



**Bring LA Home
Blue Ribbon Panel Meeting
Transcript
September 23, 2004
Mears Center**

Antonio Manning: Welcome. Good morning to our third meeting of Bring LA Home: The Partnership to End Homelessness. We appreciate all of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to participate in this process and to join us for this meeting this morning. We have this morning a pretty packed agenda so we want to try and do this as expeditiously as possible, so that we don't hold you here all day. First I trust and hope that everyone had a good summer. For those of you who have been on nice vacations and excursions, welcome back. I think we have someone in the audience who got engaged over the summer, so congratulations to that individual.

A lot has happened since we last met. A lot of work has gone into the draft that you have in front of you. A lot of community meetings and focus groups have taken place since we last met that have involved over 1,000 people. And the recommendations that we will discuss today were derived from the more than 17 community meetings that have taken place and about 15 focus groups. So we have a lot of information to cover.

A couple of goals for the meeting today, before we get started: 1) is we really want to get through as much of the draft framework that you have in front of you, so for those of you who will be speaking and commenting later, I ask that you keep your comments focused and brief, in the interest of time; 2) the second goal of the meeting today is to get your approval, after the discussion, to release this draft framework to the public, so we can begin to elicit their feedback and to approve the formation of an executive committee, which you will hear about later.

So with that, I am now going to turn it over to Bob to provide a brief discussion on the community meetings and focus group recommendations.

Bob Erlenbusch: Thank you Antonio. You all have your packet in front of you, the first two sections I'll be talking about very quickly. Originally we had designed to have 6 community meeting and were expanded to a total 17 community meetings involving nearly 800 people attending and you can see in section 1 there are forty pages of testimony. There are more than 300 specific recommendations that we will have to grapple with over the next two months. The second piece, the original design had no focus groups, we wound up seeing the incredible importance of those and we wound up doing eleven. Those ranged from focus groups of people experiencing homelessness, law enforcement, youth, education of homeless children, the Central City Association did a focus group meeting, we did ones for health, mental health, and substance abuse and many of those involved department heads from the county. We did one on housing as well and we'll do one of them around employment issues, Chrysalis was nice enough to step up. Those focus groups easily involved over 100 to 150 people. So as Antonio



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said, a tremendous amount of work between our last meeting and today, involving nearly 1000 people.

Mitchell Netburn: Good morning and welcome everybody. All of the community meetings and focus groups, as well as information received through the website, through the mail and through other channels generated a tremendous list of recommendations, over 300 of them. So we want to give you all those recommendations to begin to think about those and our next challenge will be to incorporate those into a plan. What we did to give it some structure is to organize them under each of the goals. They are not officially part of the plan and when we get into the implementation phase that's when we want to get melding those recommendations. Certainly one of the things, when we do the community meetings, that we'll get input on which one of the recommendations are important to get into the plan. So today what we are looking for is approval not of this plan as a final plan but to release it to the public so that we can get that community input that is so critical to this point and to remind everyone that at the first meeting was really stressed that we wanted more of those community meetings. We'll get to it later and we have a schedule of the community meetings later.

Antonio: The next item on the agenda is presentation of other local plans. Those presentations are going to be presented and Mitchell is going to present a letter from Sheriff Baca, then a plan is going to be presented by Ted Hayes, which I don't see here but maybe he'll arrive by the time, then a plan will be presented by Carol Schatz.

Each presenter has been allotted five minutes. Bob will be my official timekeeper. (Laughter) We will begin with Mitchell.

Mitchell: The Sheriff extends his regrets for not being here, but he has an all day important thing going on where neither he nor his staff could attend here. He wanted me to read some brief comments from him.

Enter Sheriff's letter here.

Antonio: Ted isn't here so we are going to go to Carol.

Carol Schatz: This plan that I will be describing to you is called "Downtown Human Tragedy: Public Safety, Health and Homeless Plan" that was published and introduced by the Central City Association and a variety of other business improvement districts, downtown business organizations and many homeless providers in the downtown area in November of 2002. We have had some modest success, one of our



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recommendations was on this issue of releasing parolees, which we've been working with the Sheriff on and clearly he has made some changes but let me run you through it because it take a different point of view than the draft plan you have in front of you. What we attempted to do was to classify the very different populations of homelessness and homeless individuals that we find not only on the streets of not just downtown but in other parts of the city and the county. And we think it's pretty much tantamount to giving up on the issue if we just use the word and the label homeless to describe every facet of the homeless population. It's like calling the flu, small pox, cancer all illnesses, but they all require very different solutions and treatments. So we broke up this paper into various populations and actually I would like to add one that we've determined needs to be here and probably needed to be in there at the time. The temporary homeless and these are the individuals who do fall into homelessness because they lose a job, a woman and her children suffer from domestic violence and have to leave their home and their basis of support, people who through a series of bad luck situations end up on the street and they need to have housing immediately, because with that structure they can then move back, find a job and move out of the homeless situation. Organizations like Chrysalis, Union Rescue Mission, Midnight Mission and others do a great deal to address that population. And so, we don't focus our attention on that population, because it is clear that we need a home solution to it and we address the issue of providing more housing in another paper that we have just released, "Housing for all: The fair share program". The other populations are the ones that we have focused on because for those of us downtown and I hope that you would all agree, that downtown Los Angeles has become ground zero for homelessness, not just for Los Angeles County but for the United States of American and that is an appellation and a label that I hope you would agree with me is something that we would not want to continue to have to describe ourselves as.

So we talk about the service resistant addicted population. This is a huge population downtown, these are individuals who through a number of outreach efforts, including our own, have resisted any efforts to help them and move them into more permanent shelter or connected to other social -- I'm not going to be able to do this in a minute -- the mentally ill, aggressive panhandlers who may or may not be homeless but who operate within that parameter and make people think they are homeless. Parolees and drug dealers and other criminals that are part of this population and who use this population because they can filter in and out and no one really know. So we would ask that this committee take a very careful look at this and by the way I asked that this paper be presented to you at the very first meeting and be passed out and I was told that it would be mentioned on the web and we all know that I don't think that is the most direct way to get people's attention to an issue, so I am sorry that this is coming to you at this time and I made my request and my request was essentially ignored.



