



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

343 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
GLORIA MOLINA  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
ZEY YAROSLAVSKY  
DON ENABE  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JOANNE STURGES, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
(213) 974-1411

January 6, 1999

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

At its meeting held January 5, 1999, on motion of Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors urged your Administration and Congress to create and fund a comprehensive National plan to end homelessness with a priority on programs for the homeless mentally ill.

For your information, enclosed is a copy of the Minute Order detailing this action.

Very truly yours,

*Joanne Sturge*

JOANNE STURGES  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Enclosure

6010599.69



DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH MAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101

*Stinger*

Board of Supervisors

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

December 7, 1998

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair Pro Tem  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**NATIONAL PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS (ITEM NO. 10, AGENDA OF  
DECEMBER 8, 1998)**

Agenda Item No. 10 is a motion by Supervisor Burke that the Board 1) support Federal efforts to create and fund a comprehensive national plan to end homelessness, and 2) request the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to review Ted Hayes' proposal (attached) which was submitted to the Federal government.

Federal policy addressing homelessness is principally coordinated by the Interagency Council on the Homeless which was established under the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in 1987. In 1993, the Council was instructed by Executive Order to develop a "plan for breaking the cycle of existing homelessness and preventing future homelessness."

In response, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established a Continuum of Care model which focuses on outreach and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing linked with supportive services, and permanent housing. Nevertheless, during the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, many national organizations for the homeless, which argue that homelessness has actually increased, have urged a renewed Federal effort, including creation of a White House Commission to address policies which reproduce homelessness

Federal funding for homeless programs increased by over \$100 million in FFY 1999 to \$1.286 billion over the prior year, however, the funding level remains below the \$1.446 billion level committed in FFY 1995



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA .

Joanne Sturges, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 5, 1999, the Board took the following action:

69

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

"Los Angeles County has one of the highest standards of living in the world, yet homelessness continues to exist in our community. According to some estimates, nearly 200,000 persons are homeless in the County.

"While the County has developed a wide array of programs to help the homeless, the resources and authority to solve the problem of homelessness do not solely rest with local government.

"The causes of homelessness are numerous and complex, and lacking resources, many local governments have resorted to addressing the behavioral aspects of homelessness through law enforcement, municipal codes and ordinances. This has resulted in public policy which focuses on a homeless person's status, instead of the obstacles which need to be addressed to overcome homelessness.

"Recently, homeless activist Ted Hayes submitted a proposal to the Federal government which calls for the creation of a National plan to end homelessness including a report and recommendations on the criminalization of homelessness. Clearly, a National plan to end homelessness is urgently needed."

Therefore Supervisor Burke made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

- a. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to send a letter urging the President and Congress to create and fund a comprehensive National plan to end homelessness; and

(Continued on Page 2)

**Syn. 69 (Continued)**

- b. Request the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to review homeless activist Ted Hayes' proposal that was submitted to the Federal government, which calls for the creation of a National plan to end homelessness, including a report and recommendations on the criminalization of homelessness, and to provide the Board with recommendations.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"Current estimates reveal that approximately one third of the homeless population is mentally ill. This population is the most vulnerable and in need of treatment and housing. The Federal policy to create a comprehensive National plan to end homelessness must include programs that offer a continuum of care for the homeless mentally ill.

"The homeless mentally ill are being further incapacitated by outdated laws that make it nearly impossible to receive state of the art medical treatment which, in many cases, has achieved documented successes. In order to break the cycle of homelessness for the mentally ill, there must be access to treatment and affordable housing."

Supervisor Antonovich made a suggestion that letter "a" of Supervisor Burke's motion be amended to read, "... create and fund a comprehensive National plan to end homelessness with a priority on programs for the homeless mentally ill." Supervisor Burke accepted Supervisor Antonovich's amendment.

Supervisor Burke's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, was unanimously carried.

6010599.69

**Copies distributed:**

Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Director of Mental Health

**Letters sent to:**

The President  
Each Member, Los Angeles County  
Congressional Delegation  
Executive Director,  
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

**Each Supervisor  
December 7, 1998  
Page 2**

**The Updated Federal Agenda adopted by the Board on January 20, 1998 does not address this issue specifically, but does reflect support for proposals which provide for community development, economic development, and housing for low-income families and individuals.**

**Please let me know if you need any additional information, or your staff may contact Jonathan Freedman at (213) 974-1348.**

**DEJ:GK  
JF:nl**

**Attachment**

**c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Director of Community and Senior Services  
Director of Public Social Services  
Legislative Strategist**

SYN. NO. 69

AGN. NO. 5

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JANUARY 5, 1999

AMENDMENT TO ITEM #5

Current estimates reveal that approximately one third of the homeless population is mentally ill. This population is the most vulnerable and in need of treatment and housing. The Federal policy to create a comprehensive national plan to end homelessness must include programs that offer a continuum of care for the homeless mentally ill.

The homeless mentally ill are being further incapacitated by outdated laws that make it nearly impossible to receive state of the art medical treatment which, in many cases, has achieved documented successes. In order to break the cycle of homelessness for the mentally ill, there must be access to treatment and affordable housing.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board adopt Supervisor Burke's motion to support the Federal efforts to create and fund a comprehensive national plan to end homelessness with a priority on programs for the homeless mentally ill.

# # #

MDA:kbc

JAN 05 1999

MOTION

Molina

Burke

Yaroslavsky

Antonovich