



## NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

October 31, 2019

Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman  
City Council Members  
City of Las Vegas  
495 S. Main Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Mayor Goodman and City Council Members:

The National Low Income Housing Coalition concurs that homelessness in Las Vegas is a crisis that deserves immediate action. The solution to homelessness, however, is affordable homes, not criminalizing people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness in America exists because of the severe lack of affordable homes available to people who need them most. Las Vegas has the nation's second greatest shortage of rental homes affordable and available for the lowest-income households, with a deficit of 59,370. There are only 14 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income renter households in Las Vegas (see Table 1 attached).

Criminalization of homelessness is an ineffective policy that only further punishes people for their poverty, creates additional barriers to poor people accessing homes, and costs more in tax-payer dollars than providing them housing.

I urge you to withdraw Bill 2019-36 from consideration and instead focus on protecting and expanding resources for proven solutions to homelessness, like providing rental assistance, increasing the availability of permanent supportive housing, and building affordable homes for people with the greatest needs.

Sincerely,

Diane Yentel  
President & CEO  
National Low Income Housing Coalition



**NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION**

**TABLE 1: LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS WITH THE LEAST AND MOST SEVERE SHORTAGES OF RENTAL HOMES AFFORDABLE TO EXTREMELY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS**

LEAST SEVERE		MOST SEVERE	
Metropolitan Area	Affordable and Available Rental Homes per 100 Renter Households	Metropolitan Area	Affordable and Available Rental Homes per 100 Renter Households
Pittsburgh, PA	51	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	13
Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	49	Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	14
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	46	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	17
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	44	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	18
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	43	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	19
Cleveland-Elyria, OH	41	San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	20
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY	40	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	20
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	39	Austin-Round Rock, TX	21
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	38	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	21
Jacksonville, FL	37	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	21

Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2017 ACS PUMS data.