

OPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS CONCERNING HOMELESSNESS

City Council
July 19, 2016

Homeless Subcommittee

- May 2016
 - Report outlining options for extending Community Homeless Assistance Pilot Program (CHAPP) to a year-round program, declaration of shelter emergency to allow for the use of City facilities, other alternatives
 - Committee requested to share report with the full Council

Declarations

- Declaration of shelter crisis
- Declaration of local emergency
- Request for gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation

Declaration of Shelter Crisis

- Requires finding by Council that a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to health and safety
- Waive certain zoning, building, or other regulatory requirements to expedite the use of City-owned facilities for shelter

Declaration of Local Emergency

- Also known as declaration of homeless state of emergency (SOE)
- Broader action comparable to declarations made in cases of natural disaster
- Requires finding by Council that there are conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property which are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the City and which require the assistance of other state or local agencies to address

Declaration of Local Emergency continued

- Extend waiver of certain zoning requirements for the provision of services under the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP) on an interim basis until the City is able to complete the necessary code amendments for a more permanent solution
- Triggers notification requirements under Standardized Emergency Management System
- By proclamation of the City Council

Gubernatorial State of Emergency Proclamation

- Request the Governor to proclaim a statewide state of homeless emergency
- State assistance for homeless services
- By motion of the Mayor – letter to Governor

Policy Considerations

- Do the circumstances support a declaration of shelter crisis or local emergency?
- What are the key barriers preventing action on homelessness and how could an emergency declaration address these?
- SOEs typically focus on short-term activities rather than long-term solutions. How will such a measure yield solutions, engage key stakeholders, and benefit those experiencing homelessness?
- What are the benefits to be gained by an emergency declaration?
- How does an emergency declaration align with our long term goals such as Housing for All and Housing First?

Council Direction

- Council's interest in pursuing
 - Declaration of shelter crisis
 - Declaration of local emergency
 - Request for gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Council, by motion, direct staff regarding Council's interest to declare a homelessness emergency and, if so, identify the preferred action for doing so based on the following options – declaration of shelter crisis, declaration of local emergency, and/or request for gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation.

Discussion

- Questions
- Direction