Extreme Weather Demands to Protect People Living Outside or Living in Vehicles

To Every Public Official in Los Angeles:

Unhoused and precariously housed people are particularly vulnerable during storms, floods, cold weather, heat waves, high winds, fires and other extreme weather events. They often lack access to safe and accessible shelter, reliable and accessible weather warnings, accessible transportation, and basic resources necessary to protect themselves. Exposure to extreme weather can worsen existing health conditions and lead to serious illness, injury, hypothermia, heat stroke, or death.

During the 2016 Super El Niño season, a 60-year-old woman named Barbara Brown died from hypothermia and exposure in LA's Skid Row. She was found without a tent or adequate protection from the storm. Barbara Brown deserved better. No one in Los Angeles should suffer a preventable death because they are unable to access shelter or were not given basic protection from the elements.

Over a decade later, our emergency weather response systems continue to fail our most vulnerable community members. Emergency shelters remain difficult to access, while limited coverage, inadequate transportation, and restrictive admissions procedures prevent people from reaching safety. At the same time, enforcement operations displace people and deprive them of the belongings they depend on for survival.

Extreme weather is an emergency for people living outside, and our city and county governments must respond accordingly.

We, the undersigned organizations and community members, demand that Los Angeles City and County take the following actions to protect the lives, health, and dignity of our unhoused and precariously housed neighbors during extreme weather and fire events:

1. **Declare an Extreme Weather Emergency for Unhoused People during Extreme Weather Events, in alignment with Los Angeles City Administrative Code Section 8.27 followed by a Proclamation of a State of Emergency from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors, and/or the Chief Administrative Officer.**
    - Emergency protections and resources must be activated when forecasts predict weather conditions that pose significant risks to people living outside, e.g. ½ inch of rain or more within 24 hours.
    - Emergency declaration must trigger the immediate activation of additional augmented shelter capacity, survival supply distribution, public notifications, and the suspension of routine enforcement operations.
    - Protections must remain in place for the duration of hazardous conditions and until people can safely return to their communities.

2. **Cease enforcement operations prior to and during Extreme Weather Events**

    - This includes OHS, LAMC 41.18, LAMC 56.11, LAMC 63.44, CARE+ or other street operations that target encampment clearance, displacement, or the confiscation of personal belongings.
    - Street operations must be limited to essential sanitation (trash collection), voluntary services, and emergency assistance.
    - All non-emergency towing, impoundment, and parking enforcement targeting people living in vehicles must be suspended.

3. **Open public buildings, such as Recreation & Parks Centers, for accessible Emergency Augmented Shelters throughout Los Angeles**

    - Emergency Augmented Shelter options must be available in every region of Los Angeles, without individual council districts, towns, or areas being exempted from providing facilities.
    - Shelters must be easy to access, free, low/no-barrier, ADA-accessible, and open 24 hours a day throughout emergency activations.
    - Walk-in access must be permitted, with free transportation available for those who cannot reach shelter locations independently.
    - Shelter locations, operating hours, and transportation options must be communicated promptly to community members, outreach workers, service providers, and mutual aid networks.
    - Giving up belongings and/or accepting treatment should not be a condition to entering the shelters.
    - No one seeking emergency augmented shelter should be turned away without assistance; when a facility reaches capacity or accommodations become otherwise impossible, staff must actively help people access alternative accommodations and provide appropriate survival supplies..

4. **Distribute survival supplies proactively throughout Los Angeles**

    - For those who are unable to access congregate shelters, the City and County must ensure that people who remain outdoors have the resources necessary to survive extreme weather by distributing survival supplies before, during, and after extreme weather events. This includes:
        - Rain and cold: Rain ponchos, tarps, pallets, tents, hand warmers.
        - Extreme heat: Cold water, shade sources, cooling sources.
        - Wildfires and smoke: Respirator masks, evacuation assistance.

5. **Prioritize any limited supply of Augmented 2-1-1 Hotel accommodations for special needs populations**

    - Including, not limited to people who self identify as domestic violence survivors, people who self identify with disabilities, seniors, families with children, undocumented persons, and trans people.
    - Provide transportation to and back from these hotels.

Extreme weather is predictable, and the suffering and deaths it causes are preventable. Los Angeles has the resources to protect people living outside, but those resources mean little if they aren't made accessible to the people who need them. These demands are practical steps that can save lives, and we call on Los Angeles City and County to implement them before the next emergency, not after.

Signed,

The undersigned organizations and community members.


VENICE
JUSTICE


PALMS
UNHOUSED
MUTUAL
AID
PUMA


CD11 COALITION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS


MAR
VISTA
VOICE


LA
STREET CARE
& Mutual Aid


LA CAN


GROUND
GAME LA


HUFF


R.V.
TV


STOP LAPD
SPYING!


LHO
LINCOLN
HEIGHTS
OUTREACH


Venice
Community
Housing


SKID ROW COALITION FOR
COMMUNITY SAFETY


APHC


CLUE
JUSTICE


fairfax
mutual aid


LA


COALICIÓN DE AUTODEFENSA COMUNITARIA
COMMUNITY SELF-DEFENSE COALITION


Cloverfield Commons


free food
collective


WP4BL
WHITE
PEOPLE 4
BLACK
LIVES


FSP
FREEDOM
SOCIALIST
PARTY


SFV
HOMELESS
UNION


Disability
Rights
California


ACLU
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION
Southern California


SFV
MUTUAL AID


AETNA STREET SOLIDARITY
COMMUNITY SUPPORT


KTOWN
FOR ALL


WRAP
HOUSE KEYS
NOT HANDCUFFS


OUR
CULVER


DREDF
Disability Rights Education
& Defense Fund


NHLC
NATIONAL
HOMELESSNESS
LAW CENTER


WEST LOS
RESPUESTA RÁPIDA


THE
SIDEWALK
PROJECT


MUTUAL AID
RESEARCH COLLECTIVE


Public
Counsel


KIWA
WORKERS FOR JUSTICE


NATIONAL LAWYERS
NLG
LA
GUILD


Mutual Aid
LOS ANGELES
Network


ALL POWER
FREE CLINIC

LAPD
LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

MUTUAL AID UNION LOS ANGELES
MAULA

scribble

VOLUNTEER COLLECTIVE
est. 2020

WESTSIDE
COALITION

Water Drop
LOS ANGELES

ANGELES
WORKSHOP
SCHOOL!
A REVOLUTIONARY EDUCATION

Organizations

CD11 Coalition for Human Rights
Venice Justice Committee
Palms Unhoused Mutual Aid
Skid Row Coalition for Community Safety
LA Street Care & Mutual Aid
Venice Community Housing Corporation
R.V.T.V.
All People's Health Collective
Clue Justice
Mar Vista Voice
Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom
Stop LAPD Spying Coalition
Food for Comrades
Fairfax Mutual Aid
Los Angeles Community Action Network
Community Self Defense Coalition
Cloverfield Commons Coalition
White People 4 Black Lives
SFV Homeless Union
Sunrise Movement Los Angeles
Lincoln Heights Outreach
Freedom Socialist Party
Ground Game LA
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California
Disability Rights California
SFV Mutual Aid
Aetna Street Solidarity
Ktown for All
National Homelessness Law Center
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Our Culver
Western Regional Advocacy Project
West Los Rapid Response
Mutual Aid Research Collective (MARC)
The Sidewalk Project
Public Counsel
KIWA
National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles
Mutual Aid LA Network
All Power Free Clinic
Los Angeles Poverty Department
Mutual Aid Union LA
Scribble Community Center
Water Drop LA
Angeles Workshop

Individuals

Helen Sklar
Tessa Baizer
Marie Kennedy
Chris Tilly
Joshua Novack
Emptea Cup
Rachel Fulton
Ben Schneider
Madison Hopkins
Michael Taber
Swetha Krishnakumar
Jessie Yang
Nathan Stewart
Maya Datwyler
Miguel Kubota
Quinn Merlis
Alice Cai
Sarah Neumann
Ndindi Kitonga
Matias Breuer
Rob E
Joseph Kulman
Jocelyn Hernandez
Julia S
Ernesto Zelaya
Taylor Vivanco
Sage Berg
Emma Villanueva-Weeks
Katherine King
Steve Clare
Shepard Renshaw
Julia Snow
Osinachi Oparah
Calise
Julianna Esquivias
Janet
Sky
Omar Lopez
Nicholas
Felicity Nussbaum
Susan Millmann
Nancy Barba
Alejandro Gamero
Ashley Lopez
Melissa Simpson
Charu
Madin Sadat
Shawna Urban
Dayo Fashoro
Elysia Ouyang
Willa Cutolo
Heidi Yang
Adam
Bearon
silk
Aaron
Mia Campos
Melina
Miley Veliz
Lilian
Andrea Cifuentes
Carol Aguilar
Ester S.
Sienna Bennett
Maya Lopez
Phynesse
Kaylee
katherine
Bennett Dome
martires perla
August Hill
Collin
Landob
Maxime Hoo
Kenia
Elvin
Sunnie
Preston Hinds
Justin
Lucy
Diana Chung
Emery S
Kaleigh W
Jayden Williams
Alexis
Astrid
Kainan Lai
Alyssa
Melanie Ruiz
Evans Akatch
Allie
Tiffany
Hashem Bakhit
Stefanie
Charlotte S.
yo
Willow Mintz
Judy Branfman
Kayla Shore
Teresa Barnett
Melissa
Chloe
Laddie Williams
Gabby
Peggy Lee Kennedy
Calvin Moss
Magan Wiles
Carter Moon
Joseph Kulman
Ellen Rennell
Teralyn Gabriel
LeeAn Lantos
Barbara Milliken
Gail Kligman
Stina Pederson
Carie Martin
Rick Garvey
Kevin Pontrelli
Carollee Howes
Nia G
Claude Vidal
Tyler Azelton
Johanna Minassian
Kathleen Klemens
Zirwat Chowdhury
Michelle Parker
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CJ Maldonado
Bily Ruiz
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Michele Prichard
Cathy Gudis
audrey georg
Lacy Wetmore
Sylvia Aroth
Tracy Condon
Shea Backes