EMPOWER SANTA MONICA · RESIDENTS, NOT THE CITY

Who decides what.

Who writes each rule, who enforces it, who holds the money. Ask who is responsible and you get a loop: the City says the County, the County says the State. This sheet breaks the loop.

Federal

Grant conditions and the courts

- **HUD** sets the conditions on about $3.9 billion a year in homeless grants; the 2025 round moved money toward treatment.
- **Supreme Court, Grants Pass (June 2024):** cities may enforce camping bans; no shelter offer is required first.
- **VA, SSI/SSDI, Medicaid:** veteran programs, disability income, the coverage that pays for treatment.

SETS THE FRAME FOR

State of California

Writes the treatment laws

- **Lanterman-Petris-Short Act:** 5150 and 5250 holds, conservatorship. **SB 43** (LA County since Jan. 2026) adds severe addiction to grave disability.
- **CARE Court, Laura's Law, Housing First, Prop 1** (30 percent of county behavioral health funds to housing from July 2026), **Medi-Cal** (up to six months of rent since Jan. 2026).
- **Caltrans** owns the I-10 and PCH. The Governor's model camping ordinance is not binding on Santa Monica.

IMPLEMENTED AND FUNDED BY

LA County

Mental health, treatment, most of the money

- **Board of Supervisors** (Santa Monica is District 3): Measure A, over $1 billion a year; the new Department of Homeless Services and Housing (Jan. 2026).
- **Dept. of Mental Health:** decides who may write a 5150; mobile crisis teams; the 24/7 Help Line (800) 854-7771; Laura's Law; CARE Court petitions; the Public Guardian.
- **Public Health** funds treatment beds. **LAHSA** runs the count and LA-HOP. **Superior Court** hears CARE and conservatorship cases. **Metro** covers the E Line.

ON THE GROUND IN

City of Santa Monica

The rules on the sidewalk

- **City Council** writes the camping (4.08.095), park-hours (4.55.120) and right-of-way (3.12.360) rules and approves every contract.
- **SMPD** enforces; the **City Attorney** decides what gets filed and runs diversion. A shelter offer before a citation is practice, not law.
- **Housing and Human Services** runs the contracts and the Housing Focused System of Care. **311** is the front door.

Who does what at City Hall

City Council
7 members, elected at large. Writes the code, approves contracts, sets reporting. The Mayor is a member chosen to preside; no veto.

City Manager
Runs every department. Proposes the budget. Wrote the 2025 Realignment Plan.

City Attorney
Decides whether a citation becomes a case. Runs STEP Court and SaMo Bridge diversion.

Housing and Human Services
Lead homelessness department. Outreach, shelter and motel contracts; outcomes to Council.

SMPD HLP team
Enforcement, Project Homecoming, the only path into SaMo Bridge. (310) 458-8953.

Fire: Advanced Provider Unit
Paramedic plus nurse practitioner, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Treats in place. No hold authority.

Outreach teams
Three street teams, C3 teams, Salvation Army 311 follow-up, Exodus Recovery. Offer and refer only.

Santa Monica 311
Outreach requests, encampments, abandoned property. 3-1-1 or (866) 311-7266.

Two commissions
Housing and Human Services; Public Safety Reform and Oversight. Advisory; take public comment.

Public Works HoST
Clears encampment debris five days a week.

County DMH in SM
Transport team and an embedded clinician who can write holds. County sets the hours.

Neighborhood associations
Private volunteer nonprofits, not official bodies. Power is organizing and public comment.

Sources: santamonica.gov, lacounty.gov, dmh.lacounty.gov, dhcs.ca.gov, supremecourt.gov. Full list at empowersantamonica.com/who-decides-what-homelessness-santa-monica

Who can make each one happen.

Every initiative is a resident draft. Nothing has been filed. For each, the body that holds the key and the instrument it would use.

INITIATIVE	WHO HOLDS THE KEY	THE INSTRUMENT
1. Treatment, not tents	County DMH approves who may write a hold. Council and HHS write the outreach contracts. The County funds beds.	A contract term requiring a DMH-approved clinician on every outreach team, plus County BHSA and Prop 1 bed funding.
2. Offer a bed first, then enforce	Santa Monica City Council.	Council direction for a written offer-of-shelter protocol, or an amendment to 4.08.095. SMPD applies it; HHS keeps the 35 Bell Shelter beds open as the referral.
3. A 24/7 Westside crisis drop-off	LA County (Supervisors, DMH), the Westside Cities COG, City Council.	County crisis dollars and Prop 1 beds; the COG as convener; the City's $10 million Saint John's funds plus $1.5 million state and $1.5 million federal already secured.
4. Open books, every month	Santa Monica City Council; the County for its contracts.	Council direction to publish monthly: every dollar, contract and result, as totals. Measure A already requires County audits and a public tracker.
5. Safe blocks near schools and parks	City Council, SMPD, Public Works, the school district.	Park hours and camping rules are City code and already cover parks and school property. Enforcement and debris removal are City operations.
6. Bring them home	SMPD HLP (Project Homecoming), Superior Court and DMH, the Public Guardian.	Expand Project Homecoming into one City desk for families. Families can file CARE petitions and Laura's Law referrals themselves.

Where residents push

City Council. General Public Input at any regular meeting, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 5:30 pm, 1685 Main St. Write all seven: council@santamonica.gov. Next: Tuesday, Nov 10.

Westside Cities COG. (213) 612-4545. The regional table where a Westside crisis drop-off gets planned.

State legislators. For anything that needs a change in State law: findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov.

LA County. Third District office (213) 974-3333, ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov. Board comment in person at 500 W. Temple St., or in writing at publiccomment.bos.lacounty.gov.

The commissions. Housing and Human Services Commission; Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission. Public comment puts a data request on the record.

In a crisis right now. Call or text 988. Danger: 911. Non-emergency police: (310) 458-8491.

The full page, with every source.

Who writes each rule, who enforces it, who holds the money, and the three things we are still checking.

empowersantamonica.com/who-decides-what-homelessness-santa-monica

Residents, not the City. Nobody paid. No donations. No candidate.
hello@empowersantamonica.com