentially
21 90,000square feet.

22 JUDGE CARTER: I want to thank you. I
23 appreciate it. Nice to have you.

24 MR. LEE: Thank you.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Hello. Hello, Paul. Can you

1 hear us?

2 MR. KORETZ: Yes I can.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Hi. How are you?.

4 MR. KORETZ: I'm doing well. I know you're on
5 here somewhere.

6 JUDGE CARTER: I'm here. I'm Dave Carter.
7 It's nice to meet you.

8 MR. KORETZ: Yes, Your Honor. Good to -- good
9 to speak to you again.

10 JUDGE CARTER: Let me turn this over to you.
11 You showed me your district, and you've got District 5,
12 of course, and you have some numbers, about 94 folks
13 within 500 feet of the freeway and about 846
14 unsheltered.

15 MR. KORETZ: Okay. And first of all, just for
16 the record, I do want to express some concerns I have
17 about this solution just because we've heard from the
18 CDC and the County Public Health about actually moving
19 homeless people around other than into shelter is a bad
20 idea due to COVID, and we know certainly that there may
21 be hundreds, if not thousands, of people citywide when
22 we try to move them away from freeway underpasses and
23 move them elsewhere, and they may scatter and spread
24 COVID. So I have expressed those concerns not just from
25 my district but citywide.

1 But having said that, I've been involved in
2 this issue, you should know, for about the 30 years back
3 when we had our last significant increase of
4 homelessness around the early '90s when I was on the
5 West Hollywood council member, and I helped to create
6 the PATH program, which now houses over 2500 homeless
7 people. So I'm certainly concerned and have been for
8 many years.

9 I also want to note that I made it clear to
10 everyone that I've spoken to that any location we can
11 find anywhere in my district, regardless of
12 circumstances, we will use and regardless of
13 neighborhood objections.

14 Ironically, I might have the noobiest district
15 in the City, but I've got very little push-back as we've
16 tried to find sites. Unfortunately, we found sites
17 that, one after another, have fallen through, and I have
18 driven the district many times as have my staff and
19 community members, and we've tried a number of things to
20 create Bridge Homes. Usually, either a developer will
21 take the site from under us as we're in the process of
22 leasing, or we -- we find that the person that seems
23 interested eventually drops their interest and says that
24 they're a private property and decided to let us do it.

25 So it hasn't been -- for lack of effort or

1 community support, it is just been difficult, and we
2 have so little obvious space and so few empty lots and
3 such a high property value that, for all of us, it's
4 been tough.

5 JUDGE CARTER: You have the San Vicente
6 encampment?

7 MR. KORETZ: The San Vicente and what?

8 JUDGE CARTER: The encampment right next to the
9 V.A.?

10 MR. KORETZ: No. That's in Mike Bonin's
11 district. I believe it's on the other side of
12 Sepulveda, which is roughly the boundary.

13 We have gotten a few things moved lately.
14 Ironically, the first site that we sought for Bridge
15 Housing about three years ago, that fell through when
16 somebody bought it to build a huge development; but it,
17 instead, changed hands again. It's a motel that they
18 turned it, from a flophouse where prostitution and drug
19 dealings had gone on for about 30 years, into a very
20 nice site, and then they were willing to let us lease
21 it. So that's our first location.

22 We also have enough affordable housing project
23 just about to open near Pico and Robertson. It took us
24 over ten years to get to this point, and it's going to
25 house seniors and veterans, and both of those were

1 listed as interventions and development in our plan that
2 was submitted.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Well, let me ask you
4 something, Paul. I don't have any jurisdiction nor is
5 there any kind of agreement between the parties. I
6 wanted to focus on the 94 people we have within 500 feet
7 of the freeway.

8 MR. KORETZ: Well, I do have a list of proposed
9 interventions that we're working on, none of which,
10 unfortunately, is nailed down at this point, but there
11 are -- are many that are possibilities, the sites
12 through HHH projects that are in predevelopment and a
13 state parking site that we're pursuing on National
14 Boulevard in the Palms with about 20 spaces. We have
15 some possibilities.

16 The one we're enthusiastic about is the interim
17 housing concept represented by pallet shelters and tiny
18 houses, and I'd be happy to place a number of these
19 various locations in my district on the Westside;
20 although, like I said, none of them have been completely
21 solidified.

22 Two locations I've proposed are where the city
23 currently has short-term COVID-related gymnasium shelter
24 and trailer installations in a couple of our large
25 parks, and these are controlled by the Department of

1 Recs and Parks, which understandably is feeling that
2 it's hard for the homeless this year, and some of those
3 neighbors dislike that it takes up space in the parks.
4 But since I have no unused or city-owned property in my
5 district, other than the one HHH site that's already in
6 the works, I don't see how I can fulfill your mandate
7 without that department's help in letting us some place
8 tiny houses.

9 JUDGE CARTER: And what -- what department is
10 that again?

11 MR. KORETZ: Parks and Recreation.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Okay.

13 MR. KORETZ: The two parks that we asked to be
14 considered as sites for the pallet houses.

15 JUDGE CARTER: And what are you asking of me to
16 help you?

17 MR. KORETZ: If you have a way to help out with
18 those developments, I -- I would like to build around 50
19 pallet homes in those two combined sites, which I don't
20 think is that -- that much to ask, but that is about 50
21 of the spaces.

22 JUDGE CARTER: And, Paul, have you approached
23 Parks and Recreation about this?

24 MR. KORETZ: I think we have asked informally
25 and have been given a "no," but we're setting up a

1 meeting with Department Management now to talk to them
2 about it.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Why don't we do this: Instead
4 of belaboring it now, why don't you and I talk and see
5 in five weeks about having another get-together and see
6 if there's been any progress on your part or if I could
7 help. Certainly, we'd like to enter into that with you.
8 But in the meantime --

9 MR. KORETZ: Okay. We also have another site
10 immediately adjacent to one of the parks that is
11 controlled by the Department of Water & Power that we
12 think we can do 25 spaces. The Department of Water &
13 Power has been unwilling to do so, and we have a meeting
14 scheduled to discuss that as well.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Do you know if that is scheduled
16 today in this council chamber?

17 MR. KORETZ: I don't know if it's scheduled or
18 if it's in the process, but it should be within the next
19 few days, either way.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Well, let me -- let me
21 thank you, then. Instead of putting you on the spot,
22 why don't we just talk in five weeks and see how
23 comfortable you at that time.

24 MR. KORETZ: Yes. Then exterior for the City,
25 the City was in discussion with the Mayor and HUD

1 Secretary Carson before the pandemic hit about space on
2 the federal building parking lot, and that was suspended
3 during COVID. I have a call in to Ted Lew (phonetic),
4 and I think we have an appointment scheduled to see if
5 he can help us get an agreement for what I would hope to
6 be about 100 spaces potentially there.

7 There also could be some space for some
8 additional veterans at the VA's existing encampment
9 sites, which is just outside my district, but they've
10 expressed willingness that, potentially, if we can find
11 veterans would be between 50 and 100 spaces.

12 Most promising, I had a discussion with the
13 chancellor of UCLA, and there are two parking lots that
14 might be available for this calendar year because a lot
15 of students are not on campus. Those are not certain.
16 Probably more certain and a little longer term is
17 there's a lot, which they were planning on building
18 faculty housing on. Their financing and others things
19 have changed. So it's more likely that they would be
20 able to lease that site to us for three years, maybe
21 more, and that would be about 50 to 100 spaces at that
22 location.

23 Also, lastly, there's a small portion of my
24 district that's in Encino where we have possibly 50 to
25 100 homeless people near the 101 Freeway. What we don't

1 have is any location with -- Encino's built out, and the
2 city-owned property is north of the 101 Freeway in
3 Council President Nuri Martinez's district.

4 JUDGE CARTER: Sure.

5 MR. KORETZ: And I'd be happy to collaborate
6 with her and creating an intervention. I don't know
7 what she's proposed for that area, which districts, if
8 anything, but I'd be -- I'd be open to that.

9 And also there is a hotel that's currently part
10 of Project Roomkey, and we're pursuing for acquisition
11 using State funds. If the property owner winds up not
12 being willing to do that, which is a distinct
13 possibility, I wish we had the ability to eminent domain
14 of a couple of the sites in my district like. We've
15 been given discouraging legal advice about that process,
16 but it seems like a tool that would be valuable and
17 especially in my district where there aren't that many
18 sites. I would love to be able to pursue the eminent
19 domain process.

20 There's a few other buildings that are in the
21 process that are smaller, that probably aren't worth
22 going over today.

23 And, finally, we have a list of residential
24 properties that are being newly foreclosed, and if we
25 were able to obtain those for shared housing, which is a

1 concept successful in Westwood and which I know
2 Councilman Bonin is a fan of, we can see around 30
3 people at least at these locations. So I'd ask the City
4 to pursue those as well.

5 So those are all the things that are possibly
6 in the works; but, as I said, none of them are 100
7 percent opened up.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Well, first of all, let me thank
9 you very much for appearing today. I appreciate it.

10 I want to correct one thing and that is: This
11 Court in good faith has given a tremendous amount of
12 discretion when the City and the County entered this
13 agreement. So this is now the City and County's
14 agreement, and my time schedule of September morphed
15 into 10 months. So this is your agreement now. This is
16 your bargain, not the Court's. Whatever action
17 hopefully need in the future, let's just leave that work
18 on the table in good faith if possible.

19 And I wish you the best, and why don't we talk
20 in five weeks and see if there's been a bit of progress
21 that you're comfortable with and just be kind enough to
22 tell me so.

23 Lastly, I say this: I will constantly ask you,
24 as a councilperson, what decreases inhumanity? I will
25 constantly ask you how you've helped or guided me in

1 terms of your efforts to decrease the death rate on our
2 streets, and I look forward to working with the Council
3 in that regard.

4 As you know, I'm also very concerned about the
5 past costs because the past costs because the cost has
6 been an option, the idea that it's \$400,000 for
7 long-term supportive, and now it's \$600,000 units, which
8 would be something that I think we would all champion if
9 we do it.

10 Eminent domain, a wonderful idea if we could
11 get it. Mike was just here. Certainly, if we can get
12 the Ritz-Carlton or the hotels, we'd be obliged for
13 that.

14 Meanwhile, I'm very much concerned about the
15 rising numbers but, more importantly, about just the
16 inhumanity of the deaths in the various cities. We
17 shouldn't be callous to that.

18 So, Councilman, I want to thank you very much,
19 and hopefully we'll talk soon.

20 MR. KORETZ: Thank you. And thank you for your
21 approach to this and in helping to bringing the County
22 and the City together in this effort.

23 JUDGE CARTER: Well, hopefully, this will work.
24 If not -- if it doesn't work now, I don't know when
25 because it's been going on well into 17 years.

1 MR. KORETZ: Or longer.

2 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you very much, Councilman.

3 As the chairperson, let me call on you, Nury
4 Martinez, if you have any further comments or thoughts
5 you'd like to make.

6 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you, Your Honor. I can
7 just give you a brief update. I'll make it really quick
8 in terms of my district plan.

9 If we weigh the homeless population of
10 approximately 125 individuals, we have two locations in
11 Sun Valley that are being vetted by the Bureau of
12 Engineering, and we will be proceeding with designing
13 along with establishing an implementation calendar.

14 Eighty public shelters from a private company
15 provided us a possible layout with 60 public shelters
16 for 180 sites, which is currently being under review.

17 In addition, we are looking at 14 safe parking
18 spaces for RVs at a City-owned parking lot in Sun Valley
19 as well, and the Bureau of Engineering has provided some
20 designs for both these two sites.

21 We have eight properties currently being vetted
22 for feasibility. Some are privately owned and some are
23 publically owned and will be undergoing their
24 availability very soon in the next couple weeks.

25 Lastly, we have 10 properties that are not

1 immediately available, but we're looking at those 10
2 different sites and want to keep those in mind for our
3 long-term efforts.

4 As our work continues on Monday, we'll be
5 opening up 70 beds in Van Nuys or under the Bridge Home
6 program.

7 Your Honor, we haven't faced any extraordinary
8 challenges yet. So I don't have any critical problems
9 to report at this time. In the next few weeks, we'll be
10 taking steps to make sure we are proceeding with design
11 and resources for these sites so they can become
12 feasible in the near future.

13 Time is of the essence, Your Honor, and my
14 staff knows that we've got to make sure we come to you
15 with a real timeline to be able to meet our obligations
16 that are set forth by our agreement with you. No matter
17 what the challenges or difficulties are, it's our
18 obligation to deliver, and that's what we plan to do.
19 Thank you.

20 JUDGE CARTER: I want to thank you, and I want
21 to thank you for being so gracious for waiting to be the
22 last person concerning your district. It's
23 extraordinary and very much appreciated.

24 I'd like to turn to the County.

25 JUDGE CARTER: It's good to see you by the way.

1 MR. MILLER: Same here.

2 Could I just bring up a preliminary matter?

3 Your Honor mentioned a document was delivered this
4 morning, and we haven't seen that document. I asked the
5 City Attorney if they would provide us with a copy, and
6 he said he would. So we look forward to seeing that
7 document because if it's a matter of concern to us --

8 JUDGE CARTER: I don't think most of the
9 members of the Council have received the document.
10 Apparently, it was dated August 5th. I just received a
11 copy this morning.

12 MR. MILLER: Okay. Well, I'm sure sooner or
13 later we'll all see it.

14 I guess our report is that we're moving forward
15 with our -- our freeway homeless and our over-65
16 homeless. It's approximately --

17 JUDGE CARTER: Skip, could you just hold on a
18 second. I'm just wondering, because I'm going to show
19 certain things after the County's done, could we get the
20 head of the agencies together with the Mayor's
21 permission and use the Special Master and maybe
22 Judge Birotte? I'm just wondering if all you folks
23 could meet with the Special Master and Judge Birotte and
24 Skip, and I think that will save a lot of time.

25 So if you'd like, agency heads, come forward, I

1 think, instead of waiting. And there's one question I
2 would like to ask: Is there any way we can speed the
3 process? I was going to ask the Mayor about that.

4 Yeah, we're going to take you in the back if
5 that's okay.

6

7 (Brief interruption)

8

9 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Thank you very much.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, there's
11 representatives from the Fire Department and Sheriff's
12 Department. One of them has to go in for some kind of
13 medical treatment, and they would like permission to
14 leave.

