MAYOR GARCETTI LAUNCHES 'WELCOME HOME' PROJECT

Angelenos to host gatherings in their homes to discuss L.A.'s homelessness crisis and collect household supplies for people who have recently received housing

LOS ANGELES—Angelenos can take meaningful, personal steps to address L.A.'s homelessness crisis through Mayor Eric Garcetti's new Welcome Home Project. The effort aims to recruit 100 residents to host gatherings of friends, neighbors, and colleagues and collect household supplies for formerly homeless people who have been recently housed.

The Welcome Home Project aims to educate participants about the City's homelessness strategy, and mobilize them to take action. To date, nearly 80 individuals, businesses, and community groups have registered to host gatherings in the coming weeks.

"Everywhere I go, people ask how they can help end the homelessness crisis," said Mayor Garcetti. "I launched the Welcome Home Project to give Angelenos an opportunity to make a direct impact. The project reminds us that homeless residents are not statistics. They are people with stories, families, and dreams for their futures. The Welcome Home Project will provide basic necessities for our formerly unsheltered neighbors, encourage dialogue, and contribute to a cultural shift in the way we treat those experiencing homelessness. We can do this, but we must do it together. I am asking everyone to do their part."

Residents are encouraged to sign up (<u>lamayor.org/join-welcome-home-project</u>) as volunteer hosts and invite guests to a gathering where they will guide a discussion about homelessness in L.A. The Mayor's Office will supply talking points and reference materials to help hosts feel comfortable leading the discussion.

Before the event, hosts will coordinate with participants on items to bring — including an iron, dishes, bedding, kitchenware, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies — from a checklist provided by the Mayor's Office.

At the gatherings, participants will package the items into a laundry basket, and write messages for the formerly homeless individuals who will receive them.

Designated fire stations across the city (locations listed below) will accept the baskets on or before June 16.

Participants are encouraged to spread the word using the hashtag #welcomehomeproject on social media.

The City will follow up with participants on ways to continue to help, including:

- Keeping up-to-date on homelessness news and Mayor Garcetti's homelessness efforts
- Connecting to volunteer opportunities
- Supporting sustainable funding for housing and supportive services Volunteers who want to help sort the baskets, to ensure that each one has the items it needs, can register here: http://lamayor.org/welcome-home-project-preparation-day. Preparation Day will be held on June 17.

Residents can also volunteer at http://lamayor.org/welcome-home-project-big-move to participate in the Big Move In on June 18, when they will deliver the baskets from fire stations to individuals and families who recently received housing.

Fire Stations for Welcome Home Basket drop-off:

Central Bureau

Station 3 108 N Fremont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Station 20 2144 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Station 29 4029 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010

South Bureau

Station 64 10811 W 108th St, Los Angeles, CA 90061

Station 94 4470 Coliseum St, Los Angeles, CA 90016

Station 112 444 S Harbor Blvd, San Pedro, CA 90731

West Bureau

Station 27 1327 Cole Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90028

Station 37 1090 Veteran Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Station 59

11505 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

Valley Bureau

Station 87 10124 Balboa Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 91344

Station 88 5101 Sepulveda Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Station 89 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd, North Hollywood 91605