

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID GOUIN, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND KELLI KUYKENDALL, ACTING HOMELESS SERVICES MANAGER
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON HOMELESS EMERGENCY DECLARATION, STRATEGY CHALLENGES, AND HOMELESS POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Council discuss Mayor Coursey's request to revisit the following items: 1) continuing the local homeless emergency; 2) the City's homelessness strategy; and 3) the role of the Homeless Policy Subcommittee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 7, 2017, in connection with the continued extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency, Mayor Coursey requested a future agenda item to revisit the following items: 1) continuing the local homeless emergency; 2) the City's homelessness strategy; and 3) the role of the Homeless Policy Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

Local Homeless Emergency

On August 9, 2016, the Council formally recognized a homelessness emergency within Santa Rosa through the following 1) adopted Resolution No. 28838 declaring a homeless shelter crisis; 2) adopted Resolution No. 28839 proclaiming a local homeless emergency; and 3) by motion, directed the Mayor to submit a letter requesting for a gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation.

Council has approved an extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency on a monthly basis since the original proclamation in August 2016. On March 7, 2017, Council approved the eighth extension.

Homeless Policy Subcommittee

In January 2016, former Mayor Sawyer appointed Council Member Olivares (Chair), Council Member Schwedhelm, and Council Member Combs to a Council Subcommittee on Homelessness. The subcommittee first convened in March 2016 and has held monthly meetings since that time.

The subcommittee has prepared recommendations in the following areas – an interim Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), approved by Council on October 11, 2016; and a Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan, approved by Council on January 10, 2017.

Homelessness Strategy

The Housing First Strategy (Strategy) supports an evidence-based model and aligns with State and Federal policy, which prioritizes the provision of housing as the primary strategy for ending homelessness. In addition to incorporating the following three primary program areas: street outreach and engagement, coordinated entry, and housing and supportive services, the Strategy allows for “promising practices” such as CHAP. The Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan, drafted in conjunction with the Strategy, outlines existing and new initiatives to further address homelessness in our community.

In alignment with this Strategy, on February 14, 2017, Council approved an amendment to Catholic Charities’ Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) grant agreement, providing additional rapid re-housing resources in the amount of \$125,000 to place approximately 25 additional households into permanent housing. Rapid re-housing is a core element of the Housing First approach.

Mayor Coursey’s request

On February 7, 2017, in connection with the continued extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency, Mayor Coursey requested a future agenda item to revisit the following items: 1) continuing the local homeless emergency; 2) the City’s homelessness strategy; and 3) the role of the Homeless Policy Subcommittee.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On August 9, 2016, the Council formally recognized a homelessness emergency within Santa Rosa through the following 1) adopted Resolution No. 28838 declaring a homeless shelter crisis; 2) adopted Resolution No. 28839 proclaiming a local homeless emergency; and 3) by motion, directed the Mayor to submit a letter requesting for a gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation. Council has approved an extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency on a monthly basis since the original proclamation in August 2016.

On October 11, 2016, under the City's declaration of homeless emergency, Council, by Resolution No. 28868, approved an expanded year-round Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP) to allow for safe parking, safe camping, the placement and maintenance of portable toilets including access to existing bathroom facilities, provision of temporary overnight shelter, and storage for personal belongings.

On January 10, 2017, Council, by Resolution No. RES-2017-003, adopted a Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan to address homelessness in Santa Rosa.

On February 14, 2017, Council, by Resolution No. RES-2017-021 approved a First Amendment to Grant Agreement for Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) with Catholic Charities (Fiscal Year 2016/2017) to provide additional rapid re-housing resources in the amount of \$125,000, bringing the total amount under the agreement to \$591,450.

ANALYSIS

It is a matter of Council discretion to discuss Mayor Coursey's request.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

CONTACT

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