

DRAFT

Bring L.A. Home
Business/Central City Association Focus Group
June 17, 2004

CCA Members Attending:

Rosemary Aneya, Downtown Center Business District
Carolyn Baker, The Midnight Mission
Hal Bastian, Downtown Center Business District
Diana Brueggemann, UCLA
Greg Fischer, CD 9
Victor Franco, Central City Association
Lynn Meyers, LA Fashion District
Anne Samuelson, Central City Association
Kai Stansberry, Union Rescue Mission
Orlando Ward, The Midnight Mission
Adlai Wertman, Chrysalis

Bring L.A. Home Consultant & Staff: Dan Flaming, Economic Roundtable; Natalie Profant Komuro, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Natalie Profant Komuro provided a summary description of Bring L.A. Home and the process for gathering input from stakeholders.

At this meeting, members of the Central City Association's Public Safety, Health and Homelessness Committee shared their views on homelessness and possible ways to end it.

Leading issues for this group included:

- high rates of substance abuse and addiction;
- mental illness; and
- the combination of the two, known as dual diagnosis.

Also noted is that while the most visibly homeless in downtown Los Angeles are single adults, a substantial number of the homeless population includes homeless families with children and "situationally" homeless persons who are not on the streets, but staying in other temporary places.

Other issues cited:

- High drop-out rate at LA Unified School District
- The barriers to development and program siting created by Neighborhood Councils
- Need for a variety of housing solutions
- Need to solve what causes homelessness
- Domestic violence

- Welfare reform
- Failure of law enforcement to check unhealthy behaviors on the streets
- Need for services around the county
- Need to make this (downtown L.A.) a less attractive place to camp out

Solutions

In addition to political leadership, the meeting participants indicated the following could help end homelessness:

- Jobs for unemployed homeless persons and works projects for those who cannot find employment in the labor market
- Stop bringing homeless people into Skid Row
- Bus tour for neighborhood councils to build local support for ending homelessness
- Improvements to public education to reduce the drop-out rate
- Permit the use of eminent domain to site programs with the purpose of addressing social ills (“social eminent domain”)