



OFFICE OF
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Mayor Kevin Johnson Launches Homelessness Initiative
Journalist Lisa Ling, Community Join Mayor in Announcement of 3-year Plan

SACRAMENTO – Today Mayor Kevin Johnson announced ‘*Sacramento Steps Forward*’ a region wide initiative to rally the community towards a shared and collective effort to end homelessness in Sacramento.

Mayor Johnson was joined by the ‘*Sacramento Steps Forward*’ policy board and regional partners to announce the initiative and continue the growing movement to end homelessness.

“We know now that ending homelessness will take more than heroic work by a few. Rather, it will take each of us to step forward together, doing what we can with an unwavering commitment to our final goal,” Johnson said.

The foundation of the three-year initiative will be developing 2,400 permanent housing options in the Sacramento Region, which will more than quadruple what the area has created over the last 30 months.

In addition to permanent housing, Mayor Johnson asked the community to step forward in three key ways:

1. **Advocacy** — This includes building community will and educating residents throughout the region to fully support the permanent housing and services needed to end homelessness.
2. **Funding** — A commitment to sustainable and diverse funding through smart leveraging of costs over public, private and non-profit dollars.
3. **Accountability** — To be a national model for how we care for our homeless population by continuously evaluating and optimizing the permanent housing and services needed to end homelessness. The policy board will commit to an annual report so there is clear evaluation of the initiative over the next three years.

Mayor Johnson also discussed the need to ensure a safety net is in place on the way to permanent housing, which includes an effective blend of emergency shelters, transitional housing and prevention, with goal being to empower individuals and families to be successful and self sustaining.

“It is up to Sacramento to make our dreams a reality. It is up all of us throughout the region to end homelessness in our community and this initiative will serve as the vehicle to make that happen,” Johnson said.

Journalist Lisa Ling, a Sacramento native who brought international attention to the regional homeless issue in February with her report on ‘tent city’ for the “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” was on hand to discuss the importance of the initiative and the progress that has been made to date.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the way Mayor Johnson and the Sacramento community are trying to tackle the issue of homelessness,” said Ling.

“If Sacramento can provide people with long-term permanent housing, then it will become a model for the rest of the country.”

Mayor Johnson is currently chair of the Policy Board to End Homelessness in Sacramento and focused on finding long-term, comprehensive solutions that will end homelessness in our region.

Over the past year, Johnson has lead the progress to end homelessness by facilitating the closure of ‘tent city’, finding solutions for winter shelter, and reaching an accord with ‘Safe Ground’ members, an advocacy group that has brought attention to homelessness in our community.

His campaign slogan, “A City That Works for Everyone,” was designed with the homeless population in mind.

For more information about Sacramento Steps Forward, go to: www.sacramentostepsforward.org

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Mayor Johnson can be followed on:

Official Mayor’s Site: www.cityofsacramento.org/mayor/

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/teamkj>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/KJ_MayorJohnson