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Those are the populations; we think each one requires a very distinct and different solution. The paper that you have in front of you does not in any way or shape or form really attempt to address those different populations. It presumes that everyone that is homeless is poor. It presumes that everyone that became homeless became homeless because they were poor and lost a job. It ignores drug addiction and substance abuse as a critical, critical factor in putting people on the street, whether they come from middle class families or poor families. And so we come up with a number of different solutions. We wanted the policy stopped of releasing all paroles and prisoners into downtown. We just got word that the Santa Barbara Police Department is putting people on a one-way bus to downtown. That is the kind of thing we are dealing with in downtown. We do want an anti-encampment ordinance, if it is tied to more beds and more supportive services. We want an aggressive panhandling ordinance that can be enforced. We want a community court for downtown, which we have had great difficulty getting the municipal court to support. We have been effective in getting a public defecation and urination ordinance passed. We believe that homeless facilities should be created throughout the county, that this very severe concentration of homeless agencies in downtown just feeds the problem and doesn't force it back into other communities where it really belongs. If this is a problem for the whole county then every part of the county has to share in the solution. We want more aggressive enforcement by LAPD, especially with the drug dealers who are moving in and out of this population. We want to strengthen the laws that allow forced intervention for the mentally ill because we believe that allowing people to live on the streets and those organizations that argue for that right are essentially sentencing all of these individuals to a life of squalor and despair that is absolutely inappropriate for a civilized society. So that is our plan in two seconds or less.

Antonio: Thank you Carol. We will definitely take your plan and incorporate your recommendations into the final draft, which we hope we'll get to for everyone. And for those of you that don't have a copy we'll make sure that everyone gets a copy of what Carol just presented.

We are at the point in the agenda that is the meat of the agenda and that is a presentation and discussion of the draft framework that you have in front of you. You all have had the framework for a couple of weeks and several of you have been involved in several calls and meetings since the draft framework has been released. So with that we are going to get into a fruitful discussion to receive your feedback, comments and thoughts and we will take those under consideration as the work moves forward and to put together the final plan.



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Mitchell: Reminder, the mission statement, which was adopted at the first meeting, was, *“To prevent and end homelessness in Los Angeles County by creating and implementing a comprehensive, innovative, and realistic 10-year strategy to end homelessness”*.

The draft framework starts out with these guiding principles:

- Prevent homelessness.
- Maintain the existing capacity to serve homeless residents and build new capacity where it is needed.
- Address the structural causes of homelessness.
- Ensure rapid return to housing for people who become homeless.
- Bring alienated homeless residents back into the mainstream of society.
- Call on all communities to participate fairly in funding and siting homeless services and affordable housing.

Antonio: With that we are going to open up the floor. Try and keep it orderly and we'll receive your comments and feedback.

So we'll start with Tyrone Roy.

Tyrone Roy: I'm on the advisory board of the LA Homeless Services Authority. Right now to keep it brief I'll mention two things that are quite critical. One is the definition of affordability and you mention affordability in here and we got the housing trust fund and Mayor Hahn has release the housing crisis task force. Affordability does not reach this particular constituency and I am wondering how you are going to square this with housing people when they don't reach this affordability level and it is bandied about and people high five each other like they've done something and you really have done nothing for this particular constituency. The other thing I wanted to talk about is off the top and I have other notes here and time won't allow me to say anything about them all, but this one is very important also and that is the accountability factor here. Having worked with the homeless service industry, I know first hand, that the only other accountability is the count of the people you would like to service. LAHSA goes in and counts people and it is claimed a success because so many people come in and use services and no one measures the level of success of any of these service providers by what happens to these people when they leave those programs and what happens to them as they proceed through a vertical level of the continuum of care. No one. There is no motivation to even move these people along horizontally. There is nothing here to get the attention of the public to see if they are getting the bang for the buck from these service providers.



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Len Schneiderman: I wanted to comment briefly on the report. I think that my impression in reading the report is that a lot of important and relevant data has been assembled but I think that it is critical that the report sharpen its analysis and give greater specificity to its recommendations. Particularly to assign responsibility for the implementation of those recommendations. Let me explain a bit more about what I mean. I think the report's more significant conclusion is the following on page 7 and 8 of the report. It says as follows: insert quote.

I think that is a very sound and important conclusion. And that conclusion I think has to be used to guide the rest of the report. Because what it means in effect and put simply is that a plan to end homelessness cannot succeed unless based upon a foundation of mainstream programs, which in the words of the report, meet the basic needs of those entrusted to their care. Now the reality is and the data is sited through the report that our mainstream programs are now functioning far below that standard of performance. I think those deficiencies in our mainstream programs need to be specifically addressed and agencies level of governments and departments responsible for those level of provision have to be identified for some action in the future to bring that about. For example, we can't have a situation where in welfare reform we have increasing number of children living in severe poverty with decreasing number of children who are poor on our welfare rolls. We can't have a correction system, which fails to correct with a 70% recidivism rate, which discharges people back into our community not prepared for success. We can't have welfare standards, which puts 500,000 people a month at risk of homelessness because grants are too low given existing rentals. These are specific things that need to be addressed because they are the foundation for any future plan to end homelessness in the community and they cannot be bypassed.

Stephani Hardy: I'm Stephani Hardy with US Vets. I very much appreciate what was just said. I certainly cannot speak to mainstream programs but I did want to make one comment about accountability at least for those of us who run community-based programs. I have to disagree with you on that we are held to an incredible standard of accountability, which we report many of us on a quarterly basis and everyone for sure on an annual basis in order to be funded at all. All of those reports are public records. I have been to LAHSA meetings and have seen programs throughout the county that have been de-funded because they are not meeting their programs. You may disagree with me but I have certainly been there and seen it. I do want to say for those of you not familiar with community-based organizations work, we are definitely held to a high degree of accountability. I can't speak for every other organization, but we work very hard to meet those standards and I am sure others do as well.

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I can but I am not sure that is the issue, but I am happy to describe them to you afterwards.

They have to do with getting employment, coming off the street, getting clean and sober, long term housing and then moving into permanent housing. Those are the goals that we reach and report on a yearly basis.

Antonio: Thank you. We really want to keep your comments focused to right now the Guiding Principles. To listen to feedback and then we'll move to the next section of the report. Councilwoman Wendy Greuel.