15 JUDGE CARTER: Hold it. They're invited.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's okay?

17 JUDGE CARTER: I especially want to thank the
18 Sheriff for being here.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Just as long as we resolve the
21 ten feet, six feet apart. Everybody's struggling with
22 those different standards in the different counties. So
23 you don't have be in uniform. It's just an oddity.
24 It's a six-foot distance in Riverside, and ten-foot
25 distance here, and three-foot distance someplace else.

1 MR. MILLER: Okay. So I wanted to give
2 Your Honor a report on the freeway and over-65 homeless
3 in the Unincorporated.

4 When we started this process, it was around
5 350. We took it down by more than half that, about 170,
6 175 in the Unincorporated, and now it's crept back up to
7 about 200, 250, 256, or something like that.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Went down and back up.

9 MR. MILLER: Yeah, it went down and back up.
10 Maybe the word's out that if you go to the freeway and
11 you're homeless. I don't know, but we're all over it.
12 We're on it.

13 JUDGE CARTER: Skip, this is important. The
14 court reporter needs to use the restroom. Could you
15 freeze for a moment so the court reporter could use the
16 restroom for a second.

17 And thank you so much. I'm glad to know that.

18

19 (Recess taken from 1:31 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.)

20

21 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Back on the record,
22 please.

23 MR. MILLER: Okay. The other item is that
24 we're working with the City toward a long-form MOU on
25 the -- to flesh out the binding term sheet that we

1 entered into, and it's been a give-and-take; and, you
2 know, I think we're getting close. I think the only
3 major concern for us is we've committed a lot of money,
4 you know, a very significant amount of money, and we
5 want to make sure that there's accountability and that
6 the 67 or 6800 beds are new beds -- new, new beds -- not
7 beds that are in the pipeline or beds that were
8 available somewhere else, but they're additives to, you
9 know, whatever else has been going on. And that's
10 really the main issue that is still out there that I
11 wanted to apprise this Court of.

12 JUDGE CARTER: That's why you've heard my
13 concern about the public's acceptance that there are
14 6800 beds. Those are truly new beds, but I have
15 discounted about 3,000 of those beds because I always
16 felt that the City, by giving us recreation centers and
17 Operation Roomkey, which I think is very complimentary,
18 that those were beds that had already been accounted
19 for.

20 And I always thought that the parties, the
21 Plaintiffs in this matter, would have to come to Federal
22 Court and was going to eventually have a motion before
23 it where one of the parties say, "Judge, we don't want
24 to throw these people back on the street, because they
25 are law-abiding." And, of course, these are

1 recreational centers that people need, especially in
2 poor communities. So that's going to put a politician
3 almost in an impossible position and would have to rely
4 on the Federal Court to make a difficult decision about
5 potentially keeping recreational centers until
6 additional housing can be worked out or putting people
7 back on the street.

8 So I almost discounted that, and I've had the
9 same issue recently, and I had a very good conversation
10 with high complimentary remarks during that conversation
11 with Judge Birotte that there's been a lot of notoriety
12 of about 15,000 new bed spaces being created quickly. I
13 want to make certain that it's completely understood
14 it's 15,000 in addition to the 6,800 because you gave
15 \$300 million to the City, and that accounts for that
16 6,800.

17 The advertisement to the public here is that
18 there's 15,000. That's 15,000 new bed spaces being told
19 that LAHSA's going to create, not taking the 6,800 in
20 the settlement and drawing that in.

21 Now, if we're talking about 21,000 new bed
22 spaces, I'm very excited to do a happy dance. If we're
23 talking about taking that 6,800 and, you know, putting
24 that together, I think that's a tremendous disadvantage
25 to your board in terms of what you're being told, and

1 I'll talk to LAHSA about that in just a moment.

2 MR. MILLER: Yeah, our understanding is that
3 15,000 are new beds.

4 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah.

5 MR. MILLER: And I thought it was -- I heard it
6 was 6700 are new beds. So 15,000 plus 6,700 is 21,700.

7 JUDGE CARTER: That's absolutely our
8 understanding also, but I want to get that on the record
9 just so that LAHSA stands on that because I'm a little
10 concerned about, not loss, but concerned about the
11 County and what's going on and what the public's being
12 told about bed spaces. I was told we have 6,800 beds by
13 agreement, and there's going to be 15,000 new additional
14 beds.

15 MR. MILLER: I can't speak to the 15,000. I
16 wasn't in the loop. I don't represent LAHSA.

17 My understanding, Your Honor, and it's the
18 County's understanding, that the 67- or 6800 beds are
19 new beds, not beds that are already in the pipeline of
20 the City, but new beds, and they're separate and apart
21 from the 15,000.

22 JUDGE CARTER: That's the \$300 million.

23 MR. MILLER: Yes, that's -- that's the County's
24 understanding.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. That's our understanding

1 also. That's my understanding as well. I just wanted
2 to make absolutely certain.

3 MR. MCLAIN: If I could just add one -- one
4 piece, Your Honor.

5 JUDGE CARTER: Well, hold on.

6 MR. MILLER: This is my co-counsel.

7 MR. MCLAIN: I just want to clarify that the
8 15,000 bed plan has not been flushed out completely. So
9 I just want to be clear that that's not something that's
10 definite. It's a goal and aspiration, and so I don't
11 want anyone to take that as a firm commitment. I just
12 want to be clear about that.

13 JUDGE CARTER: And I just want to be sure the
14 Court's position is clear.

15 MR. MILLER: I think we're all clear.

16 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah.

17 MR. MILLER: I think the article I read in the
18 paper, from what I've heard, we're still looking for
19 full financing of the 15,000.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Just as long as your board knows
21 what they're voting on with the Board of Supervisors,
22 and that's the \$15,000 new units.

23 MR. MILLER: I think that pretty much covers it
24 for us.

25 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. One of the reasons for

1 the meeting today was you got a binding agreement with
2 the seven paragraphs. We all have adopted that.

3 MR. MILLER: Right.

4 JUDGE CARTER: And one of the reasons for
5 having the meeting today was we saw the inability to
6 reach an MOU, and Judge Birotte and I expected that that
7 would add milestones, time frames.

8 So, Andre, if you want to make any comments.

9 First of all, let me compliment both of you.
10 Let me tell you something that I think you've done
11 exceptionally well. First, you're paying for beds that
12 are occupied. Let me say that again. Remember, as a
13 provider, even though I'm in good faith, I get a couple
14 million dollars, but there's no incentive for me if I've
15 got a 100-bed shelter that fills all 100 beds. I might
16 fill 70 of those and still make a profit. I think that
17 you two are exempt from the City and County's behalf in
18 negotiating the agreement because you're paying for the
19 beds that are full.

20 MR. MILLER: That's right.

21 JUDGE CARTER: It's simple as that.

22 Number two, I see transparency because nobody
23 wants to see the City and County in contempt. Nobody
24 does. And so the end result is I gave up what I thought
25 was a timeline of September, which I realize couldn't be

1 reached in good faith, to work with the two entities to
2 absolutely attempt giving them a longer period of time,
3 but you hear the panic in my voice because there are
4 people dying out there. I'm giving you a longer period
5 of time in good faith to work with the Court. Okay?
6 But I want to be absolutely clear that the County and
7 City are absolutely responsible for this agreement, and
8 it can't LAHSA, it can't be another entity, it can't be
9 a provider like PATH or whoever, but the County and City
10 are the ones who are going to reach the agreement.

11 Now, Mr. Marcus, I apologize. You wanted to
12 say something.

13 MR. MARCUS: Thank you, Your Honor. I just
14 want to clarify that the County -- first, I can't speak
15 to 15,000.

16 JUDGE CARTER: I'm sorry.

17 MR. MARCUS: I cannot speak to the 15,000 beds,
18 to LAHSA's deal and the issues with that.

19 With respect to the term sheet, the agreement
20 between the City and the County -- and the County is not
21 perfect. Because what the term sheet says is that the
22 new beds, the 6,000 new beds, are beds that are not
23 currently the subject of an agreement between the City
24 and the County to provide funding. It was always the
25 City's intention to use some beds that are currently

1 being imagined or that are in the pipeline which should
2 count towards those 6,000 beds. That was never a
3 question, and it's not what the term sheet says. So for
4 the County to take the position that any bed in the
5 pipeline is not any bed is contrary to the agreement
6 that we made. If they want to try to make a new
7 agreement, we can, but that isn't the agreement that we
8 made.

9 MR. MCLAIN: To be clear, it's not contrary to
10 the agreement. What's described in the agreement -- the
11 first part that you said, that new beds cannot include
12 any bed that has an agreement between the City and the
13 County and then negotiating the details of that. So at
14 first, there was an issue as to whether or not a new bed
15 could be something that was created before the agreement
16 was even signed, and we pushed back and said,
17 "Absolutely not." The City agreed to that. We agreed
18 to that. That's some of the progress that we've made.

19 MR. MARCUS: That wasn't progress. That was
20 never a question.

21 MR. MCLAIN: It seemed like it was an issue.
22 It's not an issue now. The next piece is that it's our
23 understanding that -- and we sent them an exhibit,
24 Exhibits A and B to the MOU. One lists about 1,500 beds
25 that are in the pipeline of new housing; another was

1 about 7,000 supportive housing in the pipeline that the
2 City was already going to do. We're saying that's not a
3 bed.

4 What we're paying for is something that is the
5 pallet shelters, the Rapid Re-housing that we're going
6 to add to the number. So that's where the conflict is.
7 I just want -- I just want to be optimistic that almost
8 80 percent of the MOU we agreed upon, but this is a
9 crucial point that we get clarity on.

10 And we appreciate the Court's guidance on this
11 area and some of the other smaller points, too.

12 JUDGE BIROTTE: What would be the funding for
13 what you've just described? I think you said something
14 about 7,000 beds.

15 MR. MCLAIN: I'm sorry?

16 JUDGE BIROTTE: What would be the funding
17 source for those 7,000 beds that you just mentioned? I
18 think you said there was something on Exhibit A and B.

19 MR. MCLAIN: Yes, those were things that the
20 City already knew. So the City is funding that. What
21 the County is funding is new beds, things that were
22 not --

23 JUDGE BIROTTE: Let me ask Mr. Marcus: What
24 Mr. McLain just described, those pre-date the agreement?

25 MR. MARCUS: The plans for some of those beds

1 pre-date the agreement, yes, but the beds themselves, if
2 they open after the date of the term sheet, are new beds
3 under the term sheet.

4 JUDGE BIROTTE: But wait. They pre-date the
5 agreement. Okay. I just want to play this out. They
6 pre-date the agreement. Let's say we never had the
7 discussion. Where was the funding source going to be
8 for those beds?

9 MR. MARCUS: I don't know. I know the funding
10 sources for those beds had been determined or secured.
11 The City is certainly funding the -- the capital costs,
12 the building costs of those beds, but the funding source
13 of those beds hasn't been determined.

14 JUDGE BIROTTE: So I guess that strikes me as
15 an issue. If the services for those beds had not
16 already been -- been prepaid or resolved, you're now
17 saying, as a result of this agreement, you can use the
18 money that they're providing to you to deal with the
19 beds that you already had planned to build?

20 MR. MARCUS: Some of them, yes. That was
21 always the City's intention was to use some beds in the
22 pipeline to -- to meet the goal that we agreed to in
23 this term sheet. That was absolutely part of it. And
24 the term sheet was clear that the only thing that is not
25 a new bed is a bed that is currently the subject of the

1 agreement between the City and County through funding.
2 That was it. If they wanted to exclude items from the
3 pipeline, if they wanted to exclude beds that had been
4 imagined to that date, they certainly could have done
5 so. They did not. That is not the deal that we signed.

6 JUDGE BIROTTE: Mr. McLain, do you have
7 anything else you want to add?

8 MR. MILLER: May I just respond?

9 So excuse me. What I'm hearing is the City had
10 beds in the pipeline, presumably had a -- an idea how
11 they were going to pay for them or a mechanism or the
12 money was already committed. I don't know. But now
13 they're going to take those beds, and they're going to
14 substitute the money that we're giving them to support
15 those beds. That was not the deal that we made.
16 Absolutely not.

17 So our -- our deal was for -- our \$300 million
18 dollars was for new, new beds, not old beds, the funding
19 source, or a basis, or some, you know, rationale behind
20 it, and then they go out and get our money and fund
21 those prior commitments. Not the deal.

22 JUDGE BIROTTE: Mr. Marcus, let me tell you: I
23 have trouble seeing the distinction you're drawing
24 between the two beds. Walk me through it again. I'm
25 having trouble here.

1 MR. MARCUS: So there are existing agreements
2 between the City and the County. For example, there is
3 an existing MOU in which the County has agreed to fund
4 the services for up to 10,000 units per housing. That's
5 a deal that has already been struck for providing
6 services to beds that are being built by the City
7 because the City is always in charge of the capital
8 costs. We always build the beds. The issue is the
9 service costs of those beds.

10 Under the term sheet that was agreed to between
11 the City and the County, the County only agreed to
12 provide 50 percent, or the average of 50 percent of the
13 cost of the services for those beds. The City is coming
14 up with the other 50 percent of the cost of the services
15 for the beds.

16 The issue is how do we build 6,000 beds in a
17 ten-month time frame? And it was the City's intention,
18 and it was always the City's intention, to use some beds
19 that were currently in the pipeline, beds that the City
20 was developing, and the funding for those beds, I don't
21 know if that had been determined, but it had always been
22 the intention of the City that some beds in the pipeline
23 would count towards that goal.

24 In fact, that is why at the last minute, you
25 will remember, the 6,000 beds actually became 6,700

1 beds, because 700 beds were not new beds under the term
2 sheet, meaning 700 beds are beds that count because they
3 already are part of an existing agreement of funding.
4 So those are excluded.

5 And as a result of that, the City agreed to
6 create 700 more beds to -- to take part -- to take the
7 place of those beds that were already part of the
8 agreement.

9 But the only thing that defines a new bed in
10 the term sheet -- and this is clear from the
11 beginning -- is -- is a bed that is currently the
12 subject of a funding agreement between the City and the
13 County. And that was -- the fact that the County now
14 wants to back out of that deal is unfortunate, but that
15 was the deal that they made.

