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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **LA Alliance Prepares for Trial to Compel L.A. County to Address Needs of the Unsheltered and Untreated**

“County’s offer ‘Does not meet the moment.’”

Los Angeles, CA April 20, 2023 –

The LA Alliance for Human Rights issued the following statement following today’s hearing whereupon Judge David O. Carter rejected the County’s settlement offer and initiated the litigation process between the LA Alliance and the County of Los Angeles:

“We are disappointed that the County of Los Angeles was unable to address the specific and necessary milestones that Judge Carter had previously highlighted at the last hearing in January. Today, the Judge made clear that without the County agreeing to the same provisions around oversight and accountability that the City had agreed to, he will not approve a settlement. In addition, while we were pleased that the County had agreed to five times the number of beds that it had offered in October, this new number is still far short of what the County’s own experts recommended in 2019. Our goal is a global settlement, incorporating what has already been agreed to with the City and what we aspire to with the County. That global settlement must address the needs of the people of Los Angeles – those experiencing homelessness who need beds, treatment, and safety, as well as the residents and businesses who desperately want progress made to reduce the number of people suffering without treatment and dying on the street.”

Matthew Umhofer, who litigated the matter on behalf of the LA Alliance said, “We have achieved a significant victory with the City of Los Angeles in securing 14,000 beds for people experiencing homelessness. While we had hoped to reach an agreement with the County outside of the litigation process, we are prepared to move forward to ensure that the County provides treatment beds and outreach services at a scale that truly meets the needs of the unsheltered and untreated.”

Lead attorney for the LA Alliance, Elizabeth Mitchell, said, “We have been clear for three years: Beds, treatment, and safety help the unhoused and the housed. We know the means are there to provide mental illness and substance use treatment. Fighting for the untreated and unsheltered is the right thing to do. We must meet this urgent need at the appropriate level.”

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