Int. No. 1927

By Council Members Levin, the Speaker (Council Member Johnson), Kallos, Van Bramer, Chin, Lander, Rivera, Reynoso and Holden

..Title

A Local Law in relation to requiring private rooms for single adults

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Private rooms for single adults. a. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Department. The term “department” meant the department of homeless services.

Private room. The term “private room” means a room used for sleeping with an internally adjoining restroom that is assigned to no more than one person.

Shelter. The term “shelter” means temporary emergency housing provided to individuals experiencing homelessness by the department or a provider under contract or similar agreement with the department.

Single adult. The term “single adult” means an adult without an accompanying adult or child experiencing homelessness.

b. The department shall provide all single adults residing in a shelter or eligible for placement in a shelter with the option of a private room. The department shall provide all single adults residing in a shelter with 24 hours notice before they are transferred to such private rooms.

c. The department shall ensure that all shelters implement protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection spread through such facilities, including but not limited to, ensuring that beds are located at least six feet apart from each other, unless located in a private room and requiring that, where practicable, staff of such facilities maintain a distance of at least six feet from one another at all times.

d. No later than one day after this local law takes effect, and every day thereafter, the department shall provide the speaker of the council with a report including the number of rooms the department has made available to single adults and are occupied by single adults pursuant to subdivision b of this section; the unmet need, if any, for private rooms for single adults; and aggregated demographic information, including race, age, gender identity and previous residence, of single adults occupying private rooms provided by the department.

e. The department shall develop a plan for shelters to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection spread. The department shall publish such plan on its website and distribute such plan to each shelter no later than one day after this local law takes effect. Each shelter shall implement such plan immediately upon receipt.

f. The requirements imposed pursuant to subdivision b of this section shall no longer apply upon the expiration or repeal of an executive order declaring a State disaster emergency pursuant to section 29-a of article 2-B of the executive law or an executive order by the mayor in relation to COVID-19 that restricts gatherings of individuals in the city.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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