



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

September 4, 2026

The Honorable Tim Burchett
Chairman, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burchett:

We are in receipt of your letter dated September 2, 2026, requesting that Mayor Karen Bass provide records and testimony relating to the Subcommittee's investigation into the allocation of federal funds by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to non-profits in Los Angeles and surrounding areas. The Mayor appreciates the importance of these issues, and she looks forward to working with the Subcommittee.

We are commencing the collection and review of records in response to the Subcommittee's request. Recognizing that the Subcommittee requested the records by September 14, 2026, we will do our best to provide records as soon as possible. I am sure that the Subcommittee appreciates that our work will take some time considering the breadth of the requested records covering a period of more than six years.

The letter also requested that Mayor Bass travel to Washington to provide testimony at a hearing on September 15, 2026. Unfortunately, the Mayor is not available on that date. We have contacted the Subcommittee staff to discuss this issue.

We would also like to clarify the Mayor's role with LAHSA, as the Subcommittee's letter does not accurately reflect her or the City's relationship with LAHSA. LAHSA is not a department of the City of Los Angeles. It is an independent government agency formed in 1993 by the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles pursuant to California's Joint Powers Act. Indeed, LAHSA's service area goes well beyond the City of Los Angeles and includes 85 other cities and unincorporated areas of the County.

LAHSA has its own executive leadership team and staff who are responsible for day-to-day operations, budget and administration. The Mayor does not control LAHSA's operation, budget, or administration. The Mayor is one of ten members of the LAHSA commission, five of whom are appointed by members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors with the other five appointed by the Mayor. The appointments are confirmed, respectively, by the County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles City Council. Additionally, the City is preparing a transition plan in which the City becomes the sole or primary administrator of the City's homelessness system.

Federal funds must be spent appropriately and responsibly, and the Mayor has prioritized effective homeless services including her signature interim housing program, Inside Safe. Contrary to the letter's statement that "the problem has grown worse during [her] tenure as mayor," Mayor Bass' efforts have resulted in an 11% decrease in street homelessness since she took office, including the first decrease in many years. She has achieved these results by focusing on interim housing, not "Housing First," and has also challenged certain "Harm Reduction" strategies that are ineffective. For example, Mayor Bass ordered that City contractors no longer provide needles to drug users and instead focus on services that encourage rehabilitation and protection of human life.

Finally, the letter states that HUD is investigating LAHSA and suspended federal funding to LAHSA, but fails to note that the U.S. District Court recently enjoined the suspension and found that HUD's actions were "arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of discretion."¹ The court rejected HUD's justifications for the immediate suspension, including HUD's assertion that it was warranted due to the conduct of LAHSA's former CEO who resigned after she signed a LAHSA service contract with her husband's employer, something she asserted was inadvertent. The Subcommittee's letter cites this same conduct on page 2. However, the court explained that "HUD opened an investigation into this matter that it closed after it found that LAHSA took sufficient remedial actions to address its conflict-of-interest policies."²

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Michaelson", with a stylized, flowing script.

David Michaelson
Counsel to Mayor Karen Bass

¹ Order Granting Preliminary Injunction at 17 and 23, *LAHSA v. Trump*, No. 2:26-cv-07056 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 13, 2026) (ECF No. 63)

² Order Granting Preliminary Injunction at 18, *LAHSA v. Trump*, No. 2:26-cv-07056 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 13, 2026) (ECF No. 63)