



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

Meena Bavan
Division Director
Office of Public Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
300 N. Los Angeles Street, Suite 4054
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 9, 2023

RE: Waivers To Expedite Leasing Process For People Experiencing Homelessness

Dear Ms. Bavan,

I am writing to express my strong support for waivers jointly requested by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) and the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) to expedite the leasing process for people experiencing homelessness.

As you may be aware, the City of Los Angeles (City) is in the midst of a homelessness crisis. According to the 2022 Point In Time Count, there are nearly 42,000 people experiencing homelessness in the City. In response to this crisis, and in recognition of the urgency required, I signed an Emergency Declaration on my first day in office to mobilize every available City resource to get people off the streets and into housing as quickly as possible.

In this spirit, on March 21st HACLA and LACDA submitted a joint letter to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Public Housing requesting waivers in order to facilitate and expedite the leasing process for people experiencing homelessness with rental subsidies. The letter specifically requested waivers in 5 different areas:

1. Allow self-certification of income verification and allow documents to be dated within 120 days of the Housing Authority's voucher issuance
2. Allow self-certification of Social Security Number, Citizenship Verification and Date of Birth, and delay the receipt of these documents at admission
3. Allow the use of owner's certification in lieu of initial inspection requirements in order to place the unit under HAP contract and commence making payments.
4. Allow the use of owner's certification that there are no life-threatening deficiencies for Project Based Assisted Units dedicated to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

5. Allow the use of owner's certification that the owner has no reasonable basis that life-threatening conditions exist in a unit or units to allow a new family to occupy a vacated PBV unit

I am in full agreement with our Housing Authority that these waivers will drastically expedite the leasing process and allow the City and its partners to make full use of all the federal resources dedicated to fighting homelessness in the immediate term. We are deeply appreciative of the Biden administration's aggressive efforts to help jurisdictions like ours get and keep people housed, and look forward to continued collaboration to prevent and ultimately end homelessness.

Should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact Mercedes Marquez, my Chief of Housing and Homelessness Solutions, at Mercedes.Marquez@lacity.org, or Jenna Hornstock, my Deputy Mayor for Housing, at Jenna.Hornstock@lacity.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being more prominent than the last name "Bass".

Mayor Karen Bass