

# Board of Supervisors Support Muratsuchi Homeless Court Legislation

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SUPERVISOR • FOURTH DISTRICT

**JANICE HAHN**

## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Board of Supervisors Support Muratsuchi Homeless Court Legislation**

*Funding could support Homeless Courts in Redondo Beach, Long Beach, and coming soon to Torrance*

Los Angeles, CA – Today, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, led by Supervisor Janice Hahn and Chair Holly Mitchell, threw their support behind AB 2220, legislation that would provide state funding for local Homeless Court programs. Homeless courts, like those that already exist in Redondo Beach and Long Beach and will soon be launched in Torrance, are proving effective in helping the hardest-to-reach individuals get connected with services and housing.

“The Homeless Court model works,” said **Supervisor Janice Hahn**. “I have seen how effective they have been in Redondo Beach and Long Beach, and I am partnering with Torrance to launch a Homeless Court program in that city soon. I believe in these programs, so I have done what I can to support them with my office’s discretionary fund, but reliable state funding will be critical to keeping these programs running and helping more cities start their own.”

The City of Redondo Beach runs a Homeless Court program that diverts unhoused individuals from jail and into housing for certain qualifying misdemeanors. An unhoused individual who qualifies for the Homeless Court will be linked with services and programs to get them housing-ready, leading to them entering housing and having their pending charges dismissed. Since its inception in September 2020, the Redondo Beach Homeless Court has permanently housed 22 individuals. Its success has led the City of Long Beach and Torrance to pursue similar models as well.

“Being unhoused is not a crime,” said **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Holly J. Mitchell**, who co-authored the motion. “Homeless Court supports our ability to provide appropriate services for our unhoused residents that are impacted by the justice system. The passage of Assembly Bill 2220 will strengthen Redondo Beach’s current Homeless Court efforts and expand this model into other areas of our County to support unhoused individuals with entering and *staying* in housing.”

Despite their success, Homeless Court programs do not have an ongoing or consistent source of funding. The lack of funding threatens their futures and may deter other cities from implementing their own programs.

That is why today, the Board of Supervisors supported a [motion](#) authored by Supervisor Janice Hahn and co-authored by Supervisor Holly Mitchell to back Assembly Bill 2220 (AB 2220) authored by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, which aims to address that problem by introducing state funding for Homeless Courts across California.

“Homeless courts in Los Angeles County have been successful in helping the homeless,” said **Assemblymember Muratsuchi**, the lead author of AB 2220. “Rather than criminalizing poverty and mental illness, homeless courts provide pretrial diversion programs for minor criminal offenses with one-stop, wraparound services like housing assistance, mental health treatment and addiction treatment. The California Supreme Court Chief Justice’s Work Group on Homelessness recommends more homeless court programs. The Governor and Legislature should support this bill to establish a grant pilot program administered by the Judicial Council to provide funding for more homeless courts throughout the state.”

AB 2220 will establish a competitive-grant pilot program administered by the Judicial Council to create a homeless courts plan that includes a community-based framework. This will provide much needed funding to both support the existing Homeless Courts like those in Redondo Beach, Long Beach, and Torrance and to also expand the model to other cities and jurisdictions.

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