



Press Release

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Media Contact:

Taulene Kagan

213-808-6403

tkagan@unitedwayla.org

***United Way of Greater Los Angeles and Civic Leaders React
to L.A. County and L.A. City's Homeless Report***

LOS ANGELES, January 13, 2016- United Way of Greater Los Angeles and several civic leaders from its Home For Good initiative and the Funders Collaborative announced their reactions today to the Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City's reports on homelessness. Both plans are scheduled to be discussed later today in open forums with the public and key stakeholders.

United Way: This is a historic moment in having both the City and County working together to end homelessness in our region. These plans are comprehensive, thoughtful and refreshingly honest in talking about the issue of homelessness, its funding and solutions. We are pleased to see that the plan's strategies attest to the fact that in order to respond immediately and permanently house our homeless population, a substantial amount of money needs to be invested. These strategies were developed through collaboration and participation from multiple sectors and multiple perspectives.

While it may seem expensive, this is actually a cost-savings proposition, and we need public and political to take action on these strategies. We urge our elected leaders to reprioritize budgets immediately and fight for an ongoing dedicated source of funding. We have this significant opportunity to implement the plan's recommendations, but we all must take ownership, as civic, philanthropic, business and elected leaders, to stay on track.

"There has never been a moment with such political and public will to act on this issue. We have the right people at the City. We have the right people at the County, and we finally have plans from them that are talking about the right things. Now we need our elected leaders to make a substantial investment that matches the scale of these ideas and this extraordinary level of public interest." **Elise Buik, CEO and President, United Way of Greater Los Angeles.**

"For our broader economy, it costs more for us to do nothing than to invest in the immediate and lasting solutions that these strategies propose. Having someone barely survive on the streets where they cycle in and out of jails and emergency rooms costs 43% more than providing them with permanent supportive housing. The long-lasting investments these strategies propose are good for everyone, not just our homeless neighbors."

Gary Toebben, President and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

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“It is critically important that the City and County take decisive action, given the urgent need to address homelessness in our region. The philanthropic community looks forward to partnering with government and working together to make a real difference on this issue, and we are encouraged by this critical first step they have taken in releasing these strategies.”

Fred Ali, President and CEO, Weingart Foundation.

“The business community and the Business Leaders Task Force on Homelessness through the Home For Good initiative have worked for years toward recognition of homelessness as one of the major issues facing our communities. We, with our many partners, have pushed for systems change, governmental engagement, greater resources and cross sector coordination. The City and County actions align with and further those efforts by establishing a new and welcomed paradigm in the fight to ensure that every person living on the streets can be placed in a home for good.”

Jerold Neuman, Partner, Liner LLP & Co-Chair, Business Leaders Taskforce, Home For Good

Please note all leaders quoted above are available for comment including **Peter Laugharn, President and CEO and Steve Hilton, Chairman, The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.**

About United Way of Greater Los Angeles

United Way of Greater Los Angeles is a nonprofit organization that creates pathways out of poverty by helping homeless people move into housing, providing students with the support they need to graduate high school prepared for college and the workforce, and helping hard-working families become financially stable. United Way identifies the root causes of poverty and works strategically to solve them by building alliances across all sectors, funding targeted programs and advocating for change. For more information, visit www.unitedwayla.org.

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