Wendy Greuel: Thank you. I agree with the gentleman over here about specificity and I had the opportunity to meet with LAHSA staff a few weeks ago about that because as someone who dealt homeless issues when I worked Mayor Bradley and Deputy Director for the Interagency Council on Homelessness in Washington D.C. for HUD. There have been a lot of report written, a lot of studied that have been done, a lot of talk and many of you in this room live and breath this every single day and kind of know what it is we need to do to solve homelessness. And that there is some agreement and what we'll find in these guiding principles is probably not disagreement about prevention is critical and ensuring that people are not released into those communities that we have better mental health services, that we have more affordable housing. What I am hopeful is that this document when it is finalized and we come up with actually those recommendations, that to do list, that specificity is that we have a timeline that we have goals, that we have dollar figures next to those, in the mission statement as I was reading it, I talked about innovative and realistic both items which I know we have to deal with in this report. But what we have here is really an outline of where the problems are and the grandiose solutions that we need. But I think that many of us recently on the section 8 problem and the deficiencies and problems with the federal government and the decisions that they've made, um to local government that say we won't have homeless shelters in our communities, um instead they are located in skid row. When in fact many of the homeless people come from a variety of places from around the City of Los Angeles. My hope is that after we look at these guidelines is that what we really do now, and this is tough part, this is the tough part that we are going to hold people accountable. Many will remember that when we created LAHSA, in the lawsuit and we at HUD decided to have benchmarks and many cities where they were innovative city recipients, we told many mayors of those cities that you would not get your second installment until you can document what the next level, where the individuals have gone, and that you are coordinating with the others and that there was a lot of resistance in that. And I do believe that the next step is the toughest part of



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developing this plan. And that we really need to get down to those specifics, accountability and benchmarks to determine what is successful and what is not and how we prioritize that. And I support the creation and development of an Executive Committee and, I know Antonio mentioned in his presentation, um that can work on those items and working groups and come back to present those as quickly as possible.

Antonio: Is there anyone that has any other comments on guiding principles? If not then we'll move to the goals. Carol did you have your hand up? I'm sorry, Paul, you have your hand up.

Paul Vert: I'm Paul Vert, I work for Young's Market Company and I'm also on the board of the Central City East Association, we operate two BIDS in the area. I am also on the board of the Weingart Center. In reading this draft I felt that, um, there was a lot of information available that we did not see. I recommend that when you send this out that you attach exhibits. We've seen a lot of information that when you speak of 7,000 beds that you show where you think those beds are going to go. It applies to the whole report, we have 88 cities to deal with and I think that the more you can get them in the loop and share with them the faster this process will go. Report does not incorporate best practices. Share with us best practices of other cities. San Francisco in July came out with a plan to end homelessness and this is being touted as the model to deal with chronic homelessness. Best practice should be to focus on chronic homeless.

Finally, as a property owner...(inaudible) when will the report needs to address when will the laws be enforce...(inaudible).

Carol: Are you going to go piece by piece? Is that how you are going to do this. I guess my comments are on the guiding principles and goals. These are, many of them are Goals and guiding principles that many of us would agree with but they are unrealistic in my view and in the view of my constituency. It is great to say decrease the number of people on the streets and in shelters, I think perhaps that is what Councilwoman Greuel pointed to the need to be more specific and I would use the word focused. When we looked at this issue and developing our plan, we knew how extraordinarily complicated and how many layers of complication were involved in this, law enforcement, social services, housing, all these things, economics. All these things played into it. But you have to identify, what we decided, we had to pick two or three things that we thought we could make an immediate difference on and those are the things we put at the top of our agenda. And I think it is going to be very important, otherwise this is going to be a long and uh unproductive effort and this study will sit on a shelf if it the goals and guiding principles are not refined. Uh, if we do not have very specific, implementable recommendations which are shared and I think...uh and that is



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why I think they should be substantially rewritten as they are currently stated because they are I think unachievable.

Antonio: Keep in mind; the goal of this process is to get your feedback so that that refinement can take place. Mr. Roy.

Tyrone Roy: (Inaudible)...these are some grandiose idea, (inaudible) but I know from being on that board it took me a year and a half almost two year from being on that board since I first mentioned that children in skid row should not be in skid before getting on the agenda. It seems there is a service provider resistance to proactive type of behaviors that do more than just maintain homelessness. So I would like to say before I leave I am interested, I think I will withhold my comments because I have to go to the dentist, until I start seeing some detail about how this is going to be done. I have some ideas, but I want to see what you guys have to say – are you going to expand horizontally or vertically. Thank you.

Richard Bloom: (inaudible)...More positive focus here and recognize that one of the things included in our packets is 300 recommendations to take back to our community and provide feedback on. So we should provide focus on our purpose here today which is to move the draft plan forward to receive more input. And I think what Mr. Roy said is correct, this is a grandiose plan. Ending homelessness in ten years is a big idea and it needs to rely on a series of general goals that are backed up by specific recommendations. I'm sure there will be controversy with some of the recommendations but one has to assume that with 300 recommendations that we will come to a process where many will be acceptable and immediately recognizable as something that needs to be adopted. The next stage in this, which is going to be critical, and we'll have some feedback from our subcommittee later on which where is the money going to come from. There are many pieces that need to be put together. The critical thing we are here for today, in my opinion, is to move the process forward, take into consideration all the comments received here today and that will be received in the coming community meetings. So I just hope we will be able to maintain the focus on that.

Estela Lopez: I'm Estela Lopez of the Central City East Association. You have already heard some frustration coming out of downtown, over the situation and over this report. So I will try not to repeat what has already been said by Paul and Carol. But I can tell you that, if I were to take this back to my board, let me also say that I am a downtown resident, and if I was to take this to my neighbors, the frustration level would be tremendous. Your very first goal is the one that caught my attention from the report. Decreasing the number of people on the streets and in shelters. Um, one of your



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recommendations is to increase outreach services. I know as a person who has lived downtown for over a decade that outreach is ongoing and continues, but as Carol stated there is a chronic resistant population. Resistant to outreach. Resistant to housing. Resistant to the best efforts of law enforcement and law enforcement alone cannot do this I understand. But perhaps as we go along this morning and as you take this back for further refinement that we can look at as Carol said a more focused approach but the focused approach I would like to proposed is to look at parts of region most distressed by the continuing population and behavior of the population inflicting damage to the economy of the region, which ultimately inflict damage on the programs and proposals that you would like to see funded. I know that homelessness is not a downtown exclusivity but we are under siege. We need your help. We need fastracking of whatever programs you are going to support to give relief to the men and women who come into downtown every day and who build a community there to support the programs that eventually will bring an end to this problem.

Stephani: I just wonder if we have to look at this as an either or. I'm sort of hearing lets be positive of the goals that are up there, which I think they are all terrific goals. It's a big hairy ass goal to end homelessness lets face it. But I also am in agreement that we don't see goals about service resistant and the mentally ill and the substance abusers. Even the homeless veterans, which is what we deal with the most. And I think that maybe, I'm wondering that rather than either or we can look at it as these are terrific goals and maybe there are goals that need to be included in that to address the chronic issues that don't seem to be included in any of those specifically.

Rhonda Meister: I'd like to underscore and agree with what Dr. Schneiderman said that the key to implementation and success is going to be identifying and doing a more crisp analysis and then identifying who is responsible with the timeline. If I had to prioritize, given the conversation but also given what I think those of us that are on the Westside whose neighbors feel as besieged as those downtown uh, I think that the whole piece of really focusing on regional solutions is critical. If we don't do that we are not going to end homelessness, we are going to shift people from one law enforcement jurisdictions to law enforcement jurisdiction. Which is not respectful and it doesn't help people get better.