16 JUDGE BIROTTE: Well, in fact, I have a
17 different view because I do think -- I guess you can
18 take the -- I guess you can go by the actual letter of
19 what's in the term sheet, maybe. I'm not sure I'm
20 there, but I think the intention was -- I mean, in
21 essence, it looks like the City is trying to create --
22 they're trying to get funding for beds that they already
23 committed to do. That's what it looks like. I mean, I
24 don't know how else to say it. That's what it looks
25 like.

1 You already had these beds in the works. You
2 were trying to figure out how to get funding somehow,
3 some way, and now you found the answer, and I seem to
4 recall that's where things sort of broke down. And if
5 my memory serves me correctly, the C.A.O. and C.E.O. of
6 the City met to hash that out, and I think you're right
7 that 700 beds was part of it, but the result that was
8 made clear of that was that anything that pre-dated the
9 agreement, this money wasn't going to be used. That was
10 my impression.

11 MR. MARCUS: And you're correct that the C.A.O.
12 and the C.E.O. did have discussions, and that's what
13 adjusted the numbers. So, again, it was clear in those
14 conversations that --

15 JUDGE BIROTTE: But you adjusted the numbers
16 toward the 700. That's why the 700 -- that's why the
17 number raised up.

18 MR. MARCUS: Because those 700 were not only in
19 the pipeline --

20 JUDGE BIROTTE: They already had an agreement.

21 MR. MARCUS: -- but they were already a subject
22 to the agreement between the City and the County. There
23 were other beds in the pipeline that were not subject to
24 that funding.

25 The issue is that the County didn't want to pay

1 twice for the same beds. That's why those 700 beds were
2 excluded. They were in the pipeline. They were known
3 to both parties, but they were already subject to a
4 funding agreement. The County didn't want to double-pay
5 for those beds. That's completely understandable. So
6 that's why those 700 beds that were already part of an
7 existing agreement for funding were excluded from the
8 6,000 goal. That's why we agreed to create an
9 additional 700 beds to make up for that goal.

10 But the idea that beds in the pipeline would
11 never count towards the goal is absolutely incorrect,
12 and the County is kind of revising history here
13 because those 700 beds were excluded not just because
14 they were in the pipeline but because they were -- were
15 subject to an existing agreement.

16 JUDGE BIROTTE: Hold on. I let you speak. Let
17 me have my turn. Okay? Under your analysis, then, if
18 the City had planned already, had 5,999 beds in the
19 works but they didn't have the services lined up, your
20 position would be that this money that would come in
21 could be used to fund those 5,999 beds?

22 MR. MARCUS: That was the deal we made.

23 JUDGE BIROTTE: All right. And I -- I don't
24 think that's what the County -- I don't think -- and, I
25 guess, how many beds are we talking about?

1 MR. MARCUS: I don't have the precise numbers,
2 but I can get that.

3 MR. MCLAIN: It's 1500. Approximately, 1500
4 beds.

5 MR. MARCUS: I don't know if that's correct or
6 not. I just don't know.

7 MR. MCLAIN: Based on our numbers of 1500, I'm
8 assuming you'll agree that the 7,000 of supportive
9 housing are to be covered by the MOU in 2017. So I
10 would assume we're on the same page on that.

11 MR. MARCUS: Correct.

12 MR. MILLER: You know, my take on this is, if
13 it's 1500 -- and I -- and I have every reason to think
14 he's right -- then they should have said, instead of 700
15 in the pipeline, we've got 2,200 in the pipeline, and we
16 would have had an 8200-bed deal instead of a 6,700 bed
17 deal. They didn't tell us what they were contemplating,
18 and we did not agree to pay for beds that are under the
19 prior MOU. I remember it the same way the Court does.

20 MR. MCLAIN: And to be precise, it's 1,457.

21 JUDGE BIROTTE: I'm sorry? I didn't --

22 MR. MCLAIN: It's 1,457 beds.

23 MR. MARCUS: Again, Your Honor, the 700 beds
24 weren't excluded because they were in the pipeline.
25 They were excluded because there's already an existing

1 funding agreement.

2 And as to the numbers, I'm not questioning
3 Mr. McLain, I just don't have those numbers. So I can't
4 confirm whether it's accurate or not, but I can
5 certainly get that information. But I can say it's a
6 bit disconcerting, Your Honor. The City has --

7 JUDGE BIROTTE: With all due respect,
8 Mr. Marcus, what's disconcerting is the position you're
9 taking from my vantage point, and I'm just -- you can
10 say what you want. I get it. You're not going to
11 budge, but new meant new. I mean new meant new, and
12 this doesn't sound like new because, again, under your
13 analysis, you said, if the City had already been working
14 on 5,999 beds, basically, you would say that that counts
15 even though that was already in the works. But you
16 weren't trying to figure out where you were getting the
17 funding, but now you just got the funding.

18 MR. MARCUS: What I'm saying is that was always
19 the City's intention.

20 JUDGE BIROTTE: I get that. That may have been
21 the City's intention, but I don't think that's the
22 meeting of the minds as it relates to that.

23 MR. MARCUS: Well, that's what the term sheet
24 says.

25 JUDGE BIROTTE: That's your opinion. I mean

1 that's your opinion, and I strongly disagree, but we may
2 have to go back to the drawing board, then. Yeah, or
3 the Court will interpret it, and since there's a
4 disagreement, we'll try to resolve it.

5 Okay. Well, thank you for your time. I
6 appreciate it.

7 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Let me show you a couple
8 things while the Special Master is back in the back, and
9 I think we can thank all of you.

10 I think too often that, at least in my career,
11 in the sense of humanity, and over of the years of being
12 a judge, you're always treating people as a number. So
13 I wonder for a moment that I'd like to talk to --
14 General Jeff's here. I saw Pete for a moment, but it
15 was a privilege talking to First Alliance and being able
16 to walk through the communities and just meet a lot of
17 people who are very concerned about their community.
18 That's been real educational for me in Skid Row.

19 So, General Jeff and Pete's here, and one of
20 the things that occurred to me along the way is that
21 Skid Row has a voice. They're a part of the downtown
22 association, and the development interests are strong in
23 the City with the folks, let's say, uptown. There's a
24 lot of goodness up there.

25 And you look at Skid Row, and you see that the

1 whole country perceives to be focused on Los Angeles and
2 particularly when they talk about Skid Row. That
3 doesn't account for all the homeless population here.
4 It's huge, and it's diverse, but I got very concerned
5 that there was a voice from that community because of
6 Council issues there, and they needed to hear what folks
7 out in Skid Row had to say rather than what all of you
8 were saying as Council.

9 And although I trust your input, quite frankly,
10 I wanted to hear the homeless population, and I had the
11 privilege of that from well over a thousand people with
12 the assistance of General Jeff and Pastor Cue, Pete and
13 his wife, which was well taken on my part.

14 I'm going to invite General Jeff to come up and
15 say whatever he wants to. I've had an earful, quite
16 frankly, about numerous issues, but I'm going to let you
17 have the lectern, and you can have a seat if you'd like
18 to.

19 MR. PAGE: I'm good standing, Your Honor.
20 Thank you.

21 Test. Test. Can you hear me? Oh, there we
22 go.

23 My name is General Jeff. For the last 14
24 years, I was a prior Skid Row resident and leader. I'm
25 a home-grown Angelino, born and raised in South Central

1 Los Angeles in the Crenshaw district, troubled by a lot
2 of what I'm hearing today.

3 First, I want to say on behalf of Skid Row
4 residents and homeless residents outside of Skid Row
5 that I represent, we want to thank you, Your Honor, for
6 convening this matter. We, more importantly, want to
7 thank you for giving a voice to we, the people of Skid
8 Row and of homelessness, because there's always been a
9 long -- a long-standing issue of we, the people, not
10 being able to have a seat at the decision-making table.
11 While we do not have a seat at this table, we do have
12 representations by way of intervenors, and, you know,
13 there is some tracks for that, and so we're definitely
14 grateful for the opportunity to be heard.

15 Myself, I'm here representing Skid Row. Kathy
16 McNenny, who will speak in a minute, is here, and Pete
17 White is in the building.

18 JUDGE CARTER: Is Katherine here, also?

19 MR. PAGE: Yes, she is.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Why don't you ask her to come on
21 up.

22 MR. PAGE: And then Pastor Cue, he was on his
23 way. But, you know, one thing about being a frontline
24 soldier on the fight of homelessness and you get a
25 crisis call, you got to tend to the community. So

1 Pastor Cue is no longer here. He was unable to make it
2 because he had to attend to a matter in the community.

3 You know, I want to be clear and hit the reset
4 button that, you know, we have representatives from both
5 the City and the County and others, but we're not here
6 out of the kindness of our hearts. We're here because
7 of a lawsuit. It's not like anybody said, "Hey, we
8 really got to do something about homelessness, you know,
9 the homeless community." We're not here to help
10 homelessness. We're not here to think about homeless.
11 We are homeless. We're the very people that these
12 decisions are affecting, or lack thereof.

13 And, you know, while we're here in this
14 meeting, which has already been going on for quite a few
15 hours, you know, my -- my personal thoughts are about
16 what -- how many of our constituents died while we've
17 been in this room, which is an average of a thousand --
18 over a thousand per year. I mean that average is around
19 three per day. Okay. Today, that means someone has
20 fallen ill. I had to drive by ambulances on my way here
21 this morning on my walk here from Skid Row.

22 And so when we think of City Hall, where we are
23 right now, it's on the northwest corner of 1st and Main.
24 The most northern corner of Skid Row is 3rd and Main,
25 which is two blocks from here.

1 And so, you know, we can actually look out the
2 window and see homelessness out of every single
3 direction -- north, south, east, and
4 west -- of the building.

5 And so this is a situation that is very near
6 and dear to our hearts because it's our lives. People
7 are dying out here, and, you know, it's so disingenuous
8 to, just moments ago, hear a debate, a legal debate
9 based on a technicality where there's funding allocated,
10 and then the numbers are being played with does it count
11 here? No, it doesn't this. Is it a new bed or old bed?
12 It's pre-existing. Those -- those are not beds. Those
13 are human beings that will be in those beds.

14 So when you get entities that are being
15 legal -- you know, playing legal gamesmanship with each
16 other, you know, you're playing legal gamesmanship
17 with -- with people's lives, with people that I know,
18 people that I know that are dying on the streets. You
19 know when people die anywhere in this city and across
20 the country and the people burn candles, have candle
21 vigils and pay their respects, you know, that's -- and
22 candles like all throughout, not only Skid Row but all
23 across this county, those people can be in beds. Those
24 people can be in housing. Those people can be getting
25 services, but there's no sense of urgency.

1 And so I specifically want to talk about the
2 energy that's going, not only in this city, but across
3 this country and around the world. It's not the
4 politicians that are leading the energy in the streets.
5 It's not the preachers. It's definitely not the black
6 preachers. It's the activists and especially the black
7 activists that are out there in the streets that are
8 fighting for we the people.

9 And when look at Skid row, the majority of the
10 Skid Row population are African-American. You know,
11 when we look at the homelessness in terms of Council
12 Districts 8, 9, 10, you know, we can see that, you know,
13 there's an African -- a strong African-American
14 presence.

15 When we look at LAHSA's numbers, you know, you
16 can clearly see that there's a significant number, the
17 historical number is made of African-Americans in terms
18 of per population, and so there's significant issues
19 because there's a racial undertone to this entire
20 matter.

21 And so, again, we're definitely thankful that
22 Your Honor has given us this opportunity to add our
23 voices and conversation.

24 But when we look at the overall representation
25 across the board, there's not enough African-American

1 representation.

2 You know, there's a lot of black women that are
3 homeless, woman that are homeless with children, and
4 homeless families. There's not enough talk about, you
5 know, low-income or very low-income or even no-income
6 housing for mothers -- mothers with children and
7 families. We're -- we're just, you know, starting the
8 conversation about freeway overpasses and underpasses.
9 You know, Project Roomkey, that's temporary. That's not
10 exciting -- 30 days, 60 days, 90 days -- and then what?
11 It's right back on the streets.

12 You know, where's the significant funding?
13 We're hearing about hundreds of millions of dollars.
14 We're hearing about billions of dollars. Well, where
15 are the -- where's the long-term solutions? You know,
16 that's why we need our voice to be added to this
17 conversation, and it's absolutely just deplorable that
18 time and time again for us to be listening to all this
19 rhetoric about what they hope to establish in the
20 pipeline to be established, and then for Skid Row to be
21 the homeless capital of America.

22 And you have reports from every single council.
23 There are 15 council districts in the city. Oh, minus
24 one, Council District 14, which happened to include the
25 homeless capital of America. So what do we have to do?

1 We have to wait until November before we have our
2 Council Member Elect to come in and -- then it's unfair
3 to Town Member Elect Kevin de Leon because he's got to
4 hit the town on day one with solutions. You know,
5 that's -- you know, we can't expect him to actually come
6 to our -- you know, to this discussion that's been going
7 on for months and months and months and actually have it
8 all fixed out. So Skid Row, we're behind the eight
9 ball, literally, if you will.

10 And so, you know, I'm close with that. In
11 fact, again, we're not here to sing Kumbaya because we
12 all care about homeless folks. We're here because of a
13 lawsuit, and now people are acting like they care,
14 which, in essence, everybody in this room that's
15 listening to this -- this conference has to admit within
16 themselves we're here because of failed leadership.

17 You know, there are 60,000 homeless people that
18 are out here in L.A. County, and we think the number,
19 personally, is higher than that. That's 60,000 people
20 that -- that our elected officials have -- have left for
21 dead, that was forsaken, and the solution -- Project
22 Roomkey, 15,000 max, could never house 60,000. Measure
23 HHH to house up to 10,000 people will never house 60,000
24 people.

25 So the solutions that are being discussed in

1 these very proceedings, which are far more advanced than
2 we have had in recent years, is still significantly less
3 than what's necessary, and it's like I'm here -- I'm not
4 here to make friends with everybody. I know a lot of
5 people in the room, but, you know, I'm just here to hit
6 the reset button, to hit the reality button. While we
7 can pat each other and ourselves on the back, we're
8 still far short from where -- where we are.

