WHAT IS THE PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS?
Dear Friends,

Homelessness is a tremendous crisis in Los Angeles, and particularly in Venice. The number of people living on our streets is growing, and the number of encampments on our sidewalks has skyrocketed.

How can we solve this problem? What is the plan?

Earlier this year, Mayor Eric Garcetti, County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, our colleagues and I developed and began to institute comprehensive, aggressive and multi-pronged plans to combat homelessness, get people off the streets and into housing, and restore our neighborhood quality of life.

The tough part is implementing those plans - and we need your help building grassroots support to fund and implement solutions.

On the November ballot, city voters will be asked to approve Proposition HHH – which would authorize $1.2 billion in bonds to build permanent supportive housing and affordable housing for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

In the meantime, in Venice, we need to take bold steps to implement the City and County homelessness strategies. The steps are controversial, and face resistance. But inaction is worse than controversy. For decades, people have tried to wish homelessness away, or make it LAPD’s problem. That has caused a problem to become a crisis.

After surveying the community, I offered a plan that is comprehensive and multi-faceted, including strategies to: preserve affordable housing; build affordable housing; build housing specifically for people who are homeless; better coordinate services; expand outreach; enhance mental health services; and implement a “street strategy” to help relieve our neighborhoods of the impacts of encampments. You can read more about that plan on the following pages.

Working together, we can house people, help people, and make our neighborhoods safer and cleaner.

Regards,

MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District
THE FACE OF HOMELESSNESS
IN LOS ANGELES AND VENICE

LOS ANGELES
28,464 homeless individuals
21,338 unsheltered

VENICE
785 homeless individuals
72 family members

PROPOSITION HHH
HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

This $1.2 billion bond measure will build thousands of units of housing for the homeless, offering a real and lasting solution to homelessness on our streets.

Spread out over 10 years, this investment in Los Angeles will help enact significant parts of the strategies outlined in the City and County Plans.

Vote YES on Proposition HHH

*Data from 2016 LAHSA Homeless Count
MTA BUS YARD
Mike and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl have proposed that the former bus yard located at 100 Sunset Avenue in Venice be turned into housing, with a significant portion dedicated to affordable housing for people making at most 60% of the area median income (about $33,000 a year).

CITY PROPERTIES
The City is asking affordable housing developers to evaluate every city-owned property that is surplus, vacant or under-used and consider proposing housing there (alternatively, the city may sell the properties and use the funds to build housing elsewhere). The first round of properties under consideration are: a former Fire Station in Westchester, a former Animal Shelter in West LA, the former Street Services Yard in the Oxford Triangle, and the parking lot on the Venice Boulevard median.

MIKE’S PLAN:
BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WESTSIDE HOUSING
The neighboring community of Del Rey has recently welcomed a series of housing projects for the homeless, including: PATH Villas (23 units), Gateway Apartments (21 units) and Del Rey Square (12 units).

DELL/PACIFIC LOT
Mike is proposing building housing for the homeless at the surface parking lot located between North and South Venice Boulevard and Pacific and Dell avenues.

VENICE FORWARD
Venice Forward is a new collaborative created to more rapidly move people into housing. The cooperative venture between government, social service agencies, businesses, and residents embraces the “Housing First” philosophy, which rapidly moves people into housing and supportive services.

EXPANDING RAPID REHOUSING
The City is expanding its funding for Rapid Rehousing – rental subsidies and services. RRH is the most effective and efficient intervention for more than 50 percent of homeless individuals and families. RRH is also more cost effective than other options.
TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS
The County Department of Mental Health has reopened Exodus Recovery Treatment facility, and now offers Urgent Care beds for those in a mental health crisis. Additionally, the County funds and St. Joseph Center operates the Venice Chronic Homeless Assertive Case Management Team -- an intensive Mental Health unit that focuses on treating the most vulnerable individuals on the street.

HEALTHCARE
Integrated mobile health teams now provide street-based health and mental health treatment to chronically homeless and severely mentally ill individuals in Venice. Integrated teams (supported by the County, City, and local nonprofits) reduce the number of costly emergency room visits by people living on the street.

TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS
LAPD Officers are now being trained on how to best respond when interacting with people who might have a mental illness. Special teams include officers and mental health professionals who help assess people with mental illness in the field. LAPD and Bureau of Sanitation officials are now also working with homeless outreach specialists to provide shelter and housing to people living on the streets.

211 AND VENICE FORWARD
People concerned about homeless neighbors or people in crisis living on the streets can log on to www.VeniceForward.org to ask a service provider to respond. Residents may also call the County's 211 line, and after selecting their language, dial 7 to be connected to a community resource adviser.

