

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Community Impact Statement Council File 20-1203 Adult Residential Facilities / Residential  
Care Facilities / Board and Care/ Elderly / Serious Mental Illness / City Homelessness Strategy

Dear Honorable Councilmembers of Los Angeles City Council:

Homelessness is considered one of the most detrimental wicked social problems our nation faces. In Los Angeles, we do not have to go far to see how homelessness plagues our city and affects everyone in one way or another. Oftentimes, people of the working class are only a paycheck away from having to experience homelessness at some point in their life's. It takes a collaboration and comprehensive approach to address the issue of homelessness. It is not enough to engage in temporary solutions to resolve it but instead requires a strategy that will target the root of the problem as not just a possible human condition but a societal and civil rights issue.

The most vulnerable group of people are at the highest risk of experiencing homelessness. The most vulnerable, as it relates to Council File 20-1203, are: the elderly and people with disabilities.

Considering the current state of affairs, the issues with funding, and the condition of the most vulnerable, government transparency is imperative. It has been brought to the forefront that in the face of the current pandemic many Adult Residential Care Facilities have been suffering financially, leading to the closure of many. These facilities serve as a home for this high risk population and with closures comes the possibility of homelessness for many, in addition to, the increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and other diseases.

In the light of AB 1766 (Bloom) and AB 79 (Ting), it is agreed that "The City should work with the County to understand the financial challenges, and impact of these closures, with a focus on services to individual and the local community" and that "...Los Angeles Housing Service Authority (LAHSA)... work with the City's Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID) to report to Council on how the closure or expansion of these facilities could or does impact the larger effort aimed at housing unsheltered Angelenos." It is important that we do not digress from the current efforts to end homelessness and to acknowledge when change is needed. It is also crucial that once the data is gathered, that the City, County, and State act swiftly and proactively not reactively.

Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council supports the City Council's motion to "direct HCID with the assistance of LAHSA to report to Council on the state of Adult Residential Facilities [ARF] and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly [RCFE] citywide, and to provide context and recommendation on how to further integrate Board and Care facility programs into the City's Homelessness Strategic Plan." This is a good effort in not only addressing homelessness as a

stand alone problem but also to address the precursors, such as ARF and RCFE closures, to prevent further homelessness. We believe this to be a good starting point to ensure accountability and team efforts from the aforementioned stakeholders, with the ultimate goal being to advocate for and service our most vulnerable population and community.

Thank you for your considerations,  
Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council