

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2018-175

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA SUPPORTING PROPOSITION 2: AUTHORIZES BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. LEGISLATIVE STATUTE.

WHEREAS, more than 134,000 people in California are languishing on our streets, huddled on sidewalks, sleeping under freeways and along riverbanks; and

WHEREAS, as many as a third of the people living in these unsafe conditions are living with an untreated mental illness; and

WHEREAS, decades of research shows providing people with a stable place to live along with mental health services promotes healthy, stable lives; and

WHEREAS, without the foundation of a stable home connected to mental healthcare, people suffering from serious mental illness are unable to make it to doctors' appointments and specialized counseling services, often showing up in emergency rooms as a last resort; and

WHEREAS, permanent supportive housing significantly reduces public health costs, reduces suffering for patients, and achieves better health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, a recent RAND study in Los Angeles County of supportive housing programs – similar to what Proposition 2 will do – found early success with more than 3,000 people moved off the streets, into housing and care, and saving taxpayers more than \$6 million after just one year; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 2 uses proven, models of pairing housing and mental health care – keeping Californians experiencing homeless off the streets, out of hospitals and emergency rooms and receiving the mental health services they need, while easing the burden on emergency responders and saving taxpayers millions; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County, there is a need for permanent supportive housing as evidenced by the 2018 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey (Homeless Count), which identified 747 chronically homeless individuals, defined as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer – or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the last three years – and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing; and

WHEREAS, the need for permanent supportive housing is further substantiated by a survey conducted as part of the Homeless Count, which found that 35% of respondents have a psychiatric or emotional condition, 28% suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and an overwhelming 90% expressed an interest in permanent housing if it were available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa hereby supports Proposition 2: No Place Like Home on the November 6, 2018 ballot to help end the suffering on our streets and neighborhoods by connecting people who have a serious mental illness to the supportive housing they need to get treatment and care in the stability of a home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council supports and the City of Santa Rosa can be listed as a member of the Proposition 2: No Place Like Home coalition.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 2nd day of October, 2018.

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

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
City Clerk Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney