MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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STATEMENTS FROM MAYOR GARCETTI AND VA SECRETARY MCDONALD ON VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

LOS ANGELES – Today, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald issued the following statements: "I am thrilled to welcome Secretary McDonald back to Los Angeles today," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Thanks to our work with the VA and our partners throughout the county, we have placed more than 1,700 veterans into permanent housing in the last six months. I will continue working tirelessly to tackle the homelessness crisis and reintegrate veterans into our communities. We will not stop until the men and women who have served and protected our country have a place to call home here in Los Angeles." "While we still have work to do to end veteran homelessness, we remain diligent in our efforts and our resolve as a community has never been stronger," said Secretary Robert McDonald. "We know that ending homelessness among veterans is possible when the entire community, VA, state, county, city, local stakeholders and philanthropy all work together." In recent months, Mayor Garcetti and the VA, along with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and Home for Good, have continued to focus and innovate solutions to overcome barriers to housing homeless veterans--including intensive efforts by The Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles to raise money for move-in costs such as security deposits, utility arrears, and furniture -- for veterans with Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers who move into new units.
 The Mayor's Homeless Policy Director and Veterans Affairs Coordinator will join Secretary McDonald for the Department of Veterans Affairs' monthly Homeless Veteran Town Hall at the Century Villages at Cabrillo in Long Beach this evening to discuss the West Los Angeles VA Master Plan.   The event will be live streamed here: http://bit.ly/1OiaKnW

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