

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

VANC

Alliance of the 34 San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Councils
Established March 03, 2003 by Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins

August 24, 2025
Page 1 of 3

Reference: Los Angeles Homelessness Progress and Concerns

TO: Mayor Bass

Cc: Council Member Eunisses Hernandez
Council Member Adrin Nazarian
Council Member Bob Blumenfield
Council Member Nithya Raman
Council Member Katy Yaroslavsky
Council Member Imelda Padilla
Council Member Monica Rodriguez
Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Council Member Curren D. Price Jr.
Council Member Heather Hutt
Council Member Traci Park
Council Member John Lee
Council Member Hugo Soto-Martinez
Council Member Ysabel J. Jurado
Council Member Tim McOsker
City Controller Kenneth Mejia
Ethic Commissioner Vice President Manjusha Kulkarni
Deputy Mayor Community Engagement, Vahid Khorsand
Los Angeles Neighborhood Coalition (LANCC) Chair, Terrence Gomes

Honorable Mayor Bass:

Congratulations on the 2025 LAHSA homelessness PIT survey showing a 3.4% decrease in the homeless living on the streets and in temporary shelters in Los Angeles (LA). Although at this rate it will take 30 years to alleviate the LA homelessness problem, the survey results for the last two years are finally trending in the right direction. However, the "road" to get to this point has been inefficient, costly and, as you say, unsustainable.

Continued on page 2

As you know, audits have been done recently by various groups for all levels of California government re: homelessness programs/spending. These audits continuously show problems in tracking spending, contract compliance and determining effectiveness of spending. Some highlights of recent audit findings are listed below:

- California state audit** revealed that \$22.4B provided for homelessness programs was not trackable and the effectiveness of spending was unknown.

- L.A. County audit** stated: LAHSA failed to track contract payments properly, most contracts have no plan to monitor contractor compliance with contract rules and little progress has been made in reclaiming \$51M in advance funding to contractors made in 2017.

-**L.A. City audits:**

- **L.A. City Controller** found \$513M for homelessness not spent in FY 2024
- **Judge Carter's audit** revealed that \$2.3B in City homelessness funds was not traceable and called for L.A. to do a forensic audit to find all spending and identify waste, inefficiencies and possible fraud. Additionally, recently he recommended that you, Mayor Bass, have the City Controller do a performance audit of your "Inside safe" program but you disapproved his request. You have stated you believe that elected officials should not audit each other.

Based upon the findings/recommendations of audits of homelessness spending at all levels of California government, taxpayers are losing confidence that LA can respond rapidly, efficiently and **with transparency** to the homelessness situation. Thus, the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) requests that LA have all performance and forensic audits of its homelessness programs performed as Judge Carter requested and described. The VANC feels that these audits, to be unbiased and provide **full transparency**, should be done by an outside firm, not located in LA and having no contracts with LA currently or within the last 3 years. During your mayoral campaign you promised "**full transparency**" in LA government.

Finally, the VANC also requests that an audit be done to review the RFP process, selection, billing & verification, payments, and etc. for the legal firm(s) representing you and staff at the meeting conducted by Judge Carter. The audit firm retained should meet the same requirements as stated in the above paragraph.

In this current economic climate, we can no longer afford ineffective or wasteful programs that drain money away from City core responsibilities (eg: Police, Fire Dept, City Attorney, street maintenance, etc.) providing quality of life concerns for our communities. **Our City badly needs any monies refunded that were paid out inappropriately in the past and any future savings identified in the findings/recommendations from our requested audits.**

I and the VANC (34 Neighborhood Councils) are looking forward to your response,

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Gravani".

Linda Gravani, Chair

Vanc34.chair@gmail.com

818-481-0714