9 And speaking of short, you know, for me and for
10 my constituents that I represent, you know, LAHSA has to
11 go. You know, the City and the County -- even legal
12 counsel, they can't even agree together. If they can't
13 get an agreement on a number, how in the heck are they
14 going to get any solutions agreed upon? And so in the
15 meantime, we, the people in Skid Row, and we, the people
16 of homelessness across the entire city of L.A. County,
17 are suffering in the meantime.

18 So just like when Governor Brown shut down the
19 C.R.A., the redevelopment agencies, you know, now they
20 put in place a successor agency. It's now time to see
21 what a successor agency to LAHSA would look like.
22 There's a waste of \$400 million annually. There's a
23 starting point right there. The City can take its
24 resources back. The County can take its resources back.

25 Thank you for your time, Your Honor, for your

1 time.

2 JUDGE CARTER: Don't go away. I want to thank
3 you and Katherine for being here. I want to have a
4 meeting with the advocates in Skid Row just as I have a
5 meeting with First Alliance, the Intervenors, and the
6 City and County.

7 And it's somewhat unique because normally I go
8 to the councilperson first, you know, as a courtesy.
9 But in this case, I'm really very pleased, and humbly
10 so, that I had a chance to go to the community first,
11 and I think that's been a real plus and a real
12 education, and I say that with humbleness.

13 I'd like you to stay with me because I want to
14 talk to all of you folks and just start with: What the
15 heck is this judge doing about something called pallet
16 shelters? Why would I be interested? And I got to tell
17 you I may need your help and impression on this in just
18 a moment.

19 And, Armando, I want you to start with just
20 something that I showed the Mayor. Remember when I
21 first came down here, I had the pleasure of meeting all
22 of you, although I may have been a little abrupt, and I
23 want to apologize for that on my part. I'm a product of
24 my own experience. You have to understand that. So I
25 need help along the way.

1 I need to grow and continue to grow. And so I
2 saw what this great country can do because I go into
3 combat zones for human rights issues, especially women's
4 issues and especially refugee camps, and a lot of
5 counter-terrorist work. This is the Republic of
6 Georgia. The Russians come across the border of South
7 Ossetia, and you've seen this before, Marqueece. I
8 don't think you have, General Jeff. This is the
9 United States' money, and this took less than 60 days to
10 put up.

11 So I'm not only seeing those huge, huge
12 encampments go up, but look at this housing. I mean
13 really stare for a moment at what this country could do
14 when it takes folks when the City Council is seized
15 upon, and so has the County. That's what you can do.

16 And if I took you up to Mazar-e Sharif in
17 Afghanistan or down to Delaram or flew you over to
18 Shorawak, I could duplicate this with this country's
19 money overnight. Let me repeat that. So if I hadn't
20 seen it, I wouldn't believe it. I'd just say, you know,
21 this judge is making it up. But I got to tell you that
22 if this country wants to do something, my God, we can do
23 it. We're not second to none. We're the greatest
24 country in the world. That's what you can do.

25 So it's hard for me to understand when I first

1 came into the city -- and this is my bailiwick, this is
2 all I knew. I didn't know about tent encampments. I
3 heard about your long-term supportive housing and was
4 absolutely baffled by \$600,000, but if you get -- I
5 applaud you for that.

6 Now, I show up in March whatever, 17th, and was
7 introduced to these module pop-up homes.

8 So, Armando, please show -- I think these look
9 pretty good. As I was told by the City, this was our
10 solution at 16th and Maple, that 50 of these had been
11 purchased by the City, and these were going to be put up
12 under 16th and Maple, and we've been negotiating with
13 the State of California through Caltrans for these.

14 Now, hold on for just a second, Armando.

15 So I actually had Amy bring her crew in. They
16 put it up in 22 minutes. I timed it, and I thought,
17 look. At least this could be purchased. It's moveable.
18 It gets people off the street. For goodness sakes, we
19 don't want to have long-term housing. This is an answer
20 to stop the death rate. That's where I was.

21 So this is Riverside now. This is Rusty
22 Bailey.

23 Hold on. I'm just getting wound up with this
24 one.

25 This is Rusty Bailey out in Riverside. So now

1 these shelters go up. They're not permanent, but I
2 understand the intervenors' point of view, and that is,
3 if you go that route -- I understand your point. I want
4 you to hear that these become the standard and that we
5 don't move on. So I wouldn't care if there was a Sunset
6 Clause, they would have them for 90 days and then move
7 them to a new district. I wouldn't care if we just had
8 them for the wintertime to stop them from dying. Okay?

9 So I just saw this as a quick solution, but
10 then we ran into the bureaucracy. I want you to hear
11 this. Every piece of property that this Court touched
12 turned to mush. Let me say that.

13 Where is Caltrans? Are they here finally? I
14 wanted to hear them by Zoom. I wanted to hear from the
15 Council. We're down to 19, and then we're down to 3.
16 How in the world did we go from 250 pieces of Caltrans
17 properties, representing to the Court that these are
18 available in March, down to 19, then down to 3, and I
19 don't even know what they have? So that's kind of
20 fiction to me.

21 Before we go, maybe give a quick report from
22 Michelle to these folks. So before you leave for a
23 moment, I want to show you what you can accomplish or
24 might choose not to accomplish. And if you hear the
25 rasp in my voice, it's because I'm 76 years old and I

1 wouldn't want to leave this good earth with a mark on my
2 soul if we could do something about this. There's too
3 many dead people, and I really need your help. You can
4 outlast any politician. You can stonewall this if you
5 want to. You can take three weeks. I understand that.

6 But let's go back to the beginning and start
7 again.

8 Armando, show Georgia. My country built this
9 in the Republic of Georgia. Built it in 60 days. The
10 Russians came across into South Ossetia. These go up.

11 I can take you out to Afghanistan. I go there
12 a lot but not lately, seven months now, but I can take
13 you out to the Syrian border to the refugee camps, which
14 I'll show you in just a moment, which is a lot better
15 than what we're doing in Skid Row right now.

16 So I came here with an innate limitation on me
17 that I just knew these kinds of housing. I hadn't even
18 thought about government encampments like the V.A. I
19 haven't even thought about -- you know, I heard about
20 long-term supportive housing and, quite frankly, thought
21 who could support \$600,000 a unit. But if they can get
22 it, pay for it, so be it. Then I heard about
23 \$1.2 billion of triple H funds down to 10,000, down to
24 6,000. God knows. I don't know what to believe. I
25 hope we can get 3,000, and I'm going to make that up.

1 So I came here in March, and the Mayor, who I'm
2 very appreciative of, got up and in good faith said,
3 "Look. We've got 50 of these."

4 So, Armando, show us the 50. Here's 50.
5 There's four homeless people, and I love the fact that
6 the homeless are being employed to clean up Skid Row.
7 Why not pay the bureaucrats to do that or service
8 agencies to help give back to the community? And we set
9 this up at the -- we set this up in the lobby of the
10 Alexandria Hotel.

11 Now, I don't ever want to get in the way of the
12 County. That's their problem. But remember, I'm being
13 sold with my shallow history of seeing this go up in
14 Afghanistan along the Iraqi border, and now I see these,
15 and I think, well, I never want them necessarily
16 permanent, but if we can stop people from dying, why
17 not.

18 And I'm told these 50 shelters would go
19 underneath the 16th and Maple freeways. And, in fact, I
20 was told pointblank that we had been negotiating with
21 the State for six months, and these were going to go
22 underneath the freeways and everybody accepted it. I
23 think Brooke signed off on it. Carol signed off on it,
24 and Shayla signed off on it. We signed off on it at
25 4:00 and realized we needed the EPA report.

1 Now, remember. I'm being told we have 250
2 pieces of Caltrans properties. We're down to 19, and
3 now we're down to 3. So I've given up. Well, I haven't
4 given up, believe me. Okay.

5 Is that permanent? I doubt it. But at least
6 it's an investment because you're not going to get one
7 out in 30 days. We can move them place to place to set
8 them up temporarily. Move them over to Joe's district.
9 Let's get people out of the rain and keep them from
10 dying. At least it's an asset. I don't know if that's
11 perfect or not, and I do understand the Intervenor's
12 concern that it becomes permanent, but they have to
13 understand my concern: That I'm not waiting for
14 \$600,000 units because this has become an interest to
15 me, and I think everybody's got their hand in the pot
16 and people are making money off of this, and people are
17 dying.

18 So here we are. Now, I don't know the cost of
19 infrastructure by the way. Plumbing has to go in, but
20 they don't have plumbing here. They got electricity.
21 Outhouses have to be put up.

22 This is ADA. So this is an ADA facility. So
23 I'm just telling you that this went up quickly. It's
24 a -- I'm not a champion for government encampments. I'm
25 not a champion for pallet shelters. I'm not a champion

1 for long-term supportive housing for \$600,000.

2 Okay. As much as I admire the Mayor, and I'm
3 so appreciative of this Council, you have the solution
4 because you can outlast us; understood? And the problem
5 is I've got to unload a contempt citation in six months
6 if this doesn't get done, because we're down two months
7 now on the City and the County.

8 So the next one, Armando. Just a moment. Bear
9 with me. Next one.

10 Okay. I want to show you something that's
11 really neat that this City did. Okay. For a long time,
12 we didn't have any sanitation. These are our new
13 permanent water supply down in Skid Row. In fact, if I
14 pass away tomorrow, I'd be very happy and very humble
15 with some folks being able to drink out of a water
16 fountain. That's human kindness. Okay. So I really
17 have a compliment to the City Council and the City,
18 because for a long time we couldn't get a toilet out in
19 this City. And it was an abomination down there when I
20 walked down there with General Jeff and Pastor Cue.

21 And, by the way, I was amazed that I was told I
22 was the first federal judge to go to Skid Row. There's
23 a Superior Court judge who goes down there. I go down
24 there now and interact with the people.

25 So next one. You got permanent stations there,

1 and I know First Alliance is concerned about the
2 permanency, but they're not concerned about humanity.
3 The problem is that they don't know what to do in their
4 negotiations with permanency or moving people out and if
5 that's fair, but remember Skid Row needs to be treated
6 fair by all of us.

7 And our jail, we have 20 people running down
8 the street at 4:00 o'clock in the morning with untied
9 shoelaces, which is kind of interesting because they end
10 up at Skid Row and go to the Weingart Center to get fed.

11 Now, I went to a Syrian refugee camp. It's not
12 pretty. Okay. Here's a distribution center. You know,
13 people very graciously line up. We're going to get our
14 tent. We're going to get our food. We're going to get
15 something for distribution.

16 Next one. Now, this is what the camp looks
17 like. It's certainly not pretty, but it looks like Skid
18 Row, and Gary Moore says to me, "I worry about the
19 influx of people who are going to become homeless," and
20 I worry about all of these people coming into our
21 system. We've already got tent encampments that are
22 just scattered all over the place, and it's going to
23 make it awfully hard for Dr. Sherin and all of you to
24 service these because it's astronomical. You're going
25 to have to go place to place. COVID is breaking. The

1 third leading cause, by way of death, people getting
2 killed on the road, homeless people. It's right behind
3 drugs.

4 Next one. These are kids. Okay. Here's your
5 homeless in Los Angeles. I just want to slow down and
6 have you internalize this. These are living, breathing
7 folks, and the problem with me is I've grown so
8 accustomed to sitting about three feet off the ground
9 that I worry about just losing my humanity on occasion.
10 I worry over 42 years of being a judge that I would
11 still like there to be human beings in all of us. Here
12 we are. The police department does an incredible job
13 out there by the way. There's a lady crawling across
14 the street. And by the way, Station 9 down there,
15 they're terrific. You've done a great job. You should
16 be so proud. Human kindness, just helping a person up
17 off the street. You've got to explain that to me. If
18 there's any explanation, please, just raise your hand
19 and tell me how that happened.

20 Next one. This little lady is just sitting
21 there. She has no place to go. And by the way, there's
22 LAHSA housing and three more down the way. We'll talk
23 about that in a minute.

24 Next one. This was out in Skid Row.

25 Next one. Next one. This is one I want you to

1 focus on. This is so common. These people just walk
2 by. Now, just internalize that for a moment. People
3 just walk by. You're the first responders, and I don't
4 know how you do it. But people just walk by. You
5 wonder why? Because nobody goes down there, and I'm
6 over by San Pedro at the light there. I haven't decided
7 to do that yet, but I just may move my court down there
8 next time because nobody goes down there to look at it.

9 Next one. Now, three feet -- you're supposed
10 to give three feet. What a joke.

11 Next one. Now, this is Michelle and I. We're
12 walking along the other day.

13 Michelle, why don't you just describe what
14 happened.

15 MS. MARTINEZ: Yeah. Last week, we were headed
16 to the Central Market for a meeting with service
17 providers, and as we're walking, you know, I see the
18 gentleman, and he just collapsed just right in front of
19 us as we were crossing the street. And, you know, I
20 look at the judge, and I said, "Is he kidding?" And we
21 went to him and say, "Hey, are you okay?" And he just
22 said, "I can't make it to Skid Row." And thank goodness
23 your police department and fire department came. You
24 guys were very gracious and really helped him, but we
25 experienced this for ourselves every day with public

1 safety and just people in general but specifically this
2 homeless person that needed -- he was trying to get to
3 Skid Row, trying to get services and just was fatigue
4 and sick and just wanted help.

5 But I will tell you that we saw a lot of human
6 kindness, just people driving and stopping, wanting to
7 help. So it was great for us to experience what some of
8 you experience here every day.

9 JUDGE CARTER: And I worry about people like --
10 me -- and I use me as an example so I don't use you --
11 who has grown so callous to those folks down at Skid
12 Row. Those folks, they have a sense of community. They
13 love. They care about the crime, and it's easy to pass
14 this off as being crime and drugs. Nonsense. There's a
15 huge amount of kindness down there, and you'd be
16 surprised. The poor gives to the poor. There's some
17 people just reach out, and they'll give a helping hand.

18 Next one. Next one. Okay. Next one. Next
19 one. Next one. Next one. Next one. Next one.

20 Okay. I've taken you through the homeless at
21 underpasses and overpasses.

22 Okay. There's also a debate and, I think, a
23 problem that occurred that I would like -- Wendy Greuel
24 is here.

25 Wendy, are you here?

1 MS. GREUEL: Yes.

2 JUDGE CARTER: Come on up for a moment. First
3 of all, I want to compliment you. I think we can have a
4 reset button. I really do, and I'm very hopeful of
5 that. I want to start very positively.

