



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

STEVE COOLEY • District Attorney
CURT LIVESAY • Chief Deputy District Attorney

JOHN D. S. ALLEN
Assistant District Attorney

January 22, 2004



Mitchell Netburn
Executive Director
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
548 S. Spring Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Mr. Netburn:

Homelessness affects and concerns all sectors of public service including the Office of the District Attorney. Programs such as *Bring LA Home: The Partnership to End Homelessness* are extremely important in focusing attention on the growing problem of homelessness and implementing solutions to solve it. The District Attorney's Office applauds your commitment and efforts to end such an important concern for Los Angeles.

The District Attorney's Office appreciates inclusion in your inquiry for statistical information regarding homelessness. However, two factors make it impossible for this office to provide you with the information you seek. First, because the District Attorney's Office is not the original contact agency for victims, witnesses or suspects, it is extremely difficult to assess whether one is or is not homeless. Police agencies, which generally have the original contact, may be better suited to assist you with such data. Also, as prosecutors representing the people of this state as a whole, we do not have individual clients per se. Questions posed to victims, witnesses and suspects regarding their residential status, a local address and telephone number are conducted by the arresting police agency. It is extremely rare for prosecutors to have original contact with someone where such information can be discovered first hand.

Secondly, due to the sheer size and volume of the work conducted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, a January 29, 2004 deadline would be an impossible task. An attempt to gather such data that is not first hand information for deputy district attorneys would prove to be formidable.


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Please do not hesitate to contact me if the District Attorney's Office can assist in others ways with this extremely important issue.

Very truly yours,

STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Allen", written over a horizontal line.

JOHN ALLEN
Assistant District Attorney

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