

A photograph of a person sleeping on a wooden bench outdoors. The person is covered with an American flag. In the background, there is a shopping cart and a sign that says "NEED MONEY".

JOINT STATEMENT & ACTION PLAN

^{TO}
End the Homeless Crisis



A DOMESTIC MARSHALL PLAN

The Need For A Coordinated National Effort

The absence of a unified, comprehensive **national strategy** has cast police and prosecutors in the reluctant capacity of surrogate social workers and mental health experts, a role far removed from the original mission of community law enforcement.

Nowhere is this failure felt more acutely than Los Angeles. It is the national capital of homelessness with more homeless persons per capita than any other US city; a vast percentage of which are US Military Veterans, therefore worthy of federal intervention. Intensifying the situation is the fact that homeless persons from nearby cities, counties, and nearly every state of this Union are drawn here.

WHO ARE THE HOMELESS?



Drug and alcohol addicts (50-60%)



Military veterans (30%)



Women and children (40%)



Parolees or probationers



The mentally ill (33%)



Newly-evicted working poor

ALSO: HIV/Aids victims; Functionally illiterate persons or others with incomplete education; Welfare recipients for whom aid has been reduced or curtailed; Young people emancipated from families and foster homes, runaways from middle-class homes

The causes of homelessness – like those experiencing it – are varied and complex. Therefore, the cure cannot be simplistic. That is why the need for a comprehensive, meaningful plan must be instituted at the FEDERAL level.

Successful LOCAL models will not achieve permanence without uniform consistency. A solution in one area of the country will merely create a migration from other parts of the country to off-load homeless populations; thereby negating any initial success.

ALREADY EXISTING IN THE WHITE HOUSE, CREATED UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, IS THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

We call for a nationwide, federally-sponsored review of social service systems for the Homeless, inviting all local, state and federal governmental departments or non-governmental agencies supported in part or in whole by federal funding, to self-examine and to clarify their missions, cooperative compatibility potential, and effectiveness. We cannot solve the problem without first measuring its size, scope and nature. The expertise and active participation of social service systems is essential to this process.

We call for the creation of community-based outreach teams in partnership with police to assist law enforcement in responding to problems among the Homeless and preventing violence; or, acting independently, to render police interventions and confrontations unnecessary wherever possible. The outreach teams should include components from experienced Homeless advocate agencies; persons selected from among the numbers of the Homeless; police representatives and training personnel; mental health services; drug and alcohol rehabilitation professionals; community and neighborhood representatives and volunteers, and others.

We call for the establishment a complete and thorough Communications Network between and among local police, mental health providers, social services, Homeless advocates, business and government, with clear guidelines and directives. One of its chief tasks will be to ensure quick and constant communication links for coordination and synchronization of joint actions; initially as a local pilot or model, then applied nationwide.

We call for the creation of new facilities or restructuring of appropriate existing facilities to encourage the Homeless to exchange street living for more attractive, dignified and medically sound alternatives; bearing in mind at all times the need for protection of the rights and dignity of the Homeless and of other neighborhood residents generally. These alternative living facilities or communities will be inspired or patterned after pilot projects such as Dome Village, Los Angeles, or other examples; first as local models, then as an integral part of the recommended national strategy.



WHY DOES THIS DEMAND PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION?

BECAUSE IT IS A CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

Homelessness touches everyone; but it is a primary concern for African-Americans. This critical racial factor demands a Federal response under both the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and 1964 and the 14th Amendment.

BLACK CITIZENS



12% of the Population

9% of Los Angeles Population



60% of the Homeless

40% of Los Angeles Homeless

In Central City East, dubbed, "Skid Row", **90%** of homeless dwelling in inhumane conditions on sidewalks, in tents and at temporary shelters are **black men and black women with their children**

THIS PLAN WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED IN 1999!
**LITTLE HAS CHANGED AND WHAT HAS CHANGED,
HAS CHANGED FOR THE WORSE.**

**LEADERS OF THE PAST JOINED US THEN TO HELP PREVENT A CRISIS...
WILL YOU JOIN US NOW TO REVERSE THAT CRISIS?**

FORMER SIGNATORIES

**Los Angeles City Attorney, James Hahn
Los Angeles County Sheriff, Leroy Baca
Los Angeles County DA, Gil Garcetti
CA Attorney General, Bill Lockyer
Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Assoc**

CURRENT SIGNATORIES

**Los Angeles Mayor,
Los Angeles City Attorney
Los Angeles County Sheriff,
Los Angeles Police Chief,
Los Angeles Councilman,**

**REGARDLESS OF YOUR IDEAS, EMOTIONS OR DESIRES ABOUT HOMELESSNESS,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS.**

