

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, PROGRAM SPECIALIST
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUBJECT: 30-DAY EXTENSION FOR EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER
BED PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE
PILOT PROGRAM FROM APRIL 1, 2016 TO APRIL 30, 2016
AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Department of Housing and Community Services that the Council, by two (2) separate resolutions, approve a 30-day extension to the winter shelter bed program at the Samuel L. Jones Hall Homeless Shelter and the Community Homeless Assistance Pilot Program (CHAPP) from April 1, 2016 to April 30, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City desires to extend by thirty (30) days from April 1, 2016 to April 30, 2016, the winter shelter bed program at Samuel L. Jones Hall Homeless Shelter, which provides 50 beds in the gymnasium portion of the shelter during the winter months (November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016); and the Community Homeless Assistance Pilot Program (CHAPP), which allows owners to use their properties or facilities, which meet Zoning Code requirements, for safe parking, the placement of portable toilets, and temporary shelter, also during the winter months (November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016).

BACKGROUND

Winter Shelter Program

1. Samuel L. Jones Hall Homeless Shelter is a City-owned facility which has been operated by Catholic Charities since it opened in November 2005. The initial year-round 80-bed occupancy has increased over time with the consolidation of the Brookwood Shelter (40 beds) in 2009 and more recently, in November 2014, Council approved a modification to the Conditional Use Permit allowing an increase in year-round beds from 120 to 138 plus 50 winter shelter beds between

November and March. The winter shelter program first opened in December 2013 and is in its third year of operations.

2. The City has two (2) separate agreements with Catholic Charities for the operation of the year-round and winter shelter programs, as well as two (2) separate funding agreements with the County of Sonoma for these programs. The current agreement for the winter shelter provides \$130,000 to Catholic Charities for operations, which are jointly funded by the City and the County (\$65,000 each).

Community Homeless Assistance Pilot Program

1. In October 2015, the Council determined that emergency facilities, as defined in 20-52.040 Temporary Use Permit Section C.2, were needed to address the public health and safety needs of the unsheltered during the winter months; and consequently approved CHAPP, which allows owners to use their properties or facilities, which meet Zoning Code requirements, for safe parking, the placement of portable toilets, and temporary shelter during the winter months (November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016).
2. Current CHAPP participants include Catholic Charities' safe parking program and the Redwood Gospel Mission's nomadic shelter program, Entertaining Angels, which will conclude for the season on April 15, 2016.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On June 30, 2015, Council approved an Agreement for the Operation of the Winter Shelter Bed Program at Samuel L. Jones Hall Homeless Shelter with Catholic Charities for the period November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. The resolution approving the agreement also authorized the Director of Housing and Community Services to execute amendments to the agreement, subject to the appropriation of funding by Council, and to execute funding agreements with the County of Sonoma for funding of the winter shelter.

On October 27, 2015, Council approved CHAPP to allow property owners to use their properties or facilities, which meet Zoning Code requirements, for safe parking, the placement of portable toilets, and temporary shelter during the winter months (November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016).

ANALYSIS

1. Due to continued demand for safe shelter options for the unsheltered, combined with a weather forecast that predicts precipitation will be near to slightly above normal through May (Seasonal Outlook April to June 2016), this item, if approved, will extend these two emergency programs for thirty (30) days and will

authorize expenditure of up to \$25,000 of unassigned fund balance to extend the operating agreement with Catholic Charities. The County, pursuant to its current program guidelines, will share in the cost for days considered Code Blue. In the event of a Code Blue, the County's contribution will be \$22.00 per day per bed. A Code Blue is triggered when temperatures drop below an average nighttime low of 38 degrees and those conditions are projected for a minimum of 4 days, and/or significant rainfall causes difficulty for unsheltered individuals to remain dry, and/or an analysis of subjective factors related to winter weather indicates circumstances warrant action. Threshold conditions are routinely monitored between November and March to predict the need for a Code Blue. A Code Blue is activated as a result of a collaboration between the Health Department, the Community Development Commission and homeless service providers.

2. Continuation of the winter shelter program and CHAPP are exempt from temporary use permit requirements pursuant to City Zoning Code Section 20-52.040 C.2 in that they meet an emergency public health and safety need, as determined by Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of Housing and Community Services is seeking \$25,000 from General Fund (unassigned fund balance) to extend winter shelter operations by thirty (30) days from April 1, 2016 to April 30, 2016. Although the County may provide a portion of that costs as outlined above, the City, by this action, will authorize the full \$25,000 additional funding commitment. Staff is recommending that the Fire Inspection Fee of \$123 continue to be waived through April 30, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The extension of the Winter Shelter program and CHAPP have been reviewed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and found to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines. The extension of the Winter Shelter program has been found exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a continuation of operation of an existing facility. The extension of CHAPP has been found exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) as a specific action necessary to mitigate an emergency.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolutions

CONTACT

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