

City Council Meeting: June ____, 2023

Santa Monica, California

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____ (CCS)

(City Council Series)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA REQUIRING ACCOUNTABILITY, OVERSIGHT, AND REFORM OF CITY SPENDING ON HOMELESSNESS, AND REQUIRING ACCOUNTABILITY, OVERSIGHT, REFORM, AND OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR ALL EXISTING AND FUTURE CONTRACTS WITH THIRD PARTY HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, homelessness is an ongoing, unresolved crisis that negatively affects virtually everyone in the City both housed and unhoused, constituting a humanitarian crisis of historic proportions; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a “Four Pillars” strategy to address homelessness and prevent residents and visitors from becoming unhoused, the core of which strategy is 1) immediate, consistent engagement combined with 2) services, 3) treatment, and 4) housing; and

WHEREAS, since its adoption in 2020 the “Four Pillars” strategy has failed to staunch the growing profusion of residents and visitors living short, medium, and long term in public spaces, has failed to ameliorate the dangers faced by them and the wider community, and has failed to ameliorate the humanitarian crisis; and

WHEREAS unhoused residents and visitors living in the City’s public spaces face particular risks to their mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical health and well-being; and

WHEREAS unhoused residents and visitors are far more likely to be victimized by violent crime, including bodily harm and property theft, from which unhoused people have a particularly difficult time recovering; and

WHEREAS the City has invested programmatically and financially to provide the necessary resources to resolve the issue of homelessness, funding various and diverse homeless programs that are managed through a network of contracts between the City, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and numerous service providers; and

WHEREAS millions of dollars are allocated to these various City agencies and service providers to carry out services like outreach, rehousing, shelters, prevention, and hygiene, totaling between \$30 and \$42.5 million annually over the last five years; and

WHEREAS despite this spending the City's population of unhoused residents and visitors has remain effectively unchanged and in several years has increased; and

WHEREAS at least four to six unhoused residents and visitors are dying in the City's public spaces every month; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain and operate functional and effective homelessness services that effectively assist people experiencing homelessness, it is imperative to establish operational and contracting procedures that hold responsible parties accountable and that collect useful data for evaluation and assessment of which contracts and service providers are yielding tangible results and which are not; and

WHEREAS city councils in other cities in Los Angeles County, including the City of Los Angeles, recently have introduced similar measures to ensure and enhance efficacy, transparency, and accountability in their homeless services systems, providing models for the City of Santa Monica; and

WHEREAS the public has expressed serious concerns about the City's approach to homelessness, including but not limited concerns that

- The City lacks a central, publicly accountable authority for homeless outreach, services, shelter, and housing, instead delegating to numerous public and private entities;
- The City does not conduct objective, data and results focused reviews of performance and outcomes with providers nor work to improve results over time to ensure maximum efficiency and efficacy;
- The City does not track nor publicly report how much is spent, how it is spent, nor the results of that spending, leaving the public uninformed;
- The City does not track nor publicly report how many unhoused residents and visitors have received actual services, shelter, and/or housing, making even baseline assessments of effectiveness impossible;
- The City does not offer public information dashboards, reports, data analysis, or regular public meetings where residents (housed and unhoused), workers, visitors, business owners, and other community stakeholders can assess progress and hold elected representatives and other officials accountable;
- Public funds are not dispersed in a timely nor accountable manner,
- Contracts are not completed according to scope of work;
- Contracts are often renewed, extended, or expanded with little to no evaluation of previous performance; and

- Overall, the City's Four Pillars approach fails to meet even basic principles of transparency and accountability.

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council instructs the City Clerk's office to develop objective, data-driven performance metrics to ensure all homeless services facilities are well-managed, cost-effective, secure, and results-driven, including but not limited to objective, replicable procedures of contract management with between the City and homeless services providers, including how contracts are monitored, how performance is measured, and what measures and consequences are in place to address underperformance, including penalties and/or termination of contracts with non- and underperforming providers;

SECTION 2. The City Council instructs the City Clerk's office to develop protocols for penalizing and/or terminating contracts with service providers who fail to meet the new objective, data-driven performance metrics, according to the timelines outlined below;

SECTION 3. The City Council instructs the City Clerk's office to develop and implement a process whereby it publishes where and how all money will be spent on homeless outreach, services, shelter, and housing in each fiscal year, prior to the start of the fiscal year, and ensures this information is be made public at least three (3) months before the start of each fiscal year;

SECTION 4. The City Council instructs the City Clerk's to present these new objective performance metrics and processes for implementing and enforcing them to

the full Council no more than ninety (90) days after the date of the passage of this Resolution, or at the first regularly scheduled City Council meeting after the elapse of 90 days from the date of the passage of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. The City Council instructs the City Attorney's Office with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer, LAHSA, and Los Angeles County, to report on how key performance indicators will be incorporated into the City's contracting relationship with service providers.

SECTION 6. The City Clerk shall certify the adoption of this Resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Douglas Sloan, City Attorney