6 Here's the falsity of what's occurred: "We
7 can't service 65 year olds because, Judge, you're
8 reaching an agreement over the 6,800."

9 Is that still your position?

10 MS. GREUEL: I heard you correctly, Your Honor.
11 You're asking if we are going to serve those that --

12 JUDGE CARTER: Your position -- historically,
13 not yours, Wendy -- but let's say past regime, "We can't
14 service the 65 years olds and older because, Judge, you
15 may be taking assets and resources away by reaching an
16 agreement concerning the 6,800 people living under the
17 overpasses and underpasses." And that may be a
18 bailiwick position, and I may be wrong. So let's
19 discuss that.

20 Is that still your position, or are you going
21 to get on board?

22 MS. GREUEL: So just one thing, I'm one of the
23 chair of LAHSA any a been 0.

24 JUDGE CARTER: I know, and I appreciate that.

25 MS. GREUEL: Yes, I just wanted to you to know

1 why I was here. Amy Perkins sends her best, and I'm
2 texting with her.

3 JUDGE CARTER: I had a very good meeting with
4 her and very complimentary. I want that on the record.

5 MS. GREUEL: So, you know, we believe -- and
6 you can correct me if I'm wrong -- that -- that with
7 focusing in on those underneath the freeways and
8 underpasses and priority of the 65 and older, that we
9 can, you know do that.

10 JUDGE CARTER: Can you do both?

11 MS. GREUEL: Yes.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Then let's have that reset
13 button because I was about to take you on with some of
14 the \$2.6 billion dollars. I was about to point out a
15 lot of figures that made that meticulous argument, we
16 can do both. That's always been the position, and it's
17 been -- it's been harmful, in a sense, in portraying to
18 the public it was either or. That's never been the
19 position, and if you're on board, I'm on board again.
20 Okay? Fair enough.

21 MS. GREUEL: Fair enough.

22 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Let's take care of our 65
23 year olds. We've got the assets to do that, and let's
24 take care of the overpasses and underpasses and see if
25 we can get to those folks, et cetera, and we can do

1 both. We've got the money and the resources, and if
2 anybody wants to challenge me, I'll put up some figures
3 that are staggering. Okay?

4 All right. I want to show you something I'm
5 concerned about.

6 Armando, help me. Would you put up the first
7 chart showing the progression of LAHSA, and this isn't a
8 criticism. I want to start right on the record where
9 you can understand the following. I'm very
10 complimentary because the Mayor and the City has done
11 things faster than has ever occurred before and has been
12 terrific. So let's start out very complimentary.

13 The problem is that all of our eggs are in one
14 basket, and we're waiting for Roomkey that I'm very
15 concerned because it's not that you're not making a huge
16 effort. It's not that you're not being more successful
17 than you've ever been. I just know 41 days went by
18 between this purchase and this purchase. And so if
19 we're about, let's say -- I think you were 3900, maybe a
20 little bit more in terms of room, and I think 3,400 -- I
21 forget the exact number.

22 Next slide. Initially, the rate that was being
23 told to the Board and other people was "We can reach
24 17,000 rooms after April, 2021," and that's a valid
25 chart. I'm not arguing with you. That was as of

1 June 15th, but on July 31st, you could no longer predict
2 or if we could reached the goal of 15,000 rooms that the
3 County has contracted, and I understand you have
4 staffing problems.

5 So these are two statements, and so here's my
6 concern, Wendy: If you can reach 15,000 rooms quickly
7 and house people, I'm your biggest supporter, but if you
8 can't, then the fate of the City and the County is in
9 your hands because I have to hand out contempt
10 citations. It's not against LAHSA. They put all their
11 eggs in one basket. And if you can truly reach this
12 goal, maybe the chairperson of the City Council's buying
13 into this, maybe MRT's buying into this. And if you
14 fail, there's no reason for you to exist. So I'm going
15 to come back to this in just a moment.

16 I'm afraid that the COVID-19 -- I'm not afraid.
17 I hope that the COVID-19 runs out because now we have a
18 vaccine. People are dying. I mean that's our goal.
19 But every time we talk to a homeless person out in the
20 street with Pastor Cue or General Jeff, they say one
21 thing, "Why should I go into Roomkey because it's not
22 guaranteed for 30 days or 60 days," and there's
23 community pushback. They don't want them by a hotel in
24 Lawndale or whatever. So they can't be purchased fast
25 enough, and my fear is that, if we fail in this with a

1 perfect, I've got people dying out there because we got
2 all of our eggs in one basket, and we're afraid of
3 pallet shelters because they might become permanent, and
4 we're afraid of government encampments. Bring all your
5 possessions. I don't care. You can have pop-up
6 shelters, pallet shelters, but the idea that we can't
7 divert a couple million dollars out of \$2.6 billion --
8 or even \$30 million -- is beyond my imagination, and
9 that's why I think we have this reset button between the
10 two of us. If you're resetting, I'm resetting. Let's
11 do both. Let's get it going.

12 Also, you haven't seen this document, but the
13 City is proposing 740 pallet shelters it was 3,000. 740
14 is fine. They can be reused district to district
15 because we can't do all the districts at one time. I
16 need your help.

17 So is Volunteers of America here? Come on up
18 for a moment. I think the Salvation Army is here. I
19 see Dr. Allen. You're here. All right. Where is St.
20 Joseph? No, she was here. Veronica was here.

21 Okay. I didn't know what your position would
22 be. So I kind of just decided maybe I need to --

23 So, Curren, with Volunteers of America, how
24 many teams can we put up?

25 Why don't you come on up here. We can put out

1 how many teams?

2 By the way, say your name for the record.

3 MR. CALHOUN: Karl Calhoun of Volunteers of
4 America. Thank you for allowing me to be here today.

5 We can put up, you know, for Curren's district,
6 Councilman Price's district, we can put out three to
7 five teams based on the need.

8 JUDGE CARTER: I want to thank all of you.
9 Three to five teams. All right. We can also put out
10 health teams, acute mental health teams. Okay. We can
11 literally flood this area, try to get people humanely
12 into better places than we've been able to do in Orange
13 County, quite frankly.

14 So if we want, maybe we can take care of some
15 of the ADA problems in Orange County. Maybe, we can
16 take care of some of the mental health problems. We'll
17 have a tussle over how that's going to occur. I
18 understand that.

19 So if you're on board with LAHSA, you may be
20 the center or you my be ability to implement all of this
21 with Wendy, and if you are, then welcome. I'm looking
22 for central authority. But I don't think you've got the
23 implementation yet. I think you formed out the path or
24 whatever, and that's fine. You're not a pastor. I
25 don't think you're used to implementations, of course.

1 So let me talk to you about that privately.

2 MR. CALHOUN: Okay.

3 JUDGE CARTER: I'd like, with LAHSA, to see if
4 this works. Okay? If it doesn't, then you really hold
5 the City and the County in your hands, and they better
6 heed my word, and that is: If you fail and you take
7 this on and you put all of your eggs in one basket with
8 long-term supportive housing and you can't give us
9 that -- we're talking about 6,800 units -- then the City
10 is going to be in contempt and so is the County. Okay?
11 You understand how important this is?

12 Now, what I'm worried about also is there's no
13 double-counting, and I'm talking to Heidi about that.
14 This 6,800 are created units. That why the County's
15 paying \$300 million to the City. That's why you're
16 paying that money, for units, and it's got nothing to do
17 with the representation made by Heidi to the Board that
18 there are 15,000 new units because what you can't do is
19 take the 6,800 units already promised to Marcus and put
20 those into this package and call that 15,000 because
21 that's not -- you're really creating about 8,000 new
22 units. Do you understand?

23 That's the double-counting that's going on
24 that's causing me a little bit of concern, and I don't
25 know how to turn that. I'm not going to give it a name.

1 I just want you to be on notice that you're representing
2 15,000 to the Board, you're representing 15,000 new
3 units to the Board over and above what was said of
4 6,800. And if not, then the Board of Supervisors is
5 asking for \$800 million for 9,000 units or 6,000,
6 whatever that figure is. Fair enough?

7 Okay. Now, let's go on for just a moment.
8 Okay. I think I've got -- I'm going to show you a sign
9 just to leave you with kind of a smile on your face for
10 law enforcement and for our folks out there.

11 Could you find that last sign that the
12 community introduced me to. It's a parking sign. Yes,
13 right there. Right there. Okay. This is great.

14 If you ever want to see a parking infraction,
15 here it is. I want you to try to park your car and read
16 this sign sometime. I can give you a ticket under any
17 circumstances because this is so convoluted, and I want
18 to keep this sign here for a second. I just chuckled.
19 The City might want to clean that up. Clean it up.

20 Now, let talk to this gentleman here that's
21 arrived at 2:00 o'clock.

22 Come on over and help me by telling me how you
23 can help and introduce yourself to me. By the way, it's
24 a pleasure to have you with us.

25 MR. MOORE: Gary Lee Moore, city engineer.

1 It's a pleasure. We had to oversee the Bridge Home
2 design construction, and we set up a war room, and we're
3 going to continue that to deliver new housing.

4 JUDGE CARTER: I appreciate it. Let's just get
5 that far, meeting each other. We're all trying to get
6 to the same places. So we're going to have huge
7 arguments between all of the parties, but we'll try to
8 get to the same place just maybe in different ways.
9 Okay. Thank you. It's a pleasure to meet you. I want
10 to thank you for being so patient.

11 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 MR. JAMES: Good morning, Your Honor -- or good
13 afternoon, Your Honor. Kevin James. I'm the president
14 of the Board of Public Works, and you have our full
15 commitment to move as expeditiously and as aggressively
16 as possible.

17 JUDGE CARTER: We desperately need your help to
18 stop people from dying because you can out-last us. Did
19 you know that?

20 MR. JAMES: Maybe.

21 JUDGE CARTER: You're more powerful in A sense.
22 You really are. So we desperately need your help just
23 to stop people from dying. I'll be that blunt about it.
24 Okay?

25 MR. JAMES: We're all in.

1 JUDGE CARTER: If you're in, hey, I'm in. I'll
2 work with you. I promise. Thank you.

3 MR. JAMES: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 JUDGE CARTER: It's a pleasure.

5 MR. ADAMS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. I'm
6 Martin Adams, general manager of the Department of Water
7 & Power, and so we are working as well as we can -- all
8 the City departments and Council offices -- to make sure
9 our projects move forward.

10 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, anything you could do to
11 cut through the bureaucracy. I've also talked to a huge
12 number of private builders now. Sometimes they're
13 looking for upgraded zoning. Okay. But other times,
14 there are folks out there who can generally build out.
15 I think some other districts are streamlining quickly
16 and will finance it themselves. Okay. So I mean I'll
17 get the Council approach you about that, but it's a
18 pleasure to meet you.

19 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. We're working on some
20 more great solutions.

21 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Anything you can do to
22 lessen.

23 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, thank you.

24 JUDGE CARTER: I appreciate it.

25 Hold on. We're going to wipe down that

1 microphone.

2 Thank you, sir.

3 MR. ZALDIVAR: Your Honor, it's a pleasure to
4 meet you. Enrique Zaldivar. I'm the general manager of
5 the Bureau of Sanitation and Environment.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Pleasure.

7 MR. ZALDIVAR: We protect public health and the
8 public right-of-ways, as well, throughout the City, and
9 we will help all the other departments with anything to
10 expedite the construction of the temporary shelters.

11 JUDGE CARTER: If you can turn that around.
12 I'm asking, begging, you to somehow decrease the time
13 because it's costly, and I don't have time to wait. I
14 will walk down with you with General Jeff. It will
15 break your heart. It will just break your heart. Thank
16 you, sir. Thank you for being so patient with us. It's
17 been quite a day.

18 MR. BERTONI: Yes, Your Honor. Vince Bertoni,
19 director of City Planning. We handle zoning of the
20 City. We've been working very hard in, you know, both
21 racial and social injustice concerning planning issues.
22 So this is something that's near and dear to what we do,
23 and we appreciate all of your work on this. We're
24 worked with the State to really streamline the processes
25 up to today of what we can do.

1 So, for example, any shelter that are going
2 through temporary -- that are under the emergency order
3 for shelters, our effort is to clear it through
4 City-owned properties, things like that, but we're
5 looking at every way we can to streamline the processes.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. I'm going to find a way
7 through the Special Master, Michelle Martinez, or
8 Judge Smith or Judge Andre Birotte and myself that you
9 all have access. I don't want to bypass the Mayor or
10 the Council. That's their bailiwick. But by the same,
11 token anything that the Court can do to support you in
12 decreasing this time, it will be a benefit. I think
13 we're all on the same page. I think the City has a
14 great chance to re-write, but not only that, to really
15 be an exciting example. So thank you.

16 Oh, my goodness. I didn't see you.

17 MR. CASTRO: I've been losing weight.
18 (Indiscernible) Castro. I'm general manager of City
19 Services. I know what it means, you know, to be
20 homeless and what it means to work for the City. So
21 we're committed. I think we pushed that reset button on
22 working together, and I think we can get it done. Thank
23 you.

24 JUDGE CARTER: You know what, Folks? If we
25 could just try. I'm not afraid to make a mistake, and I

1 humbly apologize to you and the whole world; but,
2 somehow, I can't let this go without trying, and I don't
3 think we're going to be wrong, but if we are, I humbly
4 apologize for that, and you'll try along with us. We're
5 all on the same page, and I think that's good for today.

6 Gentlemen, I want to thank you so much. We'll
7 be back, by the way. We'll have another meeting in five
8 weeks.

9 Katherine, would you introduce yourself?

10 MS. MCNENNY: Can you hear me okay?

11 Thank you, Judge Carter. My name is Katherine
12 McNenny. I'm an 11-year resident of the Skid Row
13 district. I don't come from Social Services. I was not
14 homeless, but I have lived in the community, and so I
15 come -- my perspective is one from walking the streets
16 of Skid row. In my off time, I like to plant trees in
17 the area, and so I'm outside a lot. I've witnessed more
18 death in the streets than I would have ever thought
19 imaginable, and I appreciate you, Judge, for talking
20 about the objective, which is to reduce the deaths. So.

21 I have a couple comments on the documentation
22 that the City and County provided, and it has to do with
23 their lists of properties. So I think we need a new
24 list, from the City, of properties that they're planning
25 to sell or lease. These parcels must be separated from

1 the current lists that sort according to council
2 district.

