



Discussion on Homeless Emergency Declaration, Strategy Challenges, and Homeless Policy Subcommittee

City Council Meeting
April 4, 2017

David Guin
Kelli Kuykendall
Housing and Community Services

Background

- February 7 – Mayor Coursey requested a future agenda item to revisit the following items:
 - Continuing local homeless emergency
 - Strategy/program challenges
 - Clarify what we're doing
 - Confirm where we're going
 - Role of Homeless Policy Subcommittee

Outline

- Current situation – Census Data
- Homeless services programs
- Declaration of shelter crisis and homeless emergency
- Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP)
- Community participation
- Homeless Policy Subcommittee
- Seek consensus on policy direction
- Next steps

Current Situation - Census

- 2,906 homeless persons in Sonoma County
 - 66% unsheltered
- 1,877 in Santa Rosa
- 82% indicated their last permanent residence was in Sonoma County
- 67% claimed affordability as the primary obstacle to obtaining housing
- 52% reported a disabling health condition

Source: 2016 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey

Homeless Services Programs

- HOST Pilot – Aug 2015
 - ✓ Clean Start trailer – Nov 2015
 - ✓ HOST renewed – June 2016
 - ✓ \$125,000 for Rapid Re-Housing – Feb 2017
- Full-time staff position – Oct 2015
- CHAP Pilot – Oct 2015
 - ✓ Expanded CHAP – Oct 2016
 - ✓ \$20,000 for CHAP – Nov 2016

Homeless Services Programs

- Subcommittee convened – March 2016
- Homeless emergency – Aug 2016
- Housing First Policy
 - ✓ Subcommittee review – Sept-Dec 2016
 - ✓ Council adopted – Jan 2017
- Other efforts
 - ✓ Support shelter infrastructure, core services
 - ✓ Renewed funding to Winter Shelter, HCA Family Fund Program

Homeless Emergency

- Council declared a shelter crisis and homeless emergency - Aug 2016
- Provides greater land use and financial flexibility to address homeless crisis
- Request for State financial assistance
- Requires monthly extensions
- April 4th would be the 9th extension

Community Homeless Assistance Program

- Allows certain land uses without use permit
- Allows safe parking, safe camping, storage, portable toilets and nomadic shelter
- Status of CHAP requests
- Other considerations

Community Participation

- Continuum of Care
- County of Sonoma
- City of Santa Rosa
- Santa Rosa Community Advisory Board
- Task Force on the Homeless
- Homeless Action!
- Santa Rosa Together
- Santa Rosa Homeless Collective

Homeless Policy Subcommittee

- Council Members – Olivares (Chair), Combs and Schwedhelm
- Convened March 2016
- Recommendations to date
 - ✓ Homeless emergency - Aug 2016
 - ✓ CHAP - Oct 2016
 - ✓ Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan - Jan 2017

Recommendation

Discuss Mayor Coursey's request to revisit the following:

- Continuing the local homeless emergency;
- the City's Homelessness strategy; and
- the Role of the Homeless Policy Subcommittee