The second thing is that I think that keeping in mind the preventative element, which, way, way back, I know it's not on the goals sorry it was on the one before...the principles. A long time ago when we all sat down 20 year ago to look at the homeless issue and what to do. The prevention was very much held in the forefront. That has gotten lost. And I think pulling that back in and the regional solution.



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And thirdly, and municipalities have some control over this, really putting the mainstream institutions under the fire to not increase homelessness by their discharge policies. Those are three things that if we did nothing else I would really recommend.

Len: I wanted to make some comments on the guiding principles. I wanted to talk about resources and funding and call attention to the one thing that I think is critical to this community and that is the enormous under-utilization of resources that the community is now entitled to but not using. For example, we have only 32 percent of poor children that are actually recipients of a program intended for their assistance, the Cal-Works program. This report tells us that only 12 percent of adults who are eligible for food stamps are getting the food stamps they are entitled to. A recent UCLA study tells us 300,000 children in our community are eligible for Medi-Cal benefits and are not getting Medi-Cal benefits. Half of our population on GR is SSI eligible and are not getting SSI. One of our priorities ought to be quite aside from advocating for new programs and new resources is to maximize our utilization of presently unused resources for this population.

Don Spivak: A couple of things, first there seems to be missing a discussion of the fact that the homeless population is not homogeneous across the region. We have different components of the homeless in different areas. For example, in downtown you have a very large component that is made up of people who are mentally ill. In Hollywood, you have a very large component of the population that is made up of run-away youth. So there really needs to be recognition that the population is not distributed homogenously. And that there needs to be I think as Carol was saying a triaging of the population to understand the different components and identify approaches that will deal with the sub-components you have in these different regions.

The concept of regionalism is extremely important but you have to keep in mind that we cannot regionalize or decentralize at the expense of communities that have done more than their fair share. Some areas, Hollywood, North Hollywood, Downtown, have carried a burden for a very long period of time. And if we decentralize by moving resources away from these places you will be short changing these communities as well as short changes the populations that are in these area. To make decentralization effective there needs to be a couple of things and increasing the amount of resources or taking advantage of resources that are not being utilized is critical. But to make communities work in a context in which NIMBYism seems to reign supreme there needs to be a very clear set of both incentives for different communities to accept their portion of the solution and penalties for those that refuse to do so. So coming up with both those incentives and legal mechanisms that will force communities to address the



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issues locally instead of putting them on buses and sending them down to where most of the services are located now seem to a very big part of making this thing work.

Tanya Tull: (Inaudible)

Antonio: Thank you. Dr. Jennifer Wolch and then Carol and then after that we are going to move to the Strategies.

Jennifer Wolch: Thank you Antonio. (Inaudible)...basically I think that there needs to be much greater level of specificity in the document on how we are going to proceed with reaching some of these goals. In particular, I very much want to reiterate the point that was made about prevention and the lack of take up by mainstream programs. Those points are really important and the failure of mainstream programs and I sometimes think it's willful failure because of some of the pressure that some of these institutions are under. But in some ways what I want to see is not only a lot of specificity about plans and programs but how are we going to organize the whole region to make sure state and federal programs deliver what they should be delivering to the population. Really that is where the major resource are to prevent homelessness not only the major programs that are not being utilized but lets look at the level of some of those programs. Are people really going to live on GR, I don't think so. So that is one thing that I wanted to say.

I wanted to also reiterate the point that Don made about regionalism and fair share that were made by other people. Uh, and uh the need to preserve existing capacity of services and housing but also at the same time not reallocate resources from those places that are doing the most but increase resources elsewhere so that we have a fair share system.

I have been working with NYMBY for a very long time, as I am sure other people here have as well. And uh I think it will require both some heavy duty incentives to make communities step up to the plate that have done hitherto done so, but we may also want to think about a legal strategy to make some kind of housing and services by right in zoning ordinances and pre-empt local zoning ordinances and CUP processes that basically disallow services and housing from being sited.

One thing is that the plan we develop needs to have benchmark targets, indicator data that we can track on a systematic basis over time that are each attached to everyone of these goals. And the plan and report to have more force, right now it reads in a very vague way in terms of some of the specifics of the problem. We have a lot of data now



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that needs to be judiciously used to make people understand why a strategy and action item is so critical to have the intellectual force that I think it is going to require.

Carol: I'm sorry. I am going to have to leave. But I wanted to talk about the process. I think it would be very problematic to send out the draft for public input as it is now drafted. Frankly, it is this discussion more than the other focus groups and other meetings where you are getting input from your board. There is enough disparity in views that this document should be revised before distribution for public comment. I would argue vociferously for that. We would strongly oppose any provision of housing being a basic right. It sounds terrific. I wish we could do it. But again, we are talking about realistic goals and just as I mentioned in the initial presentation of our plan. We do not believe that housing is the sole solution to this problem and that is why you are not getting and discussing the sub-populations that are so critical to what the downtown community and all of the community, the residents, the businesses and those that are on the streets hopefully not by their own will. I strongly urge the Executive Committee to be empowered to revise the draft, then circulate it, then have that draft be provided to the public. Because this draft as it's currently drafted, at least from our perspective, does not adequately describe the goals, principles or solutions that we think need to be addressed in dealing with this problem comprehensively. Thank you.

Antonio: This draft in fact will be revised taking into account the comments that are made here today before it goes out to the public. And you have a week to provide additional comments as well. So this draft as you currently see it is not the one going out to the public. It will include all of the comments and recommendations from today.

Kathy Cooper Ledesma: I went to breakfast this morning to the Cardinal's policy breakfast. There was a good panel on what other cities are doing with their 10-year plans. I think the most revealing thing that was said today was by Jonathan Hunter of the Corporation for Supportive Housing. He said that the City of San Diego just concluded an 18-month study of 15 chronically homeless people who in 18 months consumed \$3 million worth of resources for homeless services. Mostly having to do with the healthcare and ambulance services and things like that. I think when we look at resource development and there will be a discussion of that later but how resources are being used locally and how we can make better use of resources locally is an important component to all this. I think that is something that the business community can respond to. We are paying a lot to serve this population and in many ways not in the smartest way. So I think we know what works and we just focus on that but use that as a sort of guiding principle for resource development and how resources are used in terms of addressing homelessness I think is a real important factor.



