

According to the 2016 Homeless Count released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the City has experienced an 11% increase in the homeless population relative to the year prior, with approximately 21,000 individuals who are unsheltered on any given night.


In most of the City of Los Angeles, there is a lack of space for the City's homeless residents to safely store their belongings during the day. The lack of voluntary storage for the City's homeless residents creates significant barriers for individuals who are seeking access to social services and housing, while at the same time creating significant public safety issues related to sidewalk access. The City's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy (CHS), as adopted by the City Council on February 9, 2016, states until additional homeless housing supply can meet demand, additional homeless storage facilities are needed throughout the City to supplement the current limited capacity. The Entertainment and Facilities and Homelessness and Poverty Committees recommended, and the Council adopted, a process to facilitate and streamline the disposition of City-owned properties for the purposes affordable housing, which includes permanent supportive housing for the homeless (CF #16-0600-S145).

LAHSA is recommending, in consultation with Council District 9, that the La Opinion Building, a vacant City-owned building located at 224 E. Washington Boulevard serve as a storage location. The La Opinion Building is an industrial facility formerly used for newspaper printing operations. Development will concentrate on the building's largest parcel, which is 20,847 square feet in size. The City is also considering the site for the development of housing which could occur in the next several years. The site should be utilized for homeless storage in the interim.

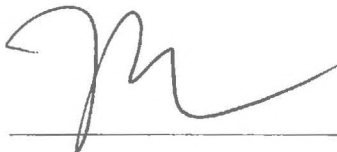
For the purposes of homeless storage, the building has the capacity to accommodate approximately 500 bins. Additionally, the building is also able to accommodate showers, following the appropriate renovations to meet the additional personal needs of the homeless. Consistent with the Council's adoption of the CHS, LAHSA and city staff should proceed in evaluating the space, as well as determine the future program for the facility.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, Chief Legislative Analyst, and Housing and Community Investment Department, with the assistance LAHSA, Bureau of Engineering, Planning, and General Services Department, to evaluate the La Opinion Building, a City-owned property located at 224 E. Washington Boulevard, as a potential site for future affordable housing and temporary use as a homeless storage facility that accommodates approximately 500 bins with shower upgrades.

PRESENTED BY:

  
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.  
Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



AUG 05 2016

  
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