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LAHSA CONDEMNS SENSELESS DEATH OF HOMELESS MAN

Los Angeles, CA—News sources today reported the death of a Los Angeles homeless man who had apparently been doused with a flammable liquid and set on fire. Witnesses reported that the victim was attacked in the Mid-Wilshire neighborhood, where he had lived on the streets for nearly 20 years. The incident appears to be the latest of several attacks on homeless people, both in Los Angeles County and nationwide.

Statement by Rebecca Isaacs of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA):

“LAHSA is deeply disturbed by reports of last night’s vicious attack against a Los Angeles homeless man, and of his subsequent death. Too often, homeless individuals are treated as less than human in our society. It is this general devaluation of human life by many that encourages the few to commit such a senseless and brutal act against one of our most vulnerable citizens.

“Homelessness is, by itself, an incredible hardship. In addition, many of those living on the street face a violent world. For instance, in our most recent County-wide study of homelessness, 27% of homeless individuals reported that they had been victims of assault since becoming homeless, while approximately 20% reported that they had been robbed.

“On any given night, 73,000 people in the City & County of Los Angeles experience homelessness. We must redouble our efforts to fund and support effective solutions to end homelessness.”

For more information, contact Syd Peterson at 213.689.4094 or speterson@lahsa.org. LAHSA’s website is located at <http://www.lahsa.org>.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in Los Angeles County. LAHSA plans, funds and administers programs that assist homeless individuals and families in their transition to permanent housing. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and manages over \$70 million dollars annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons. Additionally, LAHSA partners with the city and the county to integrate services and housing opportunities to ensure wide distribution of service and housing options. LAHSA funds agencies that address many underserved homeless populations including battered women and their children, persons struggling with chronic homelessness, veterans, youth transitioning from foster care, and individuals with mental health needs. For more information, please see <http://www.lahsa.org>

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