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Susan Rabinovitz: I just want to say that I actually think there is less disagreement overall. I mean, what we are looking at right now what are sort of overarching principles, overarching goals that I think is not where we need to uh spend a lot of time that there is much opportunity and possibility and need to sharpen and make those uh more crisp. I think there is some question about how best to utilize community meetings because I think the process of looking at the specific recommendations and then prioritizing those recommendations in order to construct uh plan is what is going to be the next task in taking energies and creativities. And I think we also today need to take a look at what each one of us as a Blue Ribbon Panel member is going to do to contribute to that process.

So I would actually recommend that in the review of recommendation process that you solicit comments, very specific comments on each of the components and then ask people to come back with priorities and next steps that are layed out and I think that is probably a better use of peoples time than spending a community meeting reviewing goals and policies and principles. And I know that in terms of my participation I will take this back to the Coordinating Council for Run away and Homeless Youth. We will evaluate the plan from that perspective of young people who become homeless when they unsuccessfully emancipate from foster care, when they leave home because of abuse or neglect, when they are kicked out from their home and then take a look at a very concrete, specific approach to how would we meet the needs of that population. And I think it's incumbent upon all of us who are here to play that kind of role in terms of refining and actualizing this plan.

Antonio: Thank you. Gilbert.

Gilbert Saldate: (inaudible)

Dora Gallo: Just a couple of comments on the plan itself. I know when I read it the number one impression I got and the feeling that kept coming through was who and how. And I think, I understand the process and what this document is supposed to be is essentially setting up these goals. And I agree with Tanya that this is an admirable effort and I think that one way of labeling appropriately is to take off the title, because this is not an actual plan, this is setting up the framework and we should probably call it that because if you distribute this you will confuse the public and many of them will have the same problems we are having here today.

But I am listening to the discussion and I have to agree with Gil because I am a little bit alarmed. I heard from Carol that housing is not the only solution. That frightens me.



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What are other people thinking of solutions if we are not getting people off the streets and putting them in shelters or a roof over their heads. I am not sure where this is headed, because it seems to me there is a real divergence of opinions on how we solve the homeless issue. And I think at some point Bring LA Home needs have to decide, do we want absolute, 100% buy-in from this particular board, organization or whatever we call ourselves, or do we want a consensus or majority rule? Because we are not going reach 100% agreement on any of these goals, principles, or strategies that are going to be coming forward. So I think at some point we will be having to come to a vote and we need to decide how we want to approach this. What happens to those that are not in agreement because it needs to be very clear there are going to be people who will be very unhappy with this document. For those of us who are working to provide housing for the homeless population and providing services it's very frightening for me to hear that housing is not the solution.

Lastly, on page four of the document there is a reference to the fact that shelter should be a right. So that's already in the document and I don't know if Carol is objecting to that particular paragraph or just essentially to comments that have been made here today. So I was just putting that on the table.

Antonio: Councilmember Greuel.

Wendy Greuel: This has been a great conversation and I know we haven't really stuck to your agenda necessarily. We've gone over the whole report but that's okay.

Antonio: Sign of things to come. (laughter)

Wendy Greuel: That's right, sign of things to come. And I think and I appreciated your comments over there and we met briefly this morning. I just tell you a challenge we have and I'm sure Jan Perry has the same challenge as an elected official. I have a community in my district Sunland Tujunga which is geographic out there we have a few more homeless coming out there, it's secluded, it's an area. And the challenge that we have, there is a group of homeless individuals who drink and do drugs and start fires behind people's homes because they are in the wash. Um, or we have wonderful people who are coming to feed the homeless from other cities uh come to our park and serve. Um, and I think people have the right to do that. And the challenge that we have as elected officials is that we get a call from a constituent who says, "my kid wants to go to the park and they are drinking in the park" or "I'm afraid my house will burn down in this time period" and we've sent out LAHSA workers and they've talked to some of them and some of them say I want to live here this is my right to live here.



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Again, I am one of those who has been a great supporter of creating programs of homeless services and trying to work with people but I have LAPD officers coming to me saying, "I am becoming a social worker because there is no one who can solve this". It would be great actually to have a group and I would be willing to get a group of us together to talk about how do you deal with that as a police officer as a homeless worker as an elected official, when you have, you're compassionate and say I want to provide homeless services for this individual and yet you have your constituents over there who are not dispassionate who care about the homeless, but say "I also need to protect the part of my neighborhood, where my kids and my grandkids can't go to that park". So we often push them under the rug because it's hard to talk about. It's very, very difficult because you have to pick between two people: a person who doesn't have a home and a person who does who wants to protect that home. And so I think it would be very beneficial to sit down and have conversations about how you deal with that and it is in larger scale in some other parts of the district, excuse me, other parts of the city that we have to deal with that. But we had, if you remember a meeting up in my district where over 100 showed up in Sunland Tujunga from all over and 20 of them were homeless who lived in that area and it was one of the most exciting and tense meetings because of that we had a few who said they lived up there in Sunland Tujunga and that is where they wanted to live and how they wanted to live. So I just think it's worth our time to talk about it because it happens in every single area and we are being forced so I would assume Kathy that you would agree with that that you have those kinds of conversations every day. What do we do? The homeless are our constituents too. Um, so I just wanted to acknowledge that and it's not easy or simple and that we have to figure out a way to deal with that. Mollie and I have talked about it over the years too with some of the people that are mentally ill in those areas, in skid row. So I don't know how that fits into your next step or maybe it's not one of the pieces of this proposal but something that we have to deal with on a city and countywide basis.

Antonio: Thank you. We are going to move into the strategy session. You have one comment?

Jose Hernandez: I'm actually not Senator Richard Alarcon but I am Jose Hernandez here on behalf of the senator. (laughter) First I want to apologize for my tardiness and apologize for the senator not being able to make it to such an important and valuable discussion. One of the things I wanted to do is on behalf of the senator say that were here not only in support of what everyone is doing and give our support but some of our expertise. Some of you might know that the senator also has a lofty goal in terms of we created a joint committee to develop a master plan to end poverty in California. You can imagine that we have been having similar discussions in terms of what are the steps, what is the long-term projections, et cetera. One of the main messages that we



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wanted to get across actually was touched upon what will be the focus of the group. WE understand that housing is the priority, but I think and the senator wanted to convey that policy does not operate in a vacuum. So while we can focus on housing we also have to be cognizant about what are the other issues that really affect homelessness and not leave those out. While we can center on the solutions that deal with housing we also have to take into consideration what is happening in healthcare, there is this move in terms of universal healthcare. What is happening in education in terms of right now this move on universal preschool kind of focusing on the achievement gap, et cetera. What is focusing on training, workforce development, et cetera. But one of the things that we want to bring to the table, what are the other campaigns, how they can supplement our work in terms of trying to end homelessness in LA and work around that. So while I understand that housing will be the focus we also have to have recommendations that embrace other work that is being done that tangentially will try to end the same problem, which is homelessness.

