



NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTHEAST Neighborhood Council

October 17, 2024

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Honorable Mayor Karen Bass
Honorable Members of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

RE: Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness CF 19-1020

The North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council hereby adds its unmitigated support for Council File 19-1020¹ to the numerous Community Impact Statements submitted by several neighborhood councils throughout greater Los Angeles. These NCs include Hollywood United, Winnetka, Palms, North Westwood, Mid-City, Reseda, and Sherman Oaks, to date. We feel the establishment of a *Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness* (CLEH)* is nothing short of necessary.

In addition to the unanimously approved CISs, the initiative has received a multitude of committee and council approvals, supportive motions, adoptions, actions, and communications from the public since it passed its first motion in September of 2019. Most striking, however, is the input received by members of the unhoused community themselves who, by-and-large, have remained uninvolved in the legislation and activism that directly impacts them. Yet, the mere *potential* of this initiative has already motivated and facilitated communication from and with those directly impacted by the Los Angeles housing crisis:

"I feel like if we (the unhoused) are empowered to fix the rehousing system, it could be transformational. What has already been done hasn't worked too well because we were not invited to participate. The commission will also save money because we can cut wasteful spending and invest where we know it will do the most good. The City Homeless Lived Experience commission would be only advisory but hopefully the City implements our directions. With an 11-18 expiration date fast approaching, this CF needs all the support it can get! Thank u neighbors" - @roofless

It's *already* having an impact.

¹ <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=19-1020>

However, despite the fragile hope of our long-overlooked unhoused neighbors, and the widespread bipartisan backing from the breadth of the homelessness advocacy community, as well as many neighborhood stakeholders and council officials, the initiative has languished for five (5) years with no sense of the urgency it requires. The Los Angeles City Council adopted a report to prepare an ordinance to establish a CLEH under the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department (CHRED) in November 2022, yet no formal action has since been taken and the council file is set to expire on November 18, 2024. Councils, committees, organizations, and individuals have put countless hours and tireless efforts into establishing sources for funding, organizational oversight, and program structure. Though every preemptive logistic has been addressed as requested, we are still facing the dissolution of this initiative in the face of its full support, without any accountability.

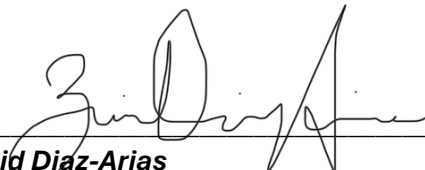
We the members of the North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council therefore urge the Los Angeles City Council and its Housing and Homelessness Committee to:

- Prioritize Council File 19-1020
- Extend the upcoming November 18, 2024 expiration date to allow proper establishment of all aspects of this initiative as painstakingly developed
- Compel the reports requested by the Homelessness and Poverty Committee
 - Solicit the City of Los Angeles to report on potential CLEH collaboration with existing commissions in the City, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and the potential to address the original goals identified in the Motion (Bonin – Harris-Dawson) dated September 4, 2019, attached to Council file No. 22-0755²
 - Solicit the City Administrative Officer to report with the budget and staffing estimates and to identify a source of funding
- Issue a detailed update on the status of the CLEH ordinance preparation and highlight the urgency with a schedule of established deliverables and deadlines, per the new expiration date

To do anything less than the above is an extreme disservice to the efforts and actions of all involved since the original motion was filed, not in the least, the unhoused community it seeks to serve. They and the *Commission on Lived Experience with Homeless* deserve a legitimate chance!

Respectfully,

The North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council

X  _____

Zaid Diaz-Arias

President

North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council

² <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-0755>

* Appendix: Summary of CLEH Impact Potential

outlined by prior CIS submissions, council actions, organizational support, and public comments

As detailed so thoroughly by the previously submitted impact statements, a *Commission on Lived Experience with Homelessness* (CLEH) would give unhoused individuals a platform to: advise policymakers on the success of current programs and systems; identify gaps, focusing on areas like misaligned resources, staff, and the impact of intersectional social issues; and suggest informed, strategic, practical, and *effective* improvements, with the genuine potential to reverse displacement and improve coordination of resources, care, and housing services.

Although the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) houses the vital Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB)³ and Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles (HYFLA)⁴, these are not viable proxies for a city-managed commission directly informed by *recent and local* lived experience. The CLEH would help to ensure all other efforts remain on track and maximize their effectiveness. Furthermore, the establishment of the commission reflects our national best practices. As stated by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, a leading advocacy organization for homelessness, “Solutions to homelessness aren’t real solutions if they don’t involve people with lived expertise in their design and implementation.”

³ The mission of the LEAB is “To provide advice and counsel to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and its partners in support of eOorts that strive to end homelessness, as well as to ensure that the unique voice of those with the lived experience of homelessness is incorporated throughout the Los Angeles homeless crisis response system.” (<https://www.lahsa.org/leab>)

⁴ “HYFLA works to end youth homelessness in Los Angeles County by centering the voices of youth with lived expertise in decision-making on program development, funding, policy making, and program and system performance evaluation.” (<https://www.lahsa.org/>)