



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2009  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** James Latta, Human Services Administrator *J.L.*  
**Subject:** 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (HC09)

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### INTRODUCTION

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all Continuum of Care agencies to complete a Homeless Count every two years. The lead agency in Los Angeles is the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). LAHSA coordinates the region's efforts to gather numerical and demographic information about individuals in the region without a place to live. The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (HC09) took place on the nights of January 27, 28 and 29, 2009.

### DISCUSSION

On Tuesday, January 27, 2009, from 6:00 pm to 1:30 am, the City of Beverly Hills participated by providing a "deployment center" for workers and volunteers in the Municipal Gallery. The location offered training space for volunteers, a centralized place for workers to receive their field assignments and refreshment breaks as everyone worked through the night. Over 150 people volunteered for 40 teams formed to count homeless individuals in 33 census tracts.

Members of the Human Relations Commission and Human Services staff took part in the count including ride-alongs with the Beverly Hills Police Department, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) and the Step Up on Second Outreach Team from the Changing Lives and Sharing Places (CLASP) Program. In addition to the HC09 statistics, the Step Up Outreach team carried out a more detailed count of homeless individuals within Beverly Hills for use in program assessment.

The data gathered from the Homeless Count is used to supply government agencies, service providers and housing providers with reliable estimates of the homeless population in the City and County of Los Angeles. The data are used to preserve the Federal funds allocated to the region for homelessness by demonstrating the region's need for resources; raise public awareness about the issue of homelessness; accurately identify the needs of populations that are hardest to serve; measure performance in

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eliminating homelessness; and improve and redirect the types of housing and services needed to eliminate homelessness.

**Components of the program include:**

**Unsheltered Street Count**—utilizes volunteers to enumerate unsheltered homeless persons on a given night (e.g., living on the street, in cars, in encampments) in census tracts throughout the County.

**Shelter and Institution Count**—estimates the number of homeless individuals and families housed overnight in shelters (emergency and transitional shelters, motels/hotels that accept homeless vouchers) and institutions (residential alcoholic and drug treatment centers, jails and detention centers, hospital emergency rooms).

**Demographic Survey**—collect demographic data (age, gender, etc.) and descriptive data (length of time homeless, services used, etc.) about homeless individuals.

**General Population Telephone Survey**—seeks to enumerate the “hidden homeless,” those who currently would not be counted by above criteria because they are camping on private property, living in unconverted garages and garden sheds, and other such areas.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No City funds were used.

James R. Latta  
Steve Miller

*Spoke  
for  
S. Miller*