

RESOLUTION NO. 28839

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA PROCLAIMING A LOCAL HOMELESS EMERGENCY (Government Code Sections 8630 et seq.)

WHEREAS, Sonoma County's 2016 point-in-time count identified 2,906 homeless persons on a given night, 1,906 (66%) of whom were unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, the point-in-time count identified 1,877 homeless persons in central Santa Rosa which represents 65% of the total County-wide count, 1,216 (65%) of whom were unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, our community's homeless population includes veterans, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, seniors and other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of available and affordable housing units in Santa Rosa due to the very low rental vacancy rate (approximately 1 percent); and

WHEREAS, although current programs offered by the City and local non-profit service providers are providing assistance to many persons living without permanent housing, a significant number of persons within the city still remain without the ability to obtain shelter; and

WHEREAS, many of those unable to obtain shelter continue to reside on the streets, along creeks and pathways, in alleys and doorways, and in unauthorized encampments throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, persons without shelter are also often without adequate cooking or sanitary facilities, are at risk from theft, crime and extreme weather conditions, and are without security; and

WHEREAS, such conditions result in a critical threat to the physical and mental health and safety of those experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, such conditions also result in a threat to the natural environment and the public health and well-being of the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the Council has heard extensive testimony, including public testimony at its meeting on July 19, 2016, on the impacts of homelessness on persons without shelter as well as on the community at large; and

WHEREAS, to address homelessness, significant additional public and private resources must be brought to bear, with efforts focused on both short-term immediate health and safety measures and long-term solutions; and

WHEREAS, scope of the local homeless crisis is beyond the resources of the City standing alone and will require the combined forces of adjacent jurisdictions and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the causes and effects of homelessness are complex and can be addressed only with dedication, coordination and flexibility; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code sections 8630 thru 8634 authorize the governing body of a city to declare a local emergency when there exist conditions of extreme

peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the city due to certain natural or man-made causes which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the city and that require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8634 provides that, upon a declaration of a local emergency, the governing body of a city, or an official designated thereby, may promulgate orders or regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property during the duration of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, City Code Section 2-24.050 authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa finds, determines and declares that there exists within the territorial limits of the City of Santa Rosa conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by homelessness and the lack of available and affordable housing, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the City and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the authority set forth in California Government Code Sections 8630 thru 8634, the Council hereby proclaims a state of local homeless emergency within the City of Santa Rosa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council directs the City Manager or his designee to return to the Council with a proposal to resume the City's Community Homeless Assistance Pilot Program (CHAPP), in accordance with City Council Resolution No. 28705, until more permanent measures can be enacted or the crisis has otherwise abated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council directs the Council's Subcommittee on Homelessness to explore, and as appropriate, bring to the full Council for its consideration, options for short-term measures to address immediate health and safety concerns as well as more comprehensive long-term solutions to homelessness.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 9th day of August, 2016.

AYES: (6) Mayor Sawyer, Vice Mayor Schwedhelm, Council Members Combs, Olivares,
Wysocky
NOES: (0)
ABSENT: (1) Council Member Carlstrom
ABSTAIN: (0)

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
City Clerk Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Interim City Attorney