



September 23, 2020

Calabasas City Council
100 Civic Center Way
Calabasas, CA 91302

United Way of Greater Los Angeles
1150 S Olive St Ste T500
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Re: Item 7 City Council position on Measure J; Community Investment and Alternatives to incarceration minimum County Budget Allocation (Measure J Ballot Title)

Dear Calabasas City Council:

United Way of Greater Los Angeles submits this letter in strong support of Measure J and asks the council to offer their support. Measure J will amend LA County's charter to permanently allocate a minimum of 10% of existing locally-controlled revenues to much needed community investment and alternatives to incarceration.

Through Measure J, we would be able to allocate much needed funding toward rental assistance and housing vouchers to those at risk of losing their housing or without stable housing, provide capital funding for affordable housing, transitional housing and supportive housing, create access to capital for small minority-owned businesses (with a focus on black-owned businesses), and increase funding for community-based restorative justice programs.

In 2010, UWGLA launched Home for Good, a cross sector initiative to help house our homeless neighbors and veterans experiencing chronic homelessness. Since then we have secured housing for over 45,000 homeless neighbors. In 2018, we launched the Everyone In campaign – creating a diverse coalition of nonprofits, community leaders and donors to build a grassroots-to-grassroots education, engagement and activation campaign with more than 170,000 supporters.

We know that the housing crisis is our homelessness crisis. Despite our homeless response system finding permanent housing solutions for nearly 23,000 people in 2019, there are still nearly 66,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in Los Angeles County.

United Way of Greater Los Angeles strongly supports Measure J. As we continue to see the numbers of people living on the streets increase due to the lack of affordable and stable housing (with an expectation for this to increase dramatically due to COVID-19), we must be proactive in providing ways for people to stay housed. Measure J will help provide for those in our communities that are most vulnerable and create pathways out of poverty. We urge the council to support this important and historic Measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy Newman".

Tommy Newman
Senior Director, Impact Initiatives