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December 11, 2017

The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor, LA County Board of Supervisors, District 2  
Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Street Room 866  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Support of South Bay Cities Council of Governments Renewal Funding**

Dear Supervisor Ridley-Thomas,

PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) has been working to end homelessness for individuals, families, and communities since 1984 through strategic street outreach, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing (PSH), and services for the most vulnerable populations. Today, PATH operates in 26 locations throughout California from San Diego to San Jose. PATH manages two County-funded programs, Gateway Connections and South Bay Connections, in collaboration with the Gateway Cities and South Bay Cities Councils of Governments (COGs). Since the Gateway Connections program began in 2012, PATH and its partner agencies, Helpline Youth Counseling, Whittier First Day, Kingdom Causes, and the City of Long Beach, have successfully helped 1959 individuals and families experiencing homelessness move into permanent homes of their own.

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) program has been extremely effective in addressing homelessness in the region since its inception in early 2016. Due to PATH's success in the Gateway Cities, the SBCCOG asked PATH to operate a similar program in that region, which was generously funded through Supervisors Knabe and then Supervisor Hahn, and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. As such, PATH's services and housing are strongly linked to the coordinated assessment systems for individuals and families, dedicated to ensuring all programs support and participate in both. The flexibility of funds allows people who would not otherwise be served to receive assistance; this includes individuals who are undocumented, and people who are not chronically homeless and therefore ineligible for PSH, but are too vulnerable for rapid re-housing services. Since the program started in 2016, PATH has housed 149 individuals and families.

The COG programs provide a key city coordination piece—they are instrumental in helping develop capacity and PSH in the region. Our City is particularly grateful for the outreach hotline, accessibility of PATH, and ongoing training opportunities for city staff that PATH provides. While Measure H funding

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is instrumental in our fight to end homelessness, the elimination of these COG programs would mean less service expansion and reduced impact on our most vulnerable neighbors.

We are proud to serve as partners for this groundbreaking service, and look forward to the further implementation of PATH's mission in our community through the COG programs.

Sincerely,

Kurt Weideman  
SBCCOG Chair