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West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council  
Westside Neighborhood Council  
Westwood Community Council  
Westwood Neighborhood Council

October 25, 2023

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Hon. Lindsey Horvath, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Chair, LAHSA Commission  
Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, Chief Executive Officer, LAHSA

*Via email to all addressees*

Re: **Inside Safe – WRAC Request for Information/Follow-up to Letter of 9/20/23**

Dear Mayor Bass, Supervisor Horvath and Dr. Adams Kellum:

As you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles. On September 20, 2023, WRAC wrote a letter to Mayor Bass, respectfully requesting certain detailed information about the status of the City's Inside Safe program, in collaboration with LAHSA and other relevant officials. As we explained, this data is necessary in order for the WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) to adequately study the issues and make effective recommendations for constructive and meaningful solutions to the continuing homelessness crisis on the Westside. See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/WRAC-Request-Inside-Safe-Data.pdf>.

We received a response from the Mayor's office (via her West Area Representative) on October 17, 2023, forwarding some information about the program. Unfortunately, our HOC has concluded that the information provided was inadequate and did not include *actual, specific, real-time data*, as we had requested. Accurate, real data is of course critical to any serious analysis and recommendation for effective action to address the crisis.

Our HOC is further concerned because there appears to be a disconnect between the retention rate percentage stated in the information sheet (84%) and the percentage of those who have left the program and returned to the streets (47%) – a number that our HOC members (community leaders who are directly and actively involved with homelessness matters in neighborhoods of CD 5 and 11) have consistently been advised, by those working in the field, reflects actual conditions on the ground.

**Mayor Bass and Supervisor Horvath:** WRAC was pleased to host you both at Roundtables with our Board members this past spring and early summer. In response to our questions, each of you indicated that you were working on obtaining data about the status of homelessness initiatives to date; in the Supervisor's case, centered on failures identified in the administration of LAHSA, and in the Mayor's case, specifically on the status of the Inside Safe program. While we continue to await data, despite best efforts and intentions of City and County officials, Angelenos on the Westside and throughout the region sadly experience ongoing, urgent conditions involving homelessness that impact public safety and impair quality of life on a daily basis.

It is widely reported that public confidence in government is at an all-time low. Again, the WRAC HOC and Board believe strongly that the only way to truly address the homelessness problem – and to prevent further erosion of public confidence – is to be provided with complete transparency, including *actual hard data as to the status of the Inside Safe program*. With that in mind, **we request specific answers to the questions posed in our**

Page Two

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**prior letter of September 20th.** We further submit the following **additional questions:**

1. How many unique people have been placed in Inside Safe facilities since the program started?
2. How many of those unique people have remained in Inside Safe since they entered the program?
3. What is the latest expenditure-to-date data?
4. What has been done to address LAHSA's statement that it has not been updating the status of occupancy in a timely manner, and therefore the City may be paying for vacant rooms?
5. How does the City/LAHSA ensure they are counting unique individuals and not recounting people who move in and out of Inside Safe facilities?
6. How many unique people from Inside Safe have been moved to permanent housing?
7. How many of those stay housed? What is the time measure for housing persistence, e.g., 90 days?
8. How are necessary services (e.g., mental health) being delivered to those in Inside Safe or referred to PSH?  
What metrics are used to define proper service provision?
9. Have any people been evicted from the program because of behavioral issues?
10. How many people placed in motels have died?

We again request assistance and collaboration between the Mayor's office, LAHSA and the LAHSA Commission, in obtaining the requested data. We respectfully request that the data be delivered on or before November 27, the day preceding the next HOC meeting on November 28, 2023.

Thank you very much for your anticipated cooperation with this important request.

Sincerely,

*Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz*

Robin Greenberg, Chair

Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

*cc (via email):*

Hon. Traci Park, CD 11

Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, CD 5

Mercedes Marquez, Mayor's Chief of Housing & Homelessness Solutions

Jenifer Martinez, Mayor's Inside Safe Interim Housing Coordinator

Annetta Wells, Mayor's Director of Inside Safe Street Engagement and Operations

Jared Rivera, Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement

Jacqueline Hamilton, Mayor's Director of Neighborhood Services/Senior Advisor

Marian Ensley, Mayor's West Area Representative

Jay Handal, Treasurer, West LA-Sawtelle NC and Chair, WRAC HOC