Antonio Manning: Thank you, we are now going to move to the strategies and take care of comments and feedback on those. So we will begin on page 13 in your plan. We want goals one by one but if you sort of have comments in general about the 33 that are there, add to, take away, delete, this is the time now. Any additional comments on the strategies? Yup. No. Find it hard to believe with this group. We'll just move.

Joel Roberts: If there is an increase of people being discharged into the system, uh that's bigger than the increase of the number of permanent housing, then you shouldn't be reducing the number of emergency beds.

Antonio: Thank you. Tanya.

Tanya Tull: I just caught that and thank you for repeating that. I think it is very dangerous that last sentence to say "adjust the number of beds downward as additional permanent housing is created and there is less need for shelter beds". It locks us in again. You have to make existing housing more affordable. You have to make existing housing more available on the short term perhaps for people who are needing to exit homelessness. You cannot rely upon that phrase "as we develop additional housing". I am a developer; I've been doing it for 20 years. They are all going to be dead by the time we serve 1/80th of those that need help so the focus has to be on all kinds of different ways that you can subsidize and make more affordable existing units whatever those units are and whoever are going to be housed by them. That gives you um, it just opens it up and you don't need to do that.

Antonio: Thank you, any other comments. Yes, Estela.



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Estela: Inaudible.

Antonio: Any other comments, going once, going twice.

Tanya: Okay this is an important one and we're not going to do all 33. There is a program in New York that is currently being replicated across the country. It is called "Housing First For Chronically Homeless Individuals Who Are Service Resistance". It does not rely on services as a prerequisite for housing. When you adopt housing as a basic human right approach in the work that we do, then housing comes first, and once people are in housing, studies have shown for 20 years, in their own housing they are more responsive to the intervention and support that we want to provide to them. But the difference there between the Housing First that I do where someone has their own lease, is an agency is responsive to people with drug abuse, and chronic mental illness, dual diagnoses, master lease that unit for them and they are not all housed together. They have a master lease and somebody is the payee so that is the other end of the spectrum from what I do with families but the point is that it all works and people have to see someone twice a month in that program. It is called Pathways and I've spoken with Samson Barris, the founder of that organization. He's being doing it with research. Documenting the impact of outcomes, very positive for 15 years and we've spoken together around the country. Thank you.

Antonio: Thank you. Dr. Schneiderman

Schneiderman: I don't want to miss the opportunity to refer to the importance of education and training. If we would look at what the most successful vehicle for upward mobility in our society has been with an established record of success it would be education and training as a vehicle and I applaud that emphasis among, although its not on the board right now, but I know that it's in the report and I have to call attention specifically here to the fact that the County of Los Angeles itself has a policy which is contrary to that in its Gain Program where we have an emphasis on something called Work First. That is a preference for marginal employment over access to education and training and that's the kind of specificity I would like to see in the report. I would like to see a specific recommendation, which says, "this policy is contrary to successful entry into employment at a living wage and that the County has to reexamine that policy". I would like to see that degree of specificity.

Antonio: Thank you. Any more comments?

(Inaudible)



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Unidentified Speaker: (inaudible)

Antonio: Thank you. Tanya and then Susan.

Tanya: I just want to comment that I've had homeless people, formerly homeless people ask me how long they have to be labeled homeless because they weren't homeless before they became homeless, they were just people and I think it is important to understand that there are more people housed and in housing, who have not entered our system of homeless services with those same issues and problems then who lost their housing. What causes somebody to become homeless when they have a housing crisis is a lack of a support system to pick them up when that happens and basically once housed and after a transitional period of time, because the experience of homelessness causes post traumatic stress disorder on top of any other presenting problem, so it takes months sometimes to re-stabilize or regain some sense of stability so that you can think straight. But once that occurs, that person who was homeless is often no different than that person next door who might be drinking, might be in recovery, might have money management problems and we have to remember that we have created a subclass in society called the homeless. We've done that for two decades. We're on our third decade. We did it; I've participated in it. We needed money. We needed attention drawn to it. We have to think the best for these people. Most people will get out if we do it right. Some will not but most will and we are not doing it right, right now.

Antonio: Thank you Tanya, Susan.

Susan: I'm struggling a little bit with the organization of the plan at this point and I'm wondering if it might be useful to reorganize some of the recommendations and strategies and I see three basic ways to take a look at it. I would look at, one in terms of services for homeless and then things like shelter beds, expanding access to mental health care, and increasing the availability of health care services and one could cluster those kinds of strategies under some sort of higher level issues and so recommendations and strategies would be clustered together and we can also cluster those under some specific goals so that we can put more specificity and then priorities within each section so that we're not fighting between service delivery and prevention. Then the second major category I see is changing systems and institutions to prevent and reduce homelessness and there I think about the kind of specificity with what do we need to do to change the GAIN Program. What do we need to do to revamp DCFS and do better at emancipation planning? What do we want to do in terms of a federal, on a federal level even in terms of, at what age to emancipate from foster care? At what age



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do you lose your entitlement to certain kind of benefits? I mean it is absurd that we have a system where you leave protective services at age 18. Those of us who have young adult children wish they would be self sufficient and independent at age 18. It just doesn't happen that way. Our notion of adolescent is very different than it was when we develop those services and that's where we could cluster all the system changes. And then the third, I can't quite think of a title but I conceptualize it as your economic justice issues and that's where we put in the weight shift. The affordable housing and those kinds of things that really keep people from being able to getting off the street to get housing to earn enough and then we could cluster strategies within, among those broader categories and prioritize among those three and I think that would help move the plan forward and give some specificity to our recommendations.

Antonio: Thank you. Any other comments?

Chancela Al-Mansour: I'm Chancela Al-Mansour, from Neighbor Legal Services, speaking on behalf of my executive director who had to, unfortunately had to leave for another meeting. I have been specializing in public policy for about 12 years and the one think that we see over and over again is tenants who, because they lose their jobs, because of health problems, so forth, or because the landlord has increased the rent, or for numerous reasons, they become evicted. And then, there's this horrible cycle that continues because if they are fortunate enough to receive affordable housing, in terms of permanent housing, get another apartment, the same thing happens again, or maybe they have a hard time because they have bad credit. What I would like to see, and I think somebody said this earlier, what is missing is who is going to be doing all of this. When the who is identified, meaning both people who work on increasing affordable housing and preserving affordable housing, and making sure people stay in that housing. And the other who would be, for instance, working with people who provide income supportive services so that the person won't be evicted in the future because they are (inaudible) or something like that and they need income support services to make sure they will not be evicted in the future for various reasons. And connecting with employment opportunities and childcare advocates and so forth so the entire infrastructure created to keep people housed, not just to put them in housing and keep their housing preserved once they are there. So one thing that we would like to see is to make sure that there is a well coordinated effort on behalf with the providers and advocates to make sure we know what we are doing to keep people housed and make sure that once these great efforts are actually realized, they are not putting them up for failure because we have not thought far enough ahead as to how we can assist people in the future.



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Antonio: Thank you. Okay, any more comments? We are going to move to the next item in the agenda. Real quickly. I want to call your attention to item number five in the agenda and attachment 4 and 5 which are the green and blue tabs which are Attachments 4 and 5 which outlines an updated timeline for our next two meetings and updated community meeting schedule so that you know when and where those meetings will take place. Just bringing it to your attention. The next item on your agenda is an update on the Resource Development Group. But I am told that our mayor is here so we will be stringing this along to give him an opportunity to get in here and make a couple of comments. So Kathy, are you going to report for Jan on the Resource Development Group? Mayor Bloom is? So why don't we do that.

Mayor Bloom: The panel approved the creation of the Resource Development Group to identify and secure resources to fund the recommendations of Bring LA Home. Supervisor Yaroslavsky and Councilwoman Perry are the Co-Chairs of that committee. Eleven Blue Ribbon Panel members or they're representatives attended the April 1 kick off meeting at which the attendees agreed on the following principles:

One: Obtain fair share commitment and funding and project siting from all jurisdictions in Los Angeles County to support homeless programs.

Two: Ensure best and maximum use of funding for mainstream and homeless programs. This includes sound prioritization, coordination, and leveraging of outside resources.

Three: Secure public and private commitments to provide resources and funding to support the 10-year plan to end homelessness.

The Resource Development Group also agreed on the following activities to promote the plan and to seek local, state, and federal support for its implementation. A Reception for the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation during their January recess. A Delegation to Sacramento, and a Summit of Cities in Los Angeles County.

Since April a smaller group of staff representatives have been meeting to discuss logistics for these proposed courses and, if it appears that the adoption of the 10-year plan will proceed as anticipated, that staff is going to begin planning the briefing for the congressional delegation in January.

Part of the preparation includes inviting local congressional staff to Bring LA Home meetings so that they are familiar with the plan and the process before the event in January. The briefing will focus on the need for federal resources to support the efforts to end homelessness. Staff is also researching the best time for the delegation of



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elected officials to go to Sacramento to discuss Los Angeles' needs in view of the 10-year plan recommendations.

The City Summit is seen as a crucial starting point to engage more cities in Los Angeles County in the campaign to end homelessness. Not only will they be approached for leveraging local funding, but for siting affordable housing and homeless programs. Staff is also researching options for a source for a dedicated revenue stream to help fund the recommendations of Bring LA Home. This includes reviewing sources used by other communities to fund their housing trust fund or homeless services. There are examples from Seattle, Miami, and Ohio that are under consideration. The Resource Development Group will be considering those options at a future date. At the opening meeting of the RDG, there was discussion on how to engage the public in supporting the plan and how to provide opportunity for private giving. That discussion has been deferred until there is an assured consensus regarding the priorities of the 10-year plan. We all know that when we are reaching to private entities they are going to want to have that specific information. The Resource Development Group will be scheduling two meetings in October and will schedule a regular meeting date beginning in November. The staff contact for the Resource Development Group is Natalie Profant Komuro at LAHSA. That concludes my report.

Antonio: Thank you mayor Bloom. We have been joined by the Mayor, Mayor Hahn. Welcome.

Mayor Hahn: Thank you. Very excited to see the story in the paper today talking about this plan. I think getting the public's consciousness about what it is we are trying to do is extremely important. So we want to thank all of you for working with us on this. Want you to know that staff from the Mayor's office will be working with you to make sure that we will have this completed by December. That we are joining places like San Francisco and New York and looking at what they've done. Hopefully, we can also use some of their ideas to help us with what we are doing. Obviously, excellent recommendations and better coordination between the different social services providers is extremely important and we all talk about that. We all get together but we always have a better job to do in coordinating those services so that it is easier for people who are in need of these services to access those services. We are also planning in Los Angeles to create this idea of a single database that can provide a way that we can know what are the needs of all the people who are accessing the system. A Homeless Information Management System, and that way when service providers are dealing with an individual they can look at the whole person, all of their needs and know all the issues we need to be working with so that we are not missing the opportunity to help somebody because of the limited focus of the particular service they are seeking.



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Appreciate that they dealt with the issue of inmates being released from jail, released from state prison or any other institutional facility. And to make sure that when someone is being put back in the community, they are not just floundering. That we have some way of connecting them immediately to the services they are going to need to make sure they are able to be stabilized and not have to return to institutionalized care.

Appreciate that also it deals with our foster care system and I know that there are a number of great service providers that try to reach out to young people as they become emancipated. We don't want them to become homeless just because they reach the magic age of age 18. Certainly everybody who understands what is to be a parent, it's hard to get those 18 year olds out of the house, sometimes it's hard to get those 25 year olds out of the house, but when the state has assumed this role of being the parent, in the foster care system, I think that the role of the parent needs to extend.

I am really very pleased that there is an emphasis on the idea of street outreach and outreach teams that go out to help people. The place where a lot of people are afraid for a number of reasons to get the help that they need. They are not going to walk in your door, they are not going to walk up and say I need help, some will, many won't and for those that are out there, to go out to them is extremely important and I appreciate the emphasis on that. I would like to also see, what we can do to help people who have been homeless, be part of those outreach teams to reinforce this idea of trust. To have peer outreach there, so that people say, "Look I was where you were, you know whom I am, and I know what you are going through". I think the addition of those folks who have been on the streets before, those outreach teams, will make it much more effective.

Most importantly is the idea of the regional approach to this throughout the County of Los Angeles. Eighty-eight cities, Los Angeles is one city. We have many, many, many, services, shelters in the City of Los Angeles but not everybody that we serve started out at the City of Los Angeles. People are homeless and come from all the communities of the area. We need to figure out ways that we can get everybody to understand that there needs to be services and shelters in all different parts of the County of Los Angeles, not just in Downtown Los Angeles. I know that this is going to be hard. I know, but we need to do that.

The other issue is that it is important that we are looking at the 80,000 homeless in our area. San Francisco decided that they are going to focus on that portion that they consider the chronically homeless and target their relief. We need to figure out how we



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use our existing funding I believe and do that, and target that with coordination and other efforts to reach the population that we can. We can't wait for the funding, I know that we are all going to lobby to get from Sacramento and Washington but they have tough budget problems as well. I hope that as we fine-tune this plan that we concentrate on using our resources to the maximum benefit that we can while we look to get more resources. I don't want to hold anything up by saying that as soon as we get the money we can do this. With 80,000 people homeless in Los Angeles County, we are not going to be able to get them into housing immediately. What we need to do is figure out people who are in most in need of help. We also need to figure out how to get people as fast as possible from being homeless back into housing. We certainly seen over and over again the longer somebody is on the street, the more problems they are going to have. So certainly finding people who are recently homeless, especially families, is extremely important.