OUTREACH TEAMS
The City recently added additional Homeless Emergency Response Teams to offer services to people who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness, including direct emergency services and transportation, shelter, and outreach services to homeless encampment dwellers. Mike is supporting the work of LAPD Chaplains Regina and Steve Weller with a $62,000 grant. The Wellers have placed hundreds of homeless people in housing, focusing on family reunification and shared housing placements.

MIKE’S PLAN:
EXPANDED SERVICES AND OUTREACH

TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS
The County Department of Mental Health has reopened Exodus Recovery Treatment facility, and now offers Urgent Care beds for those in a mental health crisis. Additionally, the County funds and St. Joseph Center operates the Venice Chronic Homeless Assertive Case Management Team -- an intensive Mental Health unit that focuses on treating the most vulnerable individuals on the street.

HEALTHCARE
Integrated mobile health teams now provide street-based health and mental health treatment to chronically homeless and severely mentally ill individuals in Venice. Integrated teams (supported by the County, City, and local nonprofits) reduce the number of costly emergency room visits by people living on the street.

TRAINING FIRST RESPONDERS
LAPD Officers are now being trained on how to best respond when interacting with people who might have a mental illness. Special teams include officers and mental health professionals who help assess people with mental illness in the field. LAPD and Bureau of Sanitation officials are now also working with homeless outreach specialists to provide shelter and housing to people living on the streets.

211 AND VENICE FORWARD
People concerned about homeless neighbors or people in crisis living on the streets can log on to www.VeniceForward.org to ask a service provider to respond. Residents may also call the County's 211 line, and after selecting their language, dial 7 to be connected to a community resource adviser.

OUTREACH TEAMS
The City recently added additional Homeless Emergency Response Teams to offer services to people who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness, including direct emergency services and transportation, shelter, and outreach services to homeless encampment dwellers. Mike is supporting the work of LAPD Chaplains Regina and Steve Weller with a $62,000 grant. The Wellers have placed hundreds of homeless people in housing, focusing on family reunification and shared housing placements.

Vote YES on Proposition HHH
MIKE’S PLAN: STREET STRATEGY

STORAGE
In order to keep our streets and sidewalks clean, the courts have made it clear that the City needs to offer people who are homeless alternatives to leaving their belongings on sidewalks. The City is asking Chrysalis to operate a voluntary storage program at the former Westminster Senior Center on Pacific Avenue.

SHOWERS
Lava Mae, a San Francisco-based non-profit that provides mobile showers for people who are homeless, is planning to launch a pilot program in Venice this fall.

BATHROOMS
The Department of Recreation & Parks will be opening some of the beach restrooms 24 hours per day to allow tourists and people who are homeless an alternative to defecating on public and private property.

SAFE PARKING
The City Council is considering legislation to create a program similar to one operated in Santa Barbara, allowing small numbers of people who live in their cars or RVs to park safely in non-profit, church or city parking lots overnight, where they have access to restrooms and can be connected with service providers.

MIKE’S PLAN: PRESERVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

MELLO ACT REFORM
Mike has proposed legislation to reform and strengthen the Mello Act, the law that protects affordable housing in the coastal zone, making it harder for developers to reduce or eliminate affordable housing in Venice.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS
Mike has proposed legislation governing short-term rentals, preventing rogue operators from buying entire buildings, removing rental and affordable units from the market and converting apartments into permanent short-term rentals.
Some loud and braying voices will tell you we don’t need to make this choice. They insist LAPD or City agencies can simply sweep the problems away. That is a big and dangerous lie.

The courts have repeatedly said the City cannot use its enforcement powers unless and until it provides more housing, shelters, and resources to people who are homeless. **Those who call for greater enforcement of existing laws while opposing all efforts to fund or provide more housing and resources cause homelessness in Venice to grow and cause the problems in our neighborhoods to get significantly worse.**

That continued approach is a direct threat to our neighborhoods.

**Vote YES on Proposition HHH**
Vote YES on Proposition HHH
Build Housing to Get People Off the Street!

“Bonin’s proposals are just the sort of steps that need to be undertaken locally and championed by local elected officials.”
-Los Angeles Times Editorial
April 21, 2016

“The city, like the county, has a solid plan to deliver more services and housing, and Councilman Mike Bonin gets credit for pushing hard on creative solutions.”
-Los Angeles Times’ Steve Lopez
May 21, 2016

“[Councilman Mike Bonin’s plan] moves forward. And it does so in many pragmatic ways that address the complex web of social and economic challenges causing homelessness in the first place: housing scarcity, mental health issues, unemployment, barriers to social services entry and the theft of basic human dignity.”
-The Argonaut Editorial
April 6, 2016

Support Mike’s Plan
&
Vote YES on Proposition HHH

Paid for by Los Angeles Forward – Councilmember Mike Bonin’s Ballot Measure Committee
777 S. Figueroa St., Ste. 4050 Los Angeles, CA 90017