

RESOLUTION NO. 17-015

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
CARSON, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING BALLOT MEASURE
H AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PLAN TO PREVENT
AND COMBAT HOMELESSNESS.

WHEREAS, the number of individuals and families estimated to be experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County in January 2016 was 46,874, an overall increase of 2,515 people from 2015. The number of people living in encampments, tents, and vehicles increased by 20% from 2015 to 2016 and a staggering 123% from 2013 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Measure H, the “Los Angeles County Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness” is the March 7, 2017 ballot measure that will end homelessness for 45,000 people across Los Angeles County, including women and children, veterans, seniors, foster youth, and the disabled; and

WHEREAS, 90% of individuals and families experiencing homelessness do not live on “Skid Row”. Measure H funds will be allocated equitably across Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, the most recent point in time count identified 3,006 people as homeless in the South Bay communities, of which 78% were unsheltered, an increase of 39% from 2013; and

WHEREAS, Measure H will invest \$350 million per year for 10 years in the solutions that have been proven to prevent and end homelessness, including homeless prevention services, mental healthcare, job training and permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, Measure H will support non-profit homeless service providers, like Harbor Interfaith Services, People Assisting The Homeless (PATH), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), as well as public sector agencies like the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, the City of Carson already provides supportive services to local homeless through LAHSA, PATH, Harbor Interfaith Services and the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness, including meals and groceries to homeless in the City of Carson. The City would benefit from additional funds to maintain these services; and

WHEREAS, the language in the Measure H Sales Tax Ordinance contains express authority for the BOS to provide grants to cities. Specifically, Section 4.73.040(C) (“Expenditure Plan”) provides that “Revenues from the retail transactions and use tax may be awarded as grants to public agencies and non-profit organizations to address the causes and effects of homelessness, consistent with this Chapter. The Board of Supervisors shall adopt policies and procedures for the solicitation and award of such grants. Nothing herein precludes the County from using revenue generated by the retail transactions and use tax for contracting with for-profit contractors and private businesses in compliance with applicable law.”; and

WHEREAS, the Measure H Sales Tax Ordinance contains flexibility to allow the Board of Supervisors to decide to provide direct payments to the City “to address the causes and effects of homelessness.” Section 4.73.030(E) provides in part that “*Revenues... shall be used* to sustain the implementation of the County’s Homeless Initiative’s recommended strategies, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 9, 2016, and *as otherwise directed by the Board of Supervisors to address the causes and effects of homelessness...*”; and

WHEREAS, the Measure H is a “special” ¼ cents sales tax, which means it can only be used for the specific purposes of funding homeless services and housing; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles will establish a citizen’s advisory committee to ensure that the funding is effectively spent. There will be specific performance standards for each funded strategy and an independent evaluation annually by an outside expert; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the City of Carson City Council, hereby support Los Angeles County ballot Measure H on behalf of the City of Carson.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this ____ day of February 7, 2017.

Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

Donesia Gause, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney