MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held November 20, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Molina:

"According to the recently released Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) 2007 Homeless Count, 73,000 homeless people live in Los Angeles County. On any given night, approximately 22,376 chronically homeless people look for shelter on our streets. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a chronically homeless person as: '*An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continually homeless for one year or more, or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past three years.*'

"While the County had an overall 17% decline in the number of homeless persons since the 2005 count, Skid Row had a 40% increase in the number of homeless persons, from 3,668 to 5,131 in 2007. The results from the LAHSA report indicate that Skid Row remains a unique concentration of homeless people representing one of the most densely populated areas in the United States.

"Several cities in various parts of the country with highly concentrated homeless populations have successfully implemented a new strategy to target the most chronically homeless and vulnerable persons living in these communities. The 'Street to Home' strategy initiated by Common Ground in New York City focuses efforts on those who have been on the streets the longest and prioritizes permanent supportive housing for individuals based on the likelihood that a client will die on the streets. This targeted approach is showing positive results in New York, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver and Washington, D.C.

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"Common Ground's program involves the use of a 'Vulnerability Index' developed through medical research to identify the 'anchors' of a homeless community. The Vulnerability Index is a weighted score which incorporates an individual's risk factors as well as the length of time of their current episode of homelessness and determines which clients have the greatest need for immediate housing placement. In the 20-block area of Times Square, Common Ground found that the placement of these 'anchors' into permanent supportive housing had an extremely positive effect on homelessness overall, with a reduction of as much as 87% in homeless people sleeping on the streets after just two years.

"It is noteworthy that studies show that the provision of supportive services linked to permanent housing for the chronically homeless in programs such as Common Ground's 'Street to Home,' reduces the use of high-cost public services. Placement of homeless people with severe mental illness or co-occurring substance abuse into permanent supportive housing is associated with reductions in hospitalizations, incarcerations, and subsequent use of shelters, emergency rooms, and psychiatric and detoxification programs.

"On October 4, 2007, a day long conference to address regional homelessness was convened by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in conjunction with Mr. Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and Ms. Rosanne Haggerty, Founder and President of Common Ground, with major funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. National experts on homelessness from various states traveled to Los Angeles to participate with Supervisors' Deputies on Homelessness, key County Department homelessness staff, County Community Development Commission staff, and representatives of the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the City of Santa Monica, the Los Angeles Police Commission, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, and Continuums of Care for Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale. The key outcome of the Conference was the unanimous resolution by all attendees to initiate, within 100 days, a new effort to move 50 of the most long-term chronically homeless persons from the most concentrated area of homelessness in Los Angeles County (Skid Row) into permanent supportive housing, using the Common Ground 'Street to Home' model which has proven to be highly successful in New York City. To assist in swiftly moving this project forward, Common Ground has indicated it is available to work with Los Angeles County, and Skid Row Housing Trust has graciously agreed to provide 50 housing units to the project utilizing sponsor based Shelter Plus Care rental assistance. "

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Arnold Sachs addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Molina, that the Board approve "Project 50" as the County's demonstration program, in collaboration with the Sheriff, the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Veterans Administration (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System to house and provide critical supportive services to 50 of the most vulnerable, long-term, chronically homeless adults living on the streets of Skid Row; and instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to:

1. Take the following steps to begin the implementation of Project 50 within 100 days of October 4, 2007:

    a. Coordinate the initial planning between the conference Chairs, Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles and LAHSA;

    b. Negotiate and award a sole-source contract, including a scope of work and deliverables, with Common Ground to provide training on its "Street to Home" program to select County staff and invited staff from the Cities of Glendale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Monica, LAHSA and VA. The contract should also provide the provision of onsite assistance to the County and City of Los Angeles in implementing the "Street to Home" model in Skid Row, including the identification of potential participants in Project 50 through the development of a registry, outreach and assessment of chronically homeless adults on Skid Row using the Common Ground Vulnerability Index. Funding for this contract shall not exceed $80,000 and shall be provided from the County's Homeless Prevention Initiative/Homeless and Housing Program Fund "Community Outreach and Collaboration Strategy" funding category; and

    c. Work with Common Ground and the County's Homeless Coordination Team to develop transitional services as needed; and to develop an interdepartmental staffing team, to be known as the "Project 50 Integrated Supportive Services Team," including a Project 50 team manager, to provide integrated supportive services for the Project 50 participants; ensure that the interdepartmental team includes appropriate staff from the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health and Public Social Services; identify funding to support the Project 50 Team for a period of two years, and report back to the Board for action in 30 days or earlier;

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2. Negotiate and award a sole-source contract, including a scope of work and deliverables, with Skid Row Housing Trust to designate 50 units in its Skid Row housing projects to house the Project 50 participants using sponsor based Shelter Plus Care rental assistance and additionally to provide case managers at the housing projects to oversee the Project 50 participants and collaborate with the County's Project 50 Integrated Supportive Services Team; and

3. In collaboration with the Project 50 Integrated Supportive Services Team, the County Homeless Coordination Team, Sheriff Baca, the City of Los Angeles, LAHSA, the Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, the regional office of the U.S. Social Security Administration and other appropriate Federal, State and local agencies, develop a viable process to collect data on the costs of prior and future institutional services provided to the Project 50 participants including arrests, incarcerations, hospital emergency and inpatient visits, mental health services, drug and alcohol rehabilitation/hospitalization, ambulance services, VA benefits and services, and other government-financed services resulting initially from their chronically homeless state and from their participation in Project 50 housing and supportive services; and from this data develop a cost/benefit analysis of Project 50.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion to amend his and Supervisor Molina's Recommendation No. 2 as follows:

"2. Negotiate and award a sole-source contract, *subject to approval by the Board of the maximum contract sum and term prior to execution*, including a scope of work and deliverables ..."

Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Molina, was unanimously carried.

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