I hope that we can concentrate our resources strategically. The permanent housing is certainly a major part of the solution. We had an Advisory Committee put together when we created the \$100 million Housing Trust Fund in the City of Los Angeles. We asked people to talk, "you have this housing trust fund, how are we going to use that?" So there was specifically money set aside for transitional housing for the people to go directly from the street into housing, just like the St. George Hotel that we went to the opening of last week. That's going to be part of what we do. Obviously, building more housing, and preserving existing low-income housing. It's got to be top, top priority. I appreciate that you concentrated on that.

We are going to offer our full support so that you finish this goal. There's a lot of good stuff in here. The most important is to state clearly in this report that the situation today is intolerable. We cannot just have a situation where we managing the problem so that it doesn't get worse. The idea that in this kind of society, the wealthiest nation on earth, it's wrong to have so many people out on the street and we can do something about it. I appreciate that this is the focus of this group and this report and that we recognize that there is something terribly, terribly wrong with the picture of people living out on the street and we can do something about it. So thank you again, for your work and we will do everything we can to provide you with the staff support to finish it.

Antonio: Thank you for your comments. As I indicated in the beginning of the meeting, before we take five minutes for public comment, but before we do that, I indicated that we had a couple of goals and one was to get your approval for the release of the draft framework to the public. But before we do that, we want to make sure that we include the revisions. It will be revised to include your comments and thoughts today, it will then go back out to you and then we want to be able to release it to the public. So I want to



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get your approval to move forward with that process before we move to the public comment. I also think that Councilwoman Wendy Gruel also has some recommendations.

Wendy Gruel: The comments that we had of not saying the framework and changing the coversheet and some other things that it says that it is the framework would be a great addition as well. And to my recommendation of having an executive committee that looks at all of the, as you mention Meredith, 300 recommendations that were not part of this report that we got but that were part of the packet that we received today and that we look at some of those and put them into various categories, and what we heard in this room as well.

Antonio: I need a motion. All in favor of proceeding along those lines. Did you have a comment?

Jennifer Wolch: I just want to ask a question to be clear. The executive committee will actually carefully vet this before it goes back to the full committee. Because I think that is critical.

Antonio: There will be an additional week from today to get your comments in before we get it back out to folks and then out to the public. Tanya.

Tanya: Who will comprise the executive committee?

Antonio: That is a good question.

Mitchell: As you know each of you sort of represents a different sort of constituency, sort of speak so we wanted a representative from each of those. One from business, providers, homeless/formerly homeless, elected officials. So there are about 2 to 5 people from each of those categories. So one representative from at least each of those major areas.

Tanya: Inaudible.

Antonio: No, it hasn't been developed yet.

Female: Inaudible. Make those nominations or suggestions to staff?

Mitchell: To staff, and then, we will forward those to Antonio, who's Chair.



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Antonio: I just want to get your approval to form the committee then go to work. So if there are folks who are interested please let us know. At this point of the agenda we have five minutes left, nearing the end and we are ready for public comment. I think we have one, Lisa Strausman.

Lisa Strausmann: My name is Lisa Strausman. I am producing a documentary on homelessness in Los Angeles. I am also setting up a nonprofit organization that works to integrate homeless people into the development of downtown Los Angeles and mostly homeless artists that are on the streets. I don't know if a lot of you know that but there are a lot of musicians, writers, poets all sorts of creative people right there on the streets and they're the people that I am working with on a daily basis. Carol Schatz has left but that was my response to something she said. I was really disappointed to hear Carol and Estela focus on the huge resistance from homeless people that are not looking for help or accepting help. Well, if they come to me, I have a list a mile long of people that do want help, and, on a daily basis. Yesterday, for example, I had a team of homeless people dressing a theater with me as art directors. The other thing is, that I believe, that we have training, education, and jobs go hand in hand with housing. Housing is really important but those things have to go along with it. And when you house a homeless person, there has to be some sort of monitoring program set up with it. One last thing, I would ask that a group this size that's helping to end homelessness, please refer to homeless people as not "the homeless people", as "homeless people", that is a very general statement. Thank you.

Antonio: Thank you. Before we take any other comments, I was informed that regrettably I forgot to ask, "was there anybody opposed to the motion?" So I want to make sure that in the honor of protocol, does that. Any abstentions? Deidra Shelter. Please get her a microphone.

Deidre: Hi, good afternoon. I work for Los Angeles Unified School District. I am their homeless education coordinator and I'm really glad to see that in here I saw something about kids and education but I wanted to state that agencies need to try partner with the school district because, to be very honest, I'm out there and there is not, a very interest of having the kids in school. The focus is on the adults portion and if the kids are in school, it means that they are in a better environment for the majority of the day. Also, you want to think about ending the cycle of homelessness like in ten years. You are not going to do it because they are 10 year olds. Learning the pattern and working the system and I have children that are either predator or prey, and so they take that with them so that is what I'm here to say. Include the education piece for the children. We are here to get the kids in school and that is really important to ending homelessness.



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Antonio: Thank you, Luke Vincent.

Luke: Thank you. I am homeless right now. I'm in a sort of a tiny little van and I'm furious that I got a 85.02 citation ticket or something saying that I don't have a right to do that. So they want to push me back in the street. When you come in and knock out a solution that people make for themselves, go in dig people out of their hiding places, you are making the problem worse. Spending resources negatively and are in fact being criminals yourself, so we really need to have a stronger emphasis on not doing the wrong things, criminalization, arresting the homeless. Also, in general there is an attitude of people who have never been homeless of wanting to blame poor people, wanting them to do something, something a little vague often like wanting them to work while, unless you have a job, and no one has a job for everybody. And if the person is going to start working and maybe your job is one. We have a shortage. We are in a macro national global of terrible economics and in order to control, we would have to control world power and that has terrible reputation, I don't know why. So we must not go in wrong directions above all. Thank you.

Antonio: Thank you. Being no more public comments. A couple of things I want to reiterate. First, I want to thank our host, the Hollywood First Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use this space here so we definitely want to say thanks. A couple of reminders, you can write your comments in by next Friday so that we may include them in the revisions. Please be mindful of the upcoming meetings that are in attachments 4 and 5 for the next panel meetings as well as for the updated community meetings. And with that, we adjourn this meeting on time, I hope. Thank you.