

Recommendations Re: Everyone Home Goals (2018) –Draft Prepared by Doug Killion

Background

HSAC strongly advocates that the two key efforts the city must focus on are continuing the 2018 Everyone Home strategy and developing the 2026 Everyone Home strategy update in a manner which targets: 1) Reduction of the total number of homeless by providing additional low-cost housing and 2) Reduction of the unsheltered homeless population by creating additional permanent shelter beds. All operational efforts that the city currently deploys and will deploy in the future should ultimately lead to significant reductions in the total homeless count and the number and percentage of unsheltered homeless.

Status

Homeless Housing Data Related to 2018 City Everyone Home Strategy

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2025</u>
Homeless count	1902	TBD (xx% increase)
Number of homeless on housing waitlist	N/A	1037

Homeless Sheltering Data Related to the 2018 City Everyone Home Strategy

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2025</u>
Number of unsheltered homeless	655	TBD (yy% increase)
Number of homeless on shelter waitlist	N/A	1157
Percent unsheltered homeless	34%	TBD (zz% increase)

Recommendation 1: Reducing the unsheltered homeless population of Long Beach

- A) Because of the large increases in homelessness (xx%) and unsheltered homeless (yy%) since 2017, the city must focus its current Everyone Home and its 2026 Everyone Home strategy revision on increasing permanent shelter beds for the homeless at locations where homelessness in the city is most prevalent. The three City homeless shelters have been operating at maximal capacity (> 90% occupancy since month/year). The city must add additional permanent congregate shelter facilities to provide the most cost-effective means to shelter the largest number possible of unsheltered homeless. The planning for these efforts should begin now and be incorporated in the Everyone Home Strategy revision of 2026.
- B) The city also needs to develop a target to reduce the overall percentage of unsheltered from its current level of zz% to one more in line with other successful California cities that have been highly impacted by homelessness (San Diego and Sacramento data?). This target must be part of the Everyone Home strategy revision for 2026 and tracked and trended for reporting to HSAC and the City Council.

- C) As part of its efforts to be better informed about the unsheltered homeless population in Long Beach, the city must begin tracking and trending the data related to the homeless count, the number and percentage unsheltered, and the number of unsheltered homeless on the city waitlist for shelter beds. The trended data should be reported to HSAC and the City Council on a regular basis.

Recommendation 2: Reducing homelessness by providing additional low-cost permanent housing in Long Beach

- A) The Everyone Home strategy of 2017 created numerous goals to prevent and reduce overall homelessness and provide additional low-cost housing for the homeless. However, the homeless population has increased from 1902 in 2017 to TBD in 2015, representing a xx% increase in homelessness in Long Beach. The city must intensify the strategies developed in the Everyone Home program beginning now and these and other successful efforts must be included in the Everyone Home strategy revision for 2026.
- B) In addition to tracking the total homeless count, the city must begin tracking and trending the monthly housing waitlist count and provide ongoing communication to HSAC and the City Council regarding progress to reduce the housing waitlist count.
- C) Not sure we should make an interim housing recommendation given experience with tiny homes and safe camping.

Recommendation 3

Budget tracking is very difficult.

Do we want to speak to specific efforts not mentioned above that would involve additional funding rather than budget?

Recommendation 4

It feels like the City only wants to provide interim shelter beds by using short term leases with motels. Is there any chance for the city to consider other alternatives? Should the strategy at this point in time focus on more permanent solutions to reduce homelessness and the unsheltered?

Recommendation 5

This seems to me to run counter to the LA River Homeless Encampment strategy to eliminate or reduce the size of long-term encampments. I doubt if the city will do anything that might be perceived as attracting the homeless back to the encampment sites they are targeting with Clean Sweeps. Should we simply focus on trash cans with regular pick-up and cleaning of

the surrounding area as a way to provide a cleaner and more sanitary environment for the homeless and neighborhoods nearby? They could also distribute garbage bags. Are there other efforts that would be more caring for the homeless without the potential of “attracting” more homeless back to encampment areas the city sweeps?

DRAFT