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President & CEO  
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*Kyle Rahn,  
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United Way of Southern  
Nevada*

*Tom Axtell,  
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Nonprofit Leadership Council of Southern Nevada

c/o Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada  
1501 Las Vegas Blvd No., Las Vegas, NV 89101

November 5, 2019

Mayor Goodman and  
The Las Vegas City Council

Re: Proposed Homeless Ordinance

Dear Mayor Goodman and the Las Vegas City Council:

We are members of the CEO Exchange, a collaboration of Southern Nevada's nonprofit Presidents and CEOs who collaborate and strategize to make a collective difference in the social safety net for the most vulnerable in our community. In this spirit, we share your goal of helping our city's homeless population get off the streets and connected with services. We applaud your recognition and attention to the dilemma of 6,500+ individuals and families who lack permanent housing and often find themselves homeless. However, we believe that the proposal currently before the council misses the mark and could have serious negative consequences for our city.

We support and commit to work on innovative and effective proposals to better connect people in need with the resources they need, resources often provided by our members. The proposal currently before you does not provide long-term solutions and interferes with efforts to help our homeless population. We cannot support the proposal to fine and arrest our most vulnerable. Lessons learned in other jurisdictions show that this method will create distrust and adversarial relationships among those we seek to help, stakeholders, and the City. We cannot succeed divided.

As a practical matter, we are concerned that the infrastructure needed to make this proposal workable is not present. We believe there is a clear path forward:

- 1) Collaboration between the City and the County to create an intervention program for the chronically homeless;
- 2) A unified front for State funding for homeless programs;
- 3) Investment in humane shelters that do not involve people sleeping outside in harsh conditions;
- 4) Housing-first programs and the development of affordable housing.

The proposal is also cost prohibitive in many respects. Our law enforcement is already overburdened with the task of keeping our city safe and would need additional resources and training to enforce the ordinance. Incarcerating people is extremely expensive and will leave people with criminal records that will prevent them from being successful members of our community upon release. We are also concerned that this proposal will inevitably face legal challenges, distracting time, attention and funding from real solutions to drawn out and needless battles in the courts.

We instead support the City Council's efforts to obtain additional funding and support to tackle the ever-growing need of our community members in a more humane and proactive manner. The solution to homelessness is housing, not handcuffs. We ask that you table the proposal currently before you, and we commit to working with you to identify smart and compassionate solutions.

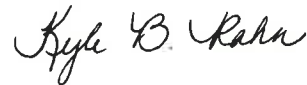
Sincerely,

**Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada**



Barbara Buckley, Esq., Executive Director

**United Way of Southern Nevada**



Kyle Rahn, President & CEO

**Opportunity Village**



Bob Brown, President & CEO

**Communities in Schools of Nevada**



Tami Hance-Lehr, CEO & State Dir.

**HELP of Southern Nevada**



Fuilala Riley, President & CEO