



Hipolito Angel Cerros
Mayor
City of Lindsay

Council Report
Jul 11, 2023

- **Business Resource Fair @ Wellness Center**
 - The resource fair was a huge success. Over 60 people attended the event.
 - 16+ service providers
 - Thank you to the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, Wells Fargo, all the service providers, Councilmember Sanchez for attending, and the Wellness Center staff
- **City Walk Through with Assemblymember Mathis**
 - City Manager and I had a walk through of the City with Assemblyman Mathis and Chief of Staff Matthew Tootle
 - Walked through the downtown, Harvard Park, housing subdivisions, Olive Plant
 - September Town Hall RE: water quality and water rates
- **The Governor's Office requested a Letter of Support for SB 326 and AB 531**
 - Behavioral Reform, mental health and substance abuse infrastructure
 - Mental health services is important for all of us, within my personal capacity I provided the attached letter
- **Attended the Woodlake Firework show**
 - Will be putting this as a request for future item
- **Business Sign Ordinance Ad-Hoc Committee**
 - Jul 18, 2023
 - Ordinance Recommendations

The Honorable Susan Eggman California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8530 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin California State Assembly 1021 O Street, Suite 6220 Sacramento,
CA 95814

**Re: SUPPORT - SB 326 (Eggman) Behavioral Health Service Act and AB 531 (Irwin)
Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023**

Dear Senator Eggman and Assemblymember Irwin:

As Mayor for the City of Lindsay, I am writing in strong support of SB 326 and AB 531, your historic legislative package working with Governor Newsom to transform the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) pass and accompanying 4.86 billion bond measure to build 10,000 new community behavioral health beds and housing to provide care to Californians of all ages with serious mental health and substance use disorders.

The City of Lindsay strives to provide crucial mental health services for our residents and improve the quality of life by uplifting those who require the support the most.

California is facing a confluence of crises - homelessness, serious mental health illness, and substance use disorders - and this moment demands bold and comprehensive action. Among Californians experiencing homelessness nearly, 40,000 have a serious mental illness and over 36,000 have a chronic substance use order. A recent RAND study indicates the state has a shortage of at least 6,000 behavioral health beds. This lack of sufficient capacity leads not only to unnecessary long lengths of stays in locked settings and hospitals will contribute to the growing crisis. The need for mental health and substance use services is even more acute among our state's veterans. There are over 10,000 California veterans experiencing homelessness on any given night: upwards to 50% or more of homeless veterans suffer from mental health issues and around 70% are affected by substance use disorders. The proposed bond would dedicate a portion of the funding to provide the support our veterans deserve.

It is long overdue that we modernize our approach to serving our fellow Californians who are most in need of the mental health care they deserve - those with serious mental health illnesses, experiencing or at risk homelessness, and veterans who spend the night on the streets.

This transformational package focuses on housing with accountability and reform with results to help ensure Californians can access critical behavioral health services and find the type of

housing for their needs in the community - making good on a decades-old promise by state leaders.

These actions will complement and build upon California's transformative behavioral healthcare expansion and accomplishments to date, including the CARE Act, the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, the CalAIM expansion of behavioral health services in Medi-Cal, historic investments in behavioral health housing and infrastructure, veterans health and housing initiatives, and behavioral health workforce investment - to provide a continuum of community care for all.

The status quo is not acceptable. Our families and communities need big, bold action, and we need it now. For these reasons, I am in strong support of SB 326 and AB 531.

Sincerely,

Hipolito Angel Cerros Mayor
City of Lindsay