



The Role of Neighborhood Council Homelessness Liaisons

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Overview

The City of Los Angeles (City) has embraced an unprecedented effort to address the City's growing homelessness crisis. As a response to address this crisis, in 2016 a motion was introduced by Councilmember Harris-Dawson which instructed the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) to establish a [Homeless Advocate Program](#). Alongside the Department, in leading the effort, Mayor Karen Bass has initiated a [Declaration of Local Housing and Homelessness Emergency](#) due to the existence of a critical shortage of local affordable housing and/or an emergency on homelessness. The Department will continue to create opportunities for individuals engaged in the Neighborhood Council System to actively participate in these ongoing efforts.

Neighborhood Council System's Homelessness Efforts

The mission of the Department is to make government more responsive to local needs through a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils. As the City works to address homelessness, Neighborhood Councils are effective advocates and partners in this effort. Past efforts have included communities working together to convene at meetings, discuss important policies, participate in an Annual Resource Fair, and conduct outreach to unhoused populations during Neighborhood Council Elections and candidate voter recruitment. The Department supports Neighborhood Council Homelessness Liaisons by fostering collaboration and information sharing among other City Departments, agencies, and organizations engaged in enhancing government responsiveness to local outreach needs.

Homelessness Liaisons' Mission

Homeless Liaisons empower communities to work towards providing care, resources, guidance and outreach services in conjunction with local government agencies, community stakeholders and nonprofit, community-based organizations. They will serve as the bridge between Neighborhood Councils and the broader community efforts to serve those experiencing homelessness.

The Role of Homelessness Liaisons

Homelessness Liaisons have a number of roles and responsibilities, including:

- Attending the "Speaker Series," an informational presentation held every other month from City Departments, elected officials, service providers, and/or community organizations. Homelessness

Liaisons will also participate in the related debriefing to express the issues of concern from their Neighborhood Council and communities and discuss in further detail. Meetings may be scheduled in person or virtually.

- Becoming familiar with unhoused populations' needs, lived experiences, and linkages to resources.
- Partnering with other Homelessness Liaisons in your Neighborhood Council Service Region to ensure collaboration regionally for community events and effective community organizing.
- Taking “action items” back to Neighborhood Councils to share best practices and policy recommendations to further the City's efforts to address homelessness.
- Collaborating with City Departments, elected officials, and organizations working to address homelessness
- Coordinating Neighborhood Council Communications and/or Outreach Chairs and Committees to help with outreach about efforts, services, and information related to homelessness.
- Soliciting input from Neighborhood Councils and constituents on what information or projects that they would like to see on homelessness in the area.
- Promoting opportunities for Homelessness Liaisons to share information at Neighborhood Council general board meetings.
- Encouraging other board members and stakeholder committee members to pursue a Homelessness Liaison appointment or be involved in grassroots efforts to combat homelessness in the community.
- Participating in and facilitating Neighborhood Council events related to homelessness such as the Annual Homelessness Resource Fair and encourage board members, stakeholder committee members, and constituents to participate.

Selecting Homelessness Liaisons

Unless the Bylaws or Standing Rules state otherwise, Homelessness Liaisons are selected with board approval required by the Neighborhood Council. Homelessness Liaisons, like Neighborhood Council Board Members, are subject to all of the same policies of the Neighborhood Council System. A maximum of 3 Homelessness Liaisons, including stakeholders, can be selected to represent the Neighborhood Council. After being selected, the liaisons need to register themselves via [HL Registration Form](#). To inform the Department of changes in liaison, please contact mario.hernandez@lacity.org.

Contact

Please contact [Prabhjot Chamber](#) or [Mario Hernandez](#), Homelessness Liaison Co-Leads, with questions or to learn more.