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BID INFO

Board of Directors:

Denis Weintraub, President
Sylvia Weintraub, Secretary
Julian Chicha, Treasurer
Pierson Blaetz, Greenway Arts Alliance
Isack Fadlon, Board Member
Daniel Farasat, Board Member
Fred Rosenthal, Board Member

Staff:

Donald Duckworth, Executive Director
Kim Sudhalter, Marketing Director
CleanStreet, Streetscape Clean-Up

Meetings:

BID Board Meetings: 10am on the 2nd
Friday of the month. Hope Lutheran
Church, 6720 Melrose

Resources:

BID Office: 323.525.0840
BID Email: duckworth.donald@gmail.com
LAPD: SLO Inga Wecker
(213) 793-0708, 37580@lapd.lacity.org
BID Security Ambassador:
Riley Sherwood, 818.405.2615, Melrose-
BIDAmbassador@gmail.com
Graffiti Removal & Sidewalk Cleaning:
Contact the BID
Councilmember Paul Koretz:
Robert Oliver, Field Deputy
323.866.1828, robert.oliver@lacity.org

A HANDOUT ISN'T HELPING

We have all encountered homeless people on the streets asking for money or food, or sleeping in our alleys and doorways. What is the best thing we can do for a person that truly needs help?

When we give a homeless person the money they are asking for we are, at best, providing short-term relief to their long-term condition of homelessness.

"Homeless people are entitled to dignity, said Don Duckworth, Executive Director, Melrose Business Improvement Association, "but they must be linked up with expert staff who can break the cycle and get them off the streets permanently. Giving them food or money does not solve anything long-term, and often creates more of a problem than helping."

In the long run, giving money to a homeless person enables that person to stay on the street day-to-day and gives them no reason to leave. Think about the numbers: if a homeless person could regularly expect handouts of \$50 a day in cash, their weekly income would be about \$350, or \$1400 a month. In a year, that adds up to \$16,800!

Recent studies indicate that six out of ten homeless respondents admit to problems with alcohol or drugs and actual numbers could be even higher. Homeless individuals usually have no way to save their money, so they're incentivized to spend most of their day's earnings quickly. This creates a tendency to spend on short-term relief, rather than long-term needs, which can feed a dependency on drugs and alcohol.

Instead of handing out money, sometimes the better way to help a homeless person is simply to talk to them. As the homeless person begins to build trust and a link to the community, they might gain interest in services that could help them get off the streets permanently. There are organizations you can refer them to, or call on their behalf, such as PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) at (323) 644-2200 or Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority at (213) 683-3333.

Another way to help is to donate the money you might have given to a homeless person to one of these organizations. Still another way is to volunteer with such a group.

Lastly, if you encounter a homeless person in the streets or alleys of the Melrose Business Improvement District, **call Riley Sherwood, our Security Ambassador, at 818.405.2615 or email him at melrosebid-ambassador@gmail.com.** He has the resources available to provide the homeless with constructive remedial options.