

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
MANAGER
SUBJECT: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
EXTENSION OF PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL HOMELESS
EMERGENCY
AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Council, by resolution, approve an extension of Resolution No. 28839 which formally proclaimed a local homeless emergency within Santa Rosa.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 9, 2016, pursuant to the authority set forth in California Government Code Sections 8630 thru 8634, Council, by Resolution No. 28839, formally proclaimed a local homeless emergency within Santa Rosa. Section 8630 requires that the Council review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 30 days until such local emergency is terminated. Council has approved an extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency on a monthly basis since the original proclamation in August 2016. In light of the continuing conditions of homelessness within the city, staff is recommending that the Council maintain the proclamation in full force and effect at this time. If approved, this will be the twenty-second extension.

This item relates to Council Goal 6: Committed to making Santa Rosa a community where people feel safe to live, work, and play.

BACKGROUND

1. 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.
2. Government Code Section 8630 requires that the Council review the need for continuing the local homeless emergency (Item No.2), at least every 30 days until such local emergency is terminated.

3. Council has approved an extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency on a monthly basis since the original proclamation in August 2016:

Council Meeting	Resolution No.
August 30, 2016	28851
September 27, 2016	28863
October 25, 2016	28876
November 15, 2016	28884
December 13, 2016	28894
January 10, 2017	RES-2017-002
February 7, 2017	RES-2017-018
March 7, 2017	RES-2017-032
April 4, 2017	RES-2017-052
May 2, 2017	RES-2017-062
May 23, 2017	RES-2017-075
June 20, 2017	RES-2017-117
July 18, 2017	RES-2017-140
August 15, 2017	RES-2017-160
September 5, 2017	RES-2017-174
September 26, 2017	RES-2017-193
October 24, 2017	RES-2017-209
November 14, 2017	RES-2017-219
December 12, 2017	RES-2017-245
January 9, 2018	RES-2018-009
February 6, 2018	RES-2018-018

4. In light of the continuing conditions of homelessness within the city, which have been further exacerbated by the recent fire emergency and substantial loss of residential units, staff is recommending that the Council maintain the proclamation in full force and effect at this time. If approved, this will be the twenty-second extension.
5. The City is engaged in a range of efforts to address homelessness as part of Council's Housing First Strategy. These include investing in evidenced-based solutions such as housing-focused shelter at the Samuel L. Jones Hall Homeless Shelter, street outreach through the Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST), and resources for short and long-term rental assistance (rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing) with case management support. The City also launched the Homeless Encampment Cleanup Pilot Program, the goal of which is to address the health, safety, and shelter needs of persons living in encampments, as well as to mitigate impacts to the surrounding communities.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On July 19, 2016, staff presented to Council three options for emergency declarations concerning homelessness, including declaration of shelter crisis, declaration of local emergency, and request for a gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation, and sought direction regarding Council's interest in pursuing these options. Council directed that staff return with documentation for all three options.

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.

ANALYSIS

1. A local homeless emergency continues to exist in Santa Rosa as described in Resolution No. 28839, adopted by Council on August 9, 2016, including as follows:
 - a. Sonoma County's 2017 point-in-time count identified 2,835 homeless persons on a given night, 1,847 (65%) of whom were unsheltered; and
 - b. The point-in-time count identified 1,618 homeless persons in central Santa Rosa which represents 57% of the total County-wide count, 966 (60%) of whom were unsheltered; and
 - c. The community's homeless population includes veterans, women, children, persons with disabilities, seniors and other vulnerable populations; and
 - d. 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
 - e. 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
 - f. 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
 - g. 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
 - h. Such conditions result in a critical threat to the physical and mental health and safety of those experiencing homelessness; and
 - i. Such conditions also result in a threat to the natural environment and the public health and well-being of the surrounding community; and

- j. To address these conditions, 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 to homelessness; and
 - k. The 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
 - l. The causes and effects of homelessness are complex and can be addressed only with dedication, coordination and flexibility.
2. These conditions continue to pose extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the city, thus necessitating the continuation of the proclamation of local homeless emergency at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT

Extending the proclamation of local homeless emergency does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund, however, staff does not know for certain at this time the potential impacts of continuing the proclamation.

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

- Resolution – Extending a Proclamation of Local Homeless Emergency

CONTACT

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