

8-STEP HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN

Link to the document:

http://www.la15th.com/homelessness_action_plan?utm_campaign=newsletter_191&utm_medium=email&utm_source=la15th

My action plan for the immediate future regarding homelessness not only in San Pedro, but also across Los Angeles:

1. Because of the success of our LAHSA Emergency response team which came online at the at the beginning of 2015 and which is responsible for engaging and matching 76 people with housing options, I will be adding new teams our efforts! Previously we had a two man team. Starting immediately, we will have six interventionists doing the work. Additionally, thanks to support from Supervisor Don Knabe, we will be supplementing the efforts of the expanded Emergency Response Team by adding a two-member Mental Health street team that will engage and work with our homeless population.
2. In addition to the continued quality of life car, LAPD will be adding a footbeat patrol in downtown San Pedro and on Gaffey St. between 1st and 14th streets.
3. I have written a letter addressed to all of the Mayors in the South Bay including Long Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Torrance, Lomita, Carson and Gardena requesting their buy-in for shared responsibility for homelessness issues. Like we are doing here in the Harbor Area, they need to step up their commitment to provide services and housing. We know that decentralization of services coupled with permanent supportive housing is the answer to solving this problem. It is not fair that a few communities in the County house the majority of service providers. In the letter, I am calling for the creation of a special committee within the South Bay Council of Governments focused on homelessness that will allow us to share experiences, ideas and best practices in our respective cities.
4. We know that permanent supportive housing is the correct path toward solving this issue. Currently my district has 311 supportive housing units that have recently become available OR are in the process of being built. They include: Vermont Villas, Blue Butterfly Village, 127th Street Apartments and El Segundo Apartments. Because I know that Permanent Supportive Housing is the right path towards a real solution, I will work towards promoting more public and private investment into Permanent Supportive Housing.
5. Because there is so much interest and passion in town about the issue of homelessness, I am launching the San Pedro Community Homelessness Taskforce which will be co-chaired by Ray Regalado, San Pedro resident and Senior Relations Specialist at Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. In the next few weeks I will name the rest of the task force members

from our community who will be responsible for shaping community standards related to dealing with homelessness. The first assignment I will give the task force is to create a plan for the coordinated consolidation of food banks in town. We learned tonight that the unintended consequences of the simple act of offering food may enable an individual to continue a negative spiral of substance abuse and illegal behavior. Food should be available to those in need, but it should come from professional sources that have an ability to offer additional services, making the individuals with the highest need more visible to those that can help.

6. CLEAN UPS: Many of you saw the video of the clean up we did at Ante's Restaurant. That was a large and high profile encampment and that is why many of you already know about it. However, we do do cleanups every weekend. I will continue cleaning these encampments whenever and wherever they materialize. As we learned tonight, they are unsanitary, illegal, dangerous and are a magnet for drug dealers and rapists. Allowing encampments incentivizes the worst case scenario: a place for drug dealers and gangsters to prey on these individuals.
7. Mayor Garcetti's State of Emergency regarding homelessness and his homelessness investment plan. Over the past eight months, we have illustrated a proof of concept, and are scaling our efforts. His plan authorizes \$100 million which will provide even more resources and our office will take advantage of its offerings to help even more people come off the streets and into housing. Additionally, the [County of Los Angeles has committed \\$600,000](#) towards this issue in the Harbor and South Bay areas.
8. Lastly, at the Forum we heard that Harbor Interfaith's services work! We have seen and heard from their most recent clients, we have heard our panelist sing their praises. It is blatantly obvious that we should do all we can to help Harbor Interfaith scale their efforts. So tonight, I am proud to promote the launch of the Harbor Interfaith Go Fund Me campaign.



JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

October 5, 2015

The Honorable John Addleman, City of Rolling Hills Estates
The Honorable Steve Aspel, City of Redondo Beach
The Honorable Chris Brown, City of Hawthorne
The Honorable Mark Burton, City of Manhattan Beach
The Honorable James Butts, City of Inglewood
The Honorable Suzzane Fuentes, City of El Segundo
The Honorable Patrick Furey, City of Torrance
The Honorable James Goodhart, City of Palos Verdes Estates
The Honorable Jim Knight, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
The Honorable Carolyn Petty, City of Hermosa Beach
The Honorable Jeff Pieper, City of Rolling Hills
The Honorable Robert Pullen-Miles, City of Lawndale
The Honorable Albert Robles, City of Carson
The Honorable Henry Sanchez, City of Lomita
The Honorable Paul Tanaka, City of Gardena

Dear South Bay Cities Mayors:

I write to you out of grave concern about a growing problem that threatens the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the South Bay cities. According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA), homelessness has increased 12% in Los Angeles County over the past two years, and the number of tents, makeshift shelters and encampments has grown by an astronomical 85% during the same period.

In the 15th District of Los Angeles, as in many other parts of the South Bay, numerous public spaces have been entirely taken over by the homeless, and our constituents no longer feel safe simply walking down the street. Immediate action must be taken. Homelessness is a regional problem that crosses jurisdictional boundaries. This is a problem that affects all of us, and simply pushing the homeless across our city borders only exasperates the problem and wastes time and money that could be better spent on developing a real solution. There is currently not enough shelters, medical professionals, and services available to help all the homeless in Los Angeles County. As elected officials in the South Bay Area, all of us must commit to working together to develop a regional solution.

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments has been a very effective means for organizing our respective cities and advocating for transportation projects that have regional benefit. I believe the SBCCOG is well situated to address this regional problem in the same manner, and that the South Bay Cities could be a leader and an example of inter-agency cooperation on homelessness as well. I will be calling for the creation of a special committee focused on homelessness, that will allow us to share experiences, ideas and best practices in our respective cities.

I respectfully request your support in the creation of this committee, and ask that you join me in making a commitment to addressing the problem of homelessness directly, and not just managing the symptoms.

Sincerely,

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District