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New Orleans City Council

Governor Jeff Landry
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

October 23, 2024

Subject: Urgent Request for Enhanced Coordination on Homelessness in New Orleans

Dear Governor Landry,

I am writing to emphasize the urgent need for improved coordination between the State and the City of New Orleans concerning homelessness. To address this critical issue, I would like to propose two key recommendations:

1. ****Establishment of a Coordinated Working Group****: I recommend the formation of a collaborative working group involving both state and city agencies to enhance our approach to managing homeless encampments in New Orleans. Recent actions by State Police and other agencies to relocate encampments have disrupted the efforts of Homeless Director Nate Fields to transition individuals into permanent housing. This working group should include representatives from City agencies, the State Police, the Department of Transportation and Development, the Governor's Office, a City Council member, Travelers Aid, and Unity of Greater New Orleans. Together, we can address partnerships in services and funding, ensuring a unified response to this pressing issue.

2. ****Creation of a Cabinet Position Focused on Homelessness****: As previously stated in my letter to your New Orleans Transition Council, I urge the establishment of a dedicated cabinet position within the Governor's Office tasked specifically with combating homelessness. This role would focus on enhancing rapid rehousing initiatives and providing wraparound services to support stabilization. The position would work closely with legislators, the Housing Corporation, and parish leaders to develop effective and sustainable strategies.

By working collaboratively, we can not only improve coordination but also enhance oversight and accountability, leading to quicker identification of issues and more effective problem-solving. I am eager to discuss these recommendations further and am available to meet with you at your convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helena Moreno".

Helena Moreno
New Orleans City Council President