3 While the City does state its plan to sell some
4 of the parcels it owns, it is impossible to tell, by the
5 way they've arranged the list, which ones these are.
6 For some properties in single-family home communities,
7 the City states that it, quote, "would benefit
8 financially if the properties were added to the property
9 tax," end quote, "See page 33." And it goes on to
10 suggest, quote, "affordable homeownership," end quote,
11 for these parcels. Whatever that means. We are talking
12 about saving the lives of tens of thousands of people on
13 the streets now, not homeownership. These parcels could
14 and should be used for shared housing, something the
15 City itself has put forth as a solution. See Page 17.
16 Wouldn't this be more valuable to tax-paying Angelenos
17 than any property tax that would only go into a black
18 hole? The benefits of moving -- housing and securing
19 people into stable neighborhoods would be tangible.

20 Page 61 of the City's report, lists a property
21 at 3757 North Harriman Avenue. It has a note that
22 reads, quote, "City-owned vacant lot in single-family
23 zone, not feasible due to zoning restrictions," end
24 quote. But when I checked that site on satellite image,
25 there was literally a multi-family apartment complex

1 next to the vacant parcel.

2 Also, from Page 33, why would the City sell
3 land just because it borders state or federal land?
4 This is not explained. (Indiscernible) is surely more
5 valuable than any the City might purchase in the future.
6 Conducting transactions and preparing the land for sale,
7 costs taxpayers money to be paid out for the salary to
8 the City staff, which is referenced, plus we are looking
9 at something that may or may not happen down the road,
10 which would have less or no control of in terms of
11 oversight. In other words, a bird in the hand is two in
12 a bush.

13 Lastly, when is a good time to sell property?
14 Prices are already showing signs ever depression due to
15 strains of COVID-19.

16 My suggesting is ask for a list of the City
17 properties to sell or lease, and then have an
18 independent property expert determine the feasibility of
19 housing of sheltering people there.

20 And then just very briefly, on the County
21 document, they didn't even list -- they didn't even have
22 a list of properties. Page 15 of the County document,
23 Section B, called "County Properties," states that the
24 full list of properties that the County owns is in the
25 thousands and submitting a full list, quote, "may not be

1 helpful to the Court," end quote. The County suggests
2 that they should submit a list based on the needs the
3 Court outlines. The County should, however, submit a
4 list of all properties it owns broken down into the ones
5 they believe would be best suited for housing or shelter
6 and the ones they wish to sell or lease or not use for
7 whatever reason similar to what the County should be
8 submitting. Thank you.

9 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you very much.

10 Council Chair and Joe, you've been so
11 courteous. I've got another hearing. I beg your
12 indulgence. Folks, who are another intervenor. I'm
13 happy and would like to hear some witness statements,
14 but you've been so gracious. I just want to humbly
15 thank you again, Councilwoman Martinez and Councilman
16 Buscaino.

17 Please. Hello.

18 MS. NOEL: Hello. My name is Monique Noel from
19 the Downtown Women's Action Coalition.

20 JUDGE CARTER: I'm going to ask you to move the
21 microphone a little bit closer to you just because of my
22 hearing. You're doing great, though.

23 MS. NOEL: I'm Monique Noel from the Downtown
24 Women's Action Coalition. I want to thank you,
25 Your Honor, for opening up this space to hear our

1 voices. I'd also like to hand to you a report that we
2 just released this morning, the Women's Needs Assessment
3 of Skid row, if I may.

4 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you.

5 MS. NOEL: From that report, I'd like to list
6 some of the recommendations about the 2020 Skid Row
7 Women's Needs Assessment, which is a community-led
8 research project.

9 The number of houseless women continues to rise
10 and the conditions in Skid Row are a recipe for
11 extinction. Woman need housing, and they need housing
12 now.

13 This morning, I heard Council Members suggest
14 they can't do this work because of the bureaucracy, a
15 bureaucracy that's getting in the way, but they are the
16 administrators of that bureaucracy. So, in essence,
17 they get in their own way.

18 So our recommendations: Treat the housing
19 crisis like the emergency that it is.

20 House the 2,000 women currently houseless in
21 Skid Row immediately.

22 JUDGE CARTER: Could I stop you a moment along
23 the way. I don't want to lose these points.

24 How many women do you estimate are on Skid Row,
25 a rough figure? I'm not holding you to this because I

1 heard different numbers of the total, and I think these
2 are -- what? -- houseless people, not homeless,
3 houseless people. And so what am I dealing with out
4 there? Am I dealing with 3- to 5,000 on Skid Row? A
5 thousand? 1500? What?

6 MS. NOEL: Yeah, our report said about.

7 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Please.

8 MS. NOEL: Thank you.

9 Develop effective protocols that are flexible
10 and unbiased entry into all housing relief programs such
11 as Project Roomkey. Women on Skid Row were given
12 severely limited participation in these programs, and
13 while, at the same time, being the most vulnerable.

14 Convert all vacant City-owned property and to
15 house women and families. Any property on Skid Row must
16 be used and turned over to non-profits like ours who are
17 developing low-cost alternative housing that actually is
18 your own room key and your own bathroom and kitchen,
19 et cetera.

20 Ensure state and local government provide
21 eviction protection for women.

22 Criminalization displaces women from the very
23 limited resources available to them. It further
24 traumatizes and creates barriers for entry into housing.
25 It actually places women in unsafe and unsanitary

1 conditions.

2 Stop disrupting lives with traumatizing street
3 sweeps and municipal ordinances that criminalize poverty
4 that are violations of human rights, and they must end.

5 L.A.P.D. current outreach and encouragement
6 strategies are not making women's lives safer, and that
7 must end too. De-escalate intense situations. Do not
8 put these on women.

9 Provide clean and accessible public restrooms
10 for handwashing across Skid Row immediately.

11 Install easy-to-find usable water fountains
12 that are available 24/7.

13 Make menstrual hygiene products available in
14 all public restrooms.

15 Create a lot of --

16 JUDGE CARTER: Can I stop you for just a
17 moment?

18 MS. NOEL: Yes.

19 JUDGE CARTER: Are you sure?

20 MS. NOEL: Yes.

21 JUDGE CARTER: One of the things that our
22 community pointed out to me was, "Oh, my goodness. All
23 these sanitary stations that we were trying to get,
24 which we put out 50 of these, they're taking all the
25 paper." And I think I said to General Jeff, "That's

1 great because the community just told me what they're
2 lacking. They're lacking paper. So we need to get more
3 paper."

4 Please.

5 MS. NOEL: We advocate for minimal resources
6 towards spaces and support services for non-binary and
7 transgender women in Skid Row immediately.

8 And, lastly -- and this is very, very
9 important -- Skid Row is disproportionately black.

10 JUDGE CARTER: Say that again.

11 MS. NOEL: Disproportionately black, and I say
12 black to include African Americans and black immigrants
13 there, too.

14 JUDGE CARTER: I'm going to joke with you.
15 Here I am. What am I? I'm Caucasian. I'm out with
16 General Jeff and I think four or five other people, and
17 somebody walks by and yells out with a great sense of
18 humor, "There goes the community." You're right. It's
19 70 percent black American.

20 MS. NOEL: Yes. So anti-black racism must be
21 purged from all systems, organizations, and institutions
22 responsible for providing houseless services. As noted
23 in the recent LAHSA Black People Experiencing Homeless
24 Report, race continues to be a powerful determinant of
25 who gets housing and who doesn't.

1 JUDGE CARTER: One of my past disappointments
2 but hope for the future -- however, we failed -- we
3 certainly had the statistics about the
4 disproportionality of black Americans who were on Skid
5 Row. I'm finding tremendous problems with that, and
6 maybe it's just because judges like me aren't getting
7 out, driving in and out of the courthouses, quite
8 frankly. And, therefore, I find a tremendous fault, not
9 with my colleagues, but with me, and I must say it's
10 quite an education.

11 It's nice seeing you. I'll see you on Skid Row
12 or Skid Park in the future; right?

13 MR. WHITE: Good afternoon, Judge Carter, Judge
14 Birotte, and Special Master Michelle Martinez, and thank
15 you for holding this whole thing together.

16 JUDGE CARTER: I heard you're a pain for the
17 City sometimes.

18 MR. WHITE: Well, you know, someone told me,
19 Judge, if people have nothing to say about you, it's
20 probably because you're not doing enough work.

21 Just in brief, just following up on my
22 colleague, Monique Noel, and her preparation. I think
23 I've been doing this work since 1992, and when we
24 started going it work in 1992, the dominant narrative
25 about why people were houseless is because they just

1 didn't try hard enough, they were drug addicts. It
2 was -- it was all of these things that was about them.

3 Finally, 25, 26 years later, the City of
4 Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles acknowledges
5 that the root cause of houselessness is housing
6 affordability, housing availability, and poverty; right?

7 And then, just to double-down, this year, LAHSA
8 says that if racism didn't exist in this George Floyd
9 moment, 15,000 less houseless people -- 15,000 less
10 black people would be houseless in Los Angeles.

11 Now, I'm not sure I agree with that, but what
12 we're saying is we've moved away from this idea that
13 this is about broken people. This is about broken
14 systems.

15 I sat here all morning, and I listened to folks
16 responsible for the bureaucracy, the caretakers of the
17 bureaucracy talk about they couldn't get through the
18 bureaucracy to get things done. "We have to reject
19 that. We have to say no. We have to say no to units.
20 That the only solution are units that cost 600- to
21 \$700,000 apiece to build."

22 There are so many different types of models and
23 designs that we can move forward on today, and we can
24 get homeless Angelenos, 75 to 80 percent which come from
25 Los Angeles, off the streets.

1 When we think about the social deterrents of
2 health, we think about housing. We think about jobs.
3 We think about education. When we think about the
4 social deterrents of safety, we must think about the
5 same things.

6 I appreciate you and Michelle walking the
7 streets and actually talking to people -- right? --
8 moving back towards this Masonian model of democracy
9 which could be further instilled in this chamber. But
10 you, as a Judge, and Michelle talking to people are
11 cutting through the barriers and cutting through the
12 noise. We're not going to agree. Moving people away
13 from the freeways without having actual places for them,
14 that includes a house, it includes a key. We're using
15 the word "shelter" in a very sort of unique way.

16 I want to talk more about housing.

17 JUDGE CARTER: Don't go away.

18 Armando, help me with the Preliminary
19 Injunction that went by the wayside.

20 I want you to see something, Pete.

21 MR. WHITE: I want to see it. I can't see
22 that, Judge. I need glasses, man.

23 JUDGE CARTER: It's okay. We're going to
24 disagree a lot.

25 MR. WHITE: I think we're only in 10 percent

1 agreement.

2 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. July 28th because we're
3 not going to do anything unless we create something
4 better, and the definition is going to be what's better;
5 right?

6 MR. WHITE: That's right.

7 JUDGE CARTER: Of course, you want long-term
8 supportive housing. Good for you. Okay.

9 MR. WHITE: That's right.

10 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Now, hold on.

11 What I specifically said is that this Court, at
12 a minimum, must be satisfied to ensure the process
13 remains humane and serves the best interest of the
14 affected individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
15 Remember, the advocates aren't helping me, the
16 intervenors aren't helping me. I'm kind of sitting down
17 here making this up with my law clerks, talking to as
18 many people as I can.

19 (1) *All shelters and alternative housing*
20 *options must be configured with*
21 *adequate physical space to allow*
22 *the sheltered individuals to maintain*
23 *the minimum recommended social*
24 *distance of six feet to mitigate the*
25 *transmission of SARS-CoV-2.*

1 Now, hold on. Later on, I find out that the
2 guidelines of the CDC, I think, are twelve feet or ten
3 feet. I forget.

4 (2) *All shelters and alternative*
5 *housing options must have adequate*
6 *hygiene facilities, such as*
7 *handwashing stations and showers.*

8 Apparently, we've had a stumble with the City for
9 17 years just getting toilets out according to Shayla.

10 MR. WHITE: Oh, it's true. It's true. We had
11 to build our own sanitation stations.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Now, wait.

13 (3) *All shelters and alternative*
14 *housing options must have nursing*
15 *staff who, upon intake, can test*
16 *each homeless individual for*
17 *communicable diseases and other*
18 *health conditions. The Court may*
19 *consider revising this aspect of*
20 *the Preliminary Injunction in the*
21 *future, depending on the state of*
22 *the COVID-19 pandemic.*

23 And the reason for that is I don't know if I
24 need a full-time nurse or what in the future.

25 (4) *All shelters and alternative*

1 *housing options must be staffed*
2 *by security as necessary to ensure*
3 *the safety of the homeless persons*
4 *sheltered therein.*

5 And now I understand the debate of does this
6 security look like? Does it look like a prison? That's
7 a big word. Okay. That's a clairvoyant. A prison?
8 No. Okay. I don't know where we fall on this, but
9 that's up to the Council, et cetera.

10 MR. WHITE: That's an important point because
11 what we don't want is --

12 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Here we go.

13 *(5) All homeless individuals shall*
14 *be able to retain possession*
15 *of their belongings, whether they*
16 *choose to enter a shelter or*
17 *alternative housing option, or*
18 *simply relocate a sufficient*
19 *distance away from freeway*
20 *overpasses, underpasses, and ramps.*

21 Now, that's a big debate over possessions, but
22 historically, you know something, this isn't even an
23 issue.

24 You know what? Some of these homeless will
25 walk away just as long as they're guaranteed -- they

1 just want to know that they don't shut down their tent
2 and get shoved in the street the next day. They'll walk
3 away from it. It's amazing. We'll have dump trucks out
4 there.

5 (6) Before beginning the process of
6 clearing freeway overpasses,
7 underpasses, and ramps, all
8 homeless individuals living in
9 the vicinity must be given advance
10 notice; such notice shall include
11 information about nearby shelters
12 and alternative housing options.

13 You know, we judges aren't very smart. Let me
14 put that on the record. How do we know unless we got so
15 involved with the homeless person where they might be
16 going? Is it a better place? What does a shelter look
17 like? Is it a low barrier or high barrier? Okay. Are
18 we going to give them 21 days or 14 days or some kind of
19 notice?

