

Saturday, January 20, 2007

LA Downtown News Online - Los Angeles, CA, USA Fewer Homeless on Downtown Streets

Along with the economic impact the recent cold wave has had on California, there has been a social services impact in Downtown Los Angeles. On Jan. 15, LAPD Central Division officers counted 875 people in the area, less than half of what was recorded last September, when police tallied 1,876 homeless people in shelters or on the streets. Capt. Andy Smith of Central Division said the cold weather is pushing people into shelters or homes. But service providers said that the homeless are also being pushed out of the area because of increased police enforcement. "If you're going to harass people on the streets, they are going to move out," said Bob Erlenbusch, executive director of the Los Angeles Coalition to End Homelessness and Hunger. He said service providers in Venice and South L.A. are seeing more homeless people than they did previously.