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ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

November 19, 2023

Los Angeles County Homelessness Initiative
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Room 493
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Los Angeles County Homelessness Initiative,

We appreciate our partnership to date and the willingness to continue to move the important work addressing American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness forward. It sounds like the desire is to see how the transition goes from the consultant to Homelessness Initiative staff members. Here are a few insights/requests that we believe could be helpful in optimizing the work:

- The original board motion set up a system where the consultant would report both to CEO HI and the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). We believe regular continued engagement with the LANAIC would be mutually beneficial and support ongoing meaningful relationships
- We further recommend continued engagement with relevant AIAN stakeholders in this space (e.g. the emergent AIAN Housing Collaborative and beyond)
- Given the unique political status and other nuances of this diverse group, we highly encourage that relevant staff undergo
 - Foundational trainings on AIAN
 - Attend relevant tribal housing conferences (with urban AIAN tracks)
 - Complete site visits in other COCs with AIAN culturally supportive housing
 - Become familiar with the body of work that the LANAIC is conducting that intersects with this work (e.g. Harms Report, Tribal consent and consultation policy, etc.)
 - Any trainings or consultation that can provide an appreciation of AIAN specific statewide or Federal housing opportunities. This includes seeking out technical assistance, where possible.
- Although relevant to the presumed recommendations and action plan, a deep understanding of the following seem pertinent: a) AIAN

initiatives already existing in County that intersect with this effort, b) the concept of data genocide and its relevance here, c) other systemic levers to advance this work

- Acknowledgement that the report and action plan may now be outdated, and an understanding that this may best be treated as a living document

In engaging other pertinent stakeholders, we learned the following:

- As it relates to the Internal County AIAN Working Group, there were questions about the purpose, function, and path forward
- There was a direct question about County land that was to be identified as part of the original board motion

We again thank you for your time and efforts to date, and are looking forward to continuing this partnership.

Sincerely,

Cheri L Thomas

Cheri L Thomas
LANAIC Chairperson