20 (7) After such notice is given, and
21 after the City of Los Angeles
22 and/or County of Los Angeles
23 provide adequate alternative
24 shelter for individuals...

25 In other words, create something better. Of

1 course, you want perfect. I can't wait for it to be
2 perfect because a \$600,000 shelter isn't going to get
3 built, and I've got to watch people die out there while
4 we wait for the perfect. So am I for pallet homes?
5 Yeah. Am I for government encampments? Absolutely. Do
6 you want these to be permanent? Absolutely not? But
7 something's got to done because I'm getting so tired of
8 the death rate here while we -- and you were so proud of
9 something. Remember when you told me, "Judge, we have a
10 3D printer coming"? Remember?

11 MR. WHITE: A 3D what?

12 JUDGE CARTER: 3D printer. Has it arrived yet?

13 MR. WHITE: No, it hasn't.

14 JUDGE CARTER: In your lifetime.

15 MR. WHITE: But I also said I have a project
16 that could bring in units of housing far less than
17 600,000.

18 JUDGE CARTER: It's not you. It's somebody
19 else.

20 MR. WHITE: I would just say this, Judge, in
21 closing: We are not looking for the perfect. We're
22 looking for the humane. We've been --

23 JUDGE CARTER: Go over and tell them that.

24 MR. WHITE: Tell who?

25 JUDGE CARTER: Them (Pointing).

1 MR. WHITE: Who's them?

2 JUDGE CARTER: The intervenors.

3 MR. WHITE: I'm talking to you right now.

4

5 (Simultaneous speaking.)

6

7 MR. WHITE: So we're not looking for the
8 perfect, but we're also not looking to duplicate things
9 that have failed in the past, being really clear about
10 that. We've had government-run tent cities before in
11 this chamber right here in 1983. Mayor Tom Bradley had
12 to open this chamber to allow houseless people to sleep.

13 So also clear to where we sit, we're not
14 looking for perfect, but we're looking for the humanity,
15 and like you, we're looking for a pathway to permanency.
16 That's what we're looking for, and we know -- I've been
17 there a long time. I know when something feels the
18 same, and I know when something feels different.

19 Thank you for your time today, Judge.

20 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you. I want to tell you
21 something on the way out.

22 MR. WHITE: Tell me something.

23 JUDGE CARTER: First Alliance, the business
24 groups, and activists are all going to be disappointed
25 at different times with me; do you understand that?

1 MR. WHITE: Yes.

2 JUDGE CARTER: I make my living by giving you
3 disappointment. I tell you what? The one thing they
4 can't stand is the present inertia. No matter what we
5 do, we've to get started doing something and make it
6 better.

7 MR. WHITE: 100 percent, I agree, not 10
8 percent, not 91. Thank you.

9 JUDGE CARTER: Thanks a lot.

10 MR. BUSCAINO: Amy, from Pallet shelter, can
11 you please come forward.

12 Just for the record, during the presentation it
13 was indicated that the pallet shelters only last five to
14 six months. In my presentation, I'm ready to deploy
15 120, 150 in my district to an encampment near an
16 underpass, but can you just clarify.

17 MS. KING: Yeah, I'd be happy to. Our shelters
18 last ten-plus years, not five or six.

19 MR. BUSCAINO: Thank you.

20 Thank you, Your Honor.

21 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Let's move on to the
22 intervenor matter.

23

24 (Brief interruption.)

25

1 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Folks, thank you very
2 much. If you'd be so kind to come on up here. You
3 wanted to intervene. I'd like to meet you.

4 MR. CONTRERAS: Good Afternoon, Your Honor.
5 Good afternoon, Judge Birotte. Good afternoon, Special
6 Master Martinez. My name is Christian Contreras. I'm
7 with Justice X. It's a pleasure meeting you. We're a
8 collision of black and brown people and we represent the
9 black and brown people's interest and the interest of
10 the marginalized.

11 JUDGE CARTER: Are these folks with you? Would
12 you be so kind to introduce me to the members of the
13 coalition today. I'd like to meet you individually.

14 MR. GUIZAR: Thank you, Your Honor. Humberto
15 Guizar. I'm one of the founders of Justice X. The
16 coalition consists of black and brown lawyers advocating
17 for social justice in the City of Los Angeles.

18 JUDGE CARTER: And give us some time to wipe up
19 that microphone.

20 MR. GUIZAR: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

21 JUDGE CARTER: We're doing our best.

22 MR. DOVE: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Austin
23 Dove. I'm also co-founder of the Justice X Law Group,
24 and one of our arms the Protesters Defense Alliance,
25 which is nonprofit organization that's based on

1 supporting causes for black and brown communities.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you. Nice meeting you.

4 MR. KING: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Stephen
5 King, also co-founder of Justice X.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Stephen King, nice meeting you.

7 MR. KING: Spelled the same as the author.

8 JUDGE CARTER: Yeah, thank you.

9 MR. CLAROS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. My
10 name is Raul Claros. I'm the founder of Latino
11 Coalition of Los Angeles.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Nice meeting you. It's a
13 pleasure.

14 Why do they save you for last? These men
15 should have gotten out of your way.

16 MS. RIVERA-GUZMAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
17 My name is Ingrid Rivera-Guzman, and I'm the vice
18 president of the Latino Collision of Los Angeles.

19 JUDGE CARTER: It's pleasure to meet you.

20 MS. RIVERA-GUZMAN: You as well.

21 MR. CRUZ: Good afternoon, Your Honor. My name
22 is Victor Cruz. I'm a Board Member for the Latino
23 Coalition of Los Angeles.

24 JUDGE CARTER: It's a pleasure to meet you.

25 Now, I've this a chance to meet each of you

1 individually.

2 Is there one more gentleman?

3 PASTOR TIGUILA: Good afternoon, Judge.

4 Pastor Josh, or Pastor Josue TigUILA, from First Church
5 of the Nazarene in Los Angeles.

6 JUDGE CARTER: Yes, I know you. It's nice to
7 meet you.

8 PASTOR TIGUILA: Thank you.

9 JUDGE CARTER: It's a pleasure.

10 Counsel.

11 MR. CONTRERAS: Your Honor, the Latino
12 Coalition of Los Angeles and Pastor Josue TigUILA are
13 planning to intervene as a matter of right or,
14 alternatively, as a matter permissibly.

15 Homelessness in Los Angeles is a racial justice
16 issue. Latinos comprise of 36.1 percent of the homeless
17 population --

18 JUDGE CARTER: You're the highest number.
19 Proportionately, you're not the highest. Black
20 Americans are.

21 MR. CONTRERAS: That's accurate, Your Honor.
22 That's based on homelessness count of 2020, and that's
23 not considering --

24 JUDGE CARTER: Just don't go away. The court
25 reporter needs a break for just a moment, and if you

1 don't mind, we'll be right back with you. Let's take
2 five or 10 minutes for her.

3 MR. CONTRERAS: Thank you, Your Honor.

4

5 (Recess taken from 3:22 p.m. to 3:35 p.m.)

6

7 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. We're back on the record.
8 Would you like to start over again because I interrupted
9 you for a restroom break.

10 So if you would like to start from the
11 beginning.

12 MR. CONTRERAS: Good afternoon, again,
13 Your Honor. My name is Christian Contreras. I'm with
14 Justice X. I'm here representing the Latino Coalition
15 of Los Angeles and Pastor Josue Tiguila for an
16 application for intervention.

17 Homelessness in Los Angeles County is a racial
18 justice issue. Latinos in Los Angeles County comprise
19 of 36.1 percent of the homeless population while
20 comprising of 50 percent of the general population, and
21 that's not considering the lack of L.A. County -- based
22 off of a wide range of issues including the definition
23 of homelessness and just the very nature of the cultural
24 aspect of Latinos.

25 And the Latino Coalition of Los Angeles, my

1 clients here who are present, they represent the
2 interest of the community, and I stand here before you
3 as a formerly homeless person.

4 When I was 12 years old my mother was involved
5 in a tragic car accident that paralyzed her from the
6 waist down, and she couldn't work, and we were in Skid
7 Row. So those pictures you were showing earlier are
8 pictures I'm very familiar with, and I actually live
9 currently at the border of Skid Row on San Pedro Street.
10 So myself, my colleagues from Justice X and Latino
11 Coalition of Los Angeles and Pastor Josue Tiguiila are
12 advocates for the homeless community, and we're
13 advocates for the homeless community, and, we're
14 advocates for the population of Los Angeles County as a
15 whole with an emphasis on marginalized communities.
16 Communicate.

17 And our point is that, by it's very nature,
18 homelessness affects Latinos, affects black people,
19 affects Caucasians, but because Latinos make up such a
20 huge population of the homeless population, this case's
21 implications, potential resolutions, and/or settlement
22 will, in effect, make decisions about us or without us,
23 and the application to intervene is essentially a form
24 of advocacy for my clients, the Latino Coalition of Los
25 Angeles and Pastor Josue Tiguiila because of its

1 significance. This case is a case that's going to
2 affect homelessness in Los Angeles County, and we
3 believe that inclusion of Latino Coalition of Los
4 Angeles and Pastor Josue Tiguila will enrich and make a
5 decision more robust, make any settlement more robust,
6 make any agreements within this case more robust because
7 of our involvement in the community.

8 I would like my clients to be heard, actually,
9 because they are the people in the community, people who
10 were actually dealing with these issues every day, and
11 once we get to the legal discussion, I'll make my
12 points, my client's points, and proceed, but I would
13 have my clients go first before me.

14 Mr. Claros, would you come to the podium.

15 MR. CLAROS: Thank you, Your Honor. Thank you,
16 not only for this opportunity, but for the intervention.

17 I currently sit on the Affordable Housing
18 Commission, appointed by our great Mayor, and when I
19 was appointed to that commission, which I'm not hear
20 speaking on behalf of the commission but for
21 identification purposes so you can kind of get a -- a
22 look through my eyes, I let the Mayor's office know I'm
23 not into rubber-stumping stuff. I'm not a cookie-cutter
24 type of guy. I found the Latino Coalition of Los
25 Angeles about 11 years ago at about 29, 28 years old

1 because, as a Central America Latino, we weren't black
2 enough, we weren't Chicano enough, we weren't Mexican
3 enough, I've never been tall enough, and at that time, I
4 wasn't old enough. And so we've never really ever fit
5 in, and that's how the Latino community has been treated
6 when we talk about census counts, homeless counts.
7 We're not underneath the freeways. We're hiding up in
8 the hills of Elysian Park. We are in shacks thinking
9 we're not homeless in converted garages with no smoke
10 detectors.

11 I've just finished working with the American
12 Red Cross --

13 JUDGE CARTER: Hold on.

14 Armando, can you help me again? Can you put
15 up, if possible, the river -- the river.

16 I'm sorry. I wanted to show you a photo
17 because you're absolutely right about that.

18 MR. CLAROS: So we're living in converted
19 garages. We live in shacks. We're living in vans. We
20 don't even know that we're homeless.

21 When the study came out from LAUSD that talked
22 about the most homeless population when it comes to our
23 youth, it was a Latino case up in Ms. Rivas's district,
24 and she responded tremendous, an assembly member.

25 JUDGE CARTER: The study by Ben -- I'm meeting

1 with him next week, the gentleman over at USC. I met
2 with Gary last week, but I think I'm meeting with the
3 person who wrote a progress report.

4 THE SPEAKER: Yeah. And, you know, it was --
5 it was a reality check, and I appreciate the leadership
6 up there.

7 And so I -- I represented for the American Red
8 Cross in the Antelope Valley, where everyone gets a
9 voucher, just like Vegas, a one-way trip. Get out of
10 here. Go become somebody else's problem. But those are
11 for the lucky people that even get to step up because
12 they're not afraid to get deported. Because, when you
13 get deported, you get hunted and lynched and set on fire
14 when you go back to the country that our parents left
15 and have been sending our unaccompanied minors down
16 here, and so that is just some of the reality behind
17 numbers, to also talk about our homosexual community,
18 out transgender community, our LGBTQ. There's Latinos
19 of every walk of life; right? Those are folks that are
20 scared to be counted, to come outside and let anyone
21 know anything.

22 That's who we're here to talk about, and when
23 we look up and we found out about this matter on top of
24 the murder of (Indiscernible), the murder of Daniel
25 Hernandez, the fact that Phil Ansell's got to go

1 because, somehow, that guy figured out how to get
2 himself and his department \$1.5 million when every other
3 department in the City and County has either had to
4 furlough, get cuts, or there's been change in
5 leadership, but there was a change in the City; right?
6 That was our general manager for HSIG, and so now
7 there's a new general manager, and I think there's a
8 meet-and-greet that's getting set up for our Affordable
9 Housing Commission.

10 So we're here to say we're willing to fill that
11 void. We have Afro-Latinos. We have Filipinos. We
12 have African-Americans. We have Koreans, another
13 invisible community, you know, the Korean community that
14 no one wants to talk about, because in our cultures,
15 there's so much pried sometimes to even be out there.
16 We also understand, just like the ratio of black men in
17 jail, when you got such a small black population and
18 such an inflated number of black homeless people, we
19 understand that struggle, just like we understood the
20 struggle that black lives matter when we're protesting
21 side by side, risking our lives during the pandemic.

22 So we apologize if we were late to the show,
23 but some of the folks that had been part of the show
24 know who we are. We've been in their face, and we've
25 been controversial for a long time unapologetically,

1 boldly. But, also, we've worked with them, we've
2 partnered. That's how I was able to get appointed.
3 That's how now you see Ingrid, our vice president, and
4 Victor, or board secretary, are between the average age
5 of 20 and 30 years old.

6 I got a four-year old girl that I got to raise
7 now. I don't have the time and energy to be out here,
8 but they, but what I can do is give them guidance to
9 learn from my mistakes. What I can't afford is to sit
10 on the sidelines anymore and just watch this continue to
11 happen. It's the definition of insanity. We're looking
12 for a different result with the same Band-Aid effect.
13 We appreciate you now stepping in so that we can rip
14 the Band-Aid off and we can start healing the trauma
15 that is really out here.

16 We need -- you started putting in public
17 safety, too. I appreciate you praising the fire
18 department. I praise them, too, but the way law
19 enforcement has gone after this -- and there's great
20 officers. There really are -- but when we're out here
21 in the streets, they've been part of a system that has
22 been criminalized, being houseless and homeless, and
23 that's not right either, but they're not social workers.
24 They weren't trained. You're setting up these cops to
25 fail as well, and I'm not talking about you. I'm

1 talking about the system.

