



**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Taulene Kagan

213-808-6403

[tkagan@unitedwayla.org](mailto:tkagan@unitedwayla.org)

***United Way of Greater Los Angeles Official Statement Opposing  
The “Housing Moratorium Initiative”***

**LOS ANGELES, January 20, 2016-** United Way of Greater Los Angeles is joining with other trusted organizations and civic leaders in the *Communities United for Jobs and Housing* coalition in opposition to the “Housing Moratorium Initiative.”

United Way opposes the “Housing Moratorium Initiative” as it would heighten Los Angeles’ current affordable housing crisis, putting the lives of L.A. County’s current homeless population of 44,000 in further jeopardy.

“Part of United Way’s mission to improve the quality of life for all in L.A. County has focused on ending homelessness by providing permanent housing to our most vulnerable neighbors. Since 2011, United Way and our partners have made tremendous progress housing over 25,000 chronically homeless individuals and veterans. This new initiative would bring our progress to a grinding halt. It would stop development on all housing and affordable housing, harming our most vulnerable population in need of immediate assistance and affordable housing, including families, veterans and seniors. While we recognize the City needs to update its plan on a regular basis, this is not the way to accomplish it,” said Elise Buik, CEO and President, United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

After a decade of adjusting to Los Angeles’ new urban identity and culture, there is finally a progression of smart and complimentary growth creating broader community benefits as housing and development is built near jobs and transit. This initiative would not only eliminate jobs in construction and urban development, it would increase traffic congestion. More commuters would have to increase their travel distance from more affordable and available housing to their jobs.

We join other civic, business, labor leaders and organizations in opposition to this short-sighted initiative that would stop us from becoming a more vibrant and thriving Los Angeles.

**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](http://www.unitedwayla.org).

###