2 So when are we going to fix it? If not now,
3 2020 is the perfect year to re-imagine, not reform, to
4 re-imagine how we move forward because 2020 -- 2021 is
5 waiting for us, and we can't go back to 2019, and we're
6 never going to be able to go back to normal after COVID,
7 but the civil unrest, that teaches us that we can't go
8 back trying the same old tricks with different figure
9 heads up in front.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 MR. CONTRERAS: Your Honor, I would like MY
12 pastor -- my client, Josue Tiguila, who I met while I
13 was in Skid Row homeless and who mentored me for
14 12 years.

15 PASTOR TIGUILA: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

16 JUDGE CARTER: Good afternoon.

17 PASTOR TIGUILA: It's really an honor, and
18 peace and grace to you all. I think everybody here is
19 amazing, being able to just sit down and listen to a lot
20 of -- a lot of good stories, a lot of good reports,
21 numbers. When -- when you were just listing the
22 numbers, I would say, "Okay. What am I doing here?"
23 But then I ask the only one that can really help us in
24 very hard turmoils and very difficult situations, and I
25 ask give us guidance and give us a voice, and I really

1 think he has. We cannot forget the people who really
2 have a name, the people who really make the difference,
3 the people who really are, you know, dying. Someone
4 said three -- three persons per day. I didn't know
5 that, to be honest with you. I've seen people dying in
6 the street.

7 But, you know, at the same time, I would like
8 to bring forward the good stories, you know, the good
9 stories when we really make sense, when we really work
10 together. This is what I received today this afternoon:
11 You're asking all of us to do our part, and not just our
12 part, but the young, if we can, and be able to work
13 together, and I think that makes a big difference.

14 You know, yes, I've been given the privilege
15 and honor to be here almost 44 years from Central
16 America, from Guatemala. I didn't know I was coming to
17 the United States. My mom said, "Hey, we're going to
18 see an aunt." Okay. And a week afterwards, we were in
19 Los Angeles. A week after, I was in church, and First
20 Church of the Nazarene, the first church of 1895, began
21 in Skid Row by Phineas Bresee, our founder. He started
22 this -- this desire of helping the ones who did not have
23 a voice, the ones who did not have a place at the table,
24 and the ones who were invited to be in the front row,
25 and I think that's basically what we're trying to say

1 over here. We want to be, not just at the table, but in
2 the front row of everything. Maybe, we started in the
3 back, but why not come all the way to the front.

4 So, yes, there's good stories out here, but at
5 the same time, I was thinking and reminding myself of
6 all the young people that we've been able to connect
7 with, mentor, coach. And, yes, I'm very proud of
8 Christian Contreras. He is like one of our sons that we
9 have in many, many years of ministry in the church, but
10 that's a good story. And then there's many more good
11 stories that I think for us to be able to find and if we
12 work together.

13 Right now, at First Church of the Nazarene, we
14 had to stop because of our COVID-19 mandates. We were
15 doing worship in our congregation, and I'm the senior
16 pastor of the congregation. I'm the lead pastor of all
17 the campus there, but we minister to Latinos, Koreans,
18 north Koreans. We have right now a north Korean group
19 in our church as well. And speaking about people not
20 wanting to be seen or known where they're at, they are
21 at First Church of the Nazarene, people who really don't
22 have a voice, but people who are determined to progress
23 and to move forward.

24 So my desire is for you to really continue your
25 efforts. We continue lifting you in prayer in this

1 beautiful group here that is helping you and to just be
2 able to know that God is in the midst of everything
3 you're doing. Even though we might not think of it, he
4 is. And the other thing is we need to understand that
5 we do need to have us, not just at the table, but why
6 not in the front of the table, in the front of the pews
7 where our church believes that everybody deserves a
8 place.

9 So I'm not sure if you have a questions for me,
10 but I just thank you, once again, for having the
11 opportunity to come be in front of you.

12 JUDGE CARTER: Pastor, thank you very much.

13 PASTOR TIGUILA: Thank you.

14 JUDGE CARTER: In this effort, federal courts
15 are very careful about the segregation between the
16 church and the state, the First Amendment. The problem
17 is that, while this Court is equally respectful of that,
18 I think we need a faith-based community. I'll repeat
19 that. We need to have a faith-based community involved
20 in trying to help in this homeless situation, and I
21 think we can keep those lines straight.

22 Well, Counsel, your thoughts, and then I got a
23 couple thoughts.

24 MR. CONTRERAS: Your Honor, as articulated by
25 my clients, the protectable interest of my clients is

1 two-pronged: The first prong is Latino Coalition's
2 ability to advocate both coalitions amongst the
3 multi-racial, multi-cultural groups, and in order to
4 advocate for the homeless population, that's Latino
5 Coalition's significant protectable interest.

6 Pastor Josh's significant protectable interest
7 is his ability to adequately and especially provide
8 direct serves to those homeless individuals which he
9 services in his church, which is located in Westlake --
10 in the Westlake region of Los Angeles.

11 JUDGE CARTER: The church is in Westlake?

12 PASTOR TIGUILA: Westlak, Korea Town.

13 MR. CONTRERAS: That significant protectable
14 interest will be impaired or impeded if my clients are
15 not included in this action because they won't be able,
16 as a practical matter, to effectively achieve those
17 goals and effectively advocate for the homeless
18 population that they represent throughout Los Angeles
19 County.

20 And in items of the timeliness showing,
21 F.R. 24, which is the federal rule which allows us to
22 intervene either permissibly or as a right, this action
23 was filed March, 2020. We're now August. That's
24 roughly four months later, and, of course, we're at this
25 stage of the proceedings with the amount of time that

1 passed as well as any prejudice to any parties.

2 As far as the prejudice to any of the parties
3 currently in the action, the opposite prejudice will
4 occur. Like I mentioned earlier, this is going to be
5 enriching and there's going to be a more robust
6 discussion if we are included, if my clients are
7 included in this action.

8 And, finally, the fourth showing under F.R. 24,
9 Federal Rules of Civil procedure, the parties currently,
10 in particular, Cangress, Legal Aid, and Catholic Worker,
11 they're great advocates. There's nothing wrong with
12 what they're doing. However, those parties do not fully
13 represent the interest of Latinos and the interest of
14 Los Angeles County.

15 While I love Skid Row and lived in Skid Row and
16 I live right next to it now, what I'm reading from the
17 records and gleaning from the records today is that a
18 lot of the focus is on Skid Row, and Skid Row is the
19 epicenter of homelessness in Los Angeles County, but
20 homelessness permeates throughout the entire county, and
21 Latinos are also homeless throughout Los Angeles County,
22 not just Skid Row. And for that reason, we believe that
23 the current parties are not adequately representing the
24 interest that we've articulated, and for that reason,
25 we're asking that Court to grant us intervention into

1 this action. Thank you.

2 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you.

3 General.

4 MR. PAGE: After listening to the valid
5 position of -- of the Latino Coalition of Los Angeles
6 group, obviously, I feel compelled to speak when they
7 speak about Skid Row.

8 For those of you who don't know me, I'm General
9 Jeff. I spoke earlier today. I'm a Skid Row resident
10 and community leader and a Skid Row community activist,
11 and I have a couple concerns: One, this matter that's
12 already before you is not about race. If you're going
13 to have a Latino coalition, then you have to have a
14 black coalition, you got a have an Asian coalition, you
15 got to have a Caucasian coalition, and indigenous people
16 coalition, and all of a sudden, if anyone is excluded,
17 any decisions that are made by you are then potentially
18 subjected to discrimination, which takes us far, far
19 away from what this is about.

20 During the speaker's presentation when they
21 talk about representing Latinos in the foothills, I
22 heard you speak earlier today, Your Honor, and said
23 this -- this matter is about the overpasses an
24 underpasses where your jurisdiction is focused on.

25 And so while what they're saying is valid in

1 terms of homelessness and Latinos suffering from
2 homelessness as well as the other nationalities
3 countywide, to me it seems very suited that they filed
4 their own lawsuit and focus on their actual causes.
5 What we -- what we speak about in Skid Row in terms of
6 this matter is a majority African-American community
7 that is well documented. When we talk about the freeway
8 underpasses from CD 8, CD 9, CD 10, CD 14, the majority
9 is African-American.

10 We don't need to get into this battle about
11 black versus brown or this race versus that race. This
12 issue is about homelessness. And -- and as far as I
13 understand, it's not about homelessness countywide.
14 It's only a specific, limited scope, and if it goes
15 beyond that, I wish you would to speak to that and
16 clarify exactly where this is. And so if you are going
17 to include these folks, then I don't know if there's a
18 black lives matter equivalent to a black coalition that
19 specifically focuses on black homelessness. But, you
20 know, I'm the chair of the Skid Row Neighborhood Council
21 Formation Committee, and we have all nationalities in
22 our organization. They, you know, is mentioned
23 Congress, which is short for LACAN, the Los Angeles
24 Community Action Network, and there are different
25 nationalities including Latinos also in that group. And

1 so it's not like this is an entire exclusion of the
2 Latino community, but it's quite alarming to set this
3 dangerous precedent if you just focus on including a
4 group that's just Latino focused -- Latino-based focus.
5 I'm concerned. I'm waiting to hear your clarification.
6 Thank you.

7 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. CONTRERAS: Your Honor, the points that we
9 were raising is not based on legal racial grounds. We
10 provided Latino context just to provide context as to
11 what is really affecting homelessness in Los Angeles
12 County, but we're not saying that, because we're
13 Latinos, that we should be included. We're saying that
14 it's a racial justice issue and that it affects certain
15 populations differently, and for that reason, our party
16 should be included -- our clients should be included
17 because we add to the discussion. We can enrich it.
18 But my papers, the application that I filed, does not
19 articulate a legal ground based on race. I did provide
20 a background, but the protected interest in my argument
21 is not based on race, and I will emphasize that I am
22 from Justice X. We are a black and brown coalition of
23 black and brown lawyers.

24 So I'll have my clients speak now. Thank you,
25 Your Honor.

1 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you.

2 MR. CLAROS: I echo with Christian on what our
3 attorney just talked about because I just finished
4 meeting with the first City Council president that's
5 African-American, and he sent her blessing this morning,
6 and I know that you've had an opportunity to meet with
7 him. I also know that you've been able to meet with
8 Council Member Elect Kevin de Leon. We've talked about
9 Council Member Curren Price's district, and the 9th
10 district, and the 10th district, and we look at numbers.
11 The majority of their population, although they're
12 African-American officials, when I'm talking about
13 population, are Latinos.

14 And, again I want to just remind General Jeff,
15 whether it's in downtown or in his districts, that we're
16 not being counted or we're invisible because we're
17 afraid of ICE; right? And so as much as we're -- and,
18 by no means, do I want my words to be misused that we're
19 over here race painting or putting one over the other.
20 What we're saying is we all want to be included, and we
21 should include indigenous people, we should include
22 Latinos, and everyone else who's been hurt by this
23 because, like someone said earlier, we're all God's
24 people, and we got to figure this out together because
25 certain clicks and groups have been trying to do this

1 unsuccessfully for a very long time.

2 And so I just want to remind you, Judge, that I
3 think that that's why you've even had to come down here,
4 sir. It hasn't worked so far. You had to come down
5 from your bench and walk these streets with a
6 multi-cultural group that I think looks like the city;
7 right? And now two groups, black and brown are both
8 asking you to let us be at the table, not even so much a
9 decisionmaking table, the solution table.

10 JUDGE CARTER: Thank you.
11 County.

12 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor. I agree
13 with what both sides said. This is a Skid Row lawsuit.
14 Skid Row is in the city of L.A. Skid Row is the focal
15 point of this whole lawsuit, and the County certainly
16 cares about everybody in the County and wants to take
17 care of everybody in the County.

18 As far as Skid Row is concerned, it's in the
19 City, and I would submit it to the Court to do whatever
20 the Court thinks is the appropriate thing to do here.
21 The County doesn't favor one race or another race. We
22 would submit on that basis.

23 JUDGE CARTER: Okay. Thank you.

24 Let me think about this over the weekend.

25 I'm sorry. I didn't see you. In fact, speak

1 from there if you like as long as I can see you.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want to clarify
3 because there's been a discussion that this is Skid Row
4 focused, this is a Skid Row lawsuit. This is not a Skid
5 Row lawsuit. We've been very clear from the beginning
6 that this affects the Angelenos, both housed and
7 unhoused, throughout Los Angeles. So we have members
8 from all over the City and from all over the County, and
9 so we want to be very clear that -- that this is not
10 just Skid Row focused, and I don't want -- I don't want
11 that to be out there.

12 We can talk more about representation and
13 whether we need more robust conversations since they're
14 quite robust enough, and I'm sure Judge Birotte can
15 attest to that during mediation. I just want to leave
16 that to the Court on what it wants to do about it, and I
17 just want the record to be clear this is not just about
18 Skid Row. This is about all of Los Angeles.

19 MR. MILLER: When I said this case was about
20 Skid Row, I said it based on my reading of the
21 Complaint. Every single one of the Plaintiffs in this
22 Complaint is located in downtown L.A., Skid Row, and
23 they're complaining about issues and allegations and
24 things that supposedly occurred in Skid Row. That's the
25 basis of my statement.

1 JUDGE CARTER: Well, then give me a little bit
2 of time. I've been struggling with this, and I have to
3 tell you, historically, I've tried to stay away from
4 racial groups up to this point. I want to re-think that
5 in light of your argument today, which is why I invited
6 you in, to be challenged because I wanted to hear your
7 arguments. There's been excellent representation across
8 the board, and let me think about that this weekend.

9 We're done with the arguments now. I've been
10 courteous in giving all you folks time. In other words,
11 I wanted you to be heard just as I wanted Skid Row to be
12 heard.

13 I want to thank all of you. It's been a
14 pleasure to be here today.

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16 (Proceedings concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that, pursuant to Title 28, Section 753, United States Code, the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the stenographically reported proceedings held in the above-entitled matter and that the transcript page format is in conformance with the regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Certified on August 31, 2020.

/s/ Katherine M. Stride
KATHERINE M. STRIDE, CSR, RPR
Court Reporter
License No. 11773