

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, PROGRAM SPECIALIST
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS CONCERNING
HOMELESSNESS
AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Council, formally recognize a homelessness emergency through the following 1) adopt a resolution declaring a shelter crisis within Santa Rosa; 2) adopt a resolution declaring a local homeless emergency within Santa Rosa; and 3) by motion, direct the Mayor to submit a letter requesting for a gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation, and sought direction regarding Council's interest in pursuing these options. Council made a motion to direct staff to take the appropriate steps to declare a homelessness emergency utilizing the three options outlined by staff. Staff has prepared the appropriate declarations and a letter to the Governor for Council consideration.

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 May 16, 2016, the City Council Homeless Subcommittee received a report from staff outlining options for extending the Community Homeless Assistance Pilot Program (CHAPP) to a year-round program, which included options for a safe camping component, the declaration of shelter emergency to allow for the use of City facilities, and other alternatives. The subcommittee requested that the report be added to a future Council agenda for consideration by the full Council.

2. 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 gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation, and sought direction regarding Council's interest in pursuing these options.
3. Council heard substantial testimony regarding the critical impacts on individual and community health and well-being resulting from homelessness in Santa Rosa and the surrounding region.
4. Council made a motion to direct staff to take the appropriate steps to declare a homelessness emergency utilizing the three options outlined by staff. Staff has prepared the appropriate declarations and a letter to the Governor for Council consideration.
5. CHAPP was covered under agenda item 14.4 of the July 19, 2016, Council meeting.

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 gubernatorial state of emergency proclamation, and sought direction regarding Council's interest in pursuing these options.

ANALYSIS

1. Communities across the state are facing a pervasive and deepening homeless crisis that imminently endangers the health and safety of tens of thousands of residents, including veterans, women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. Locally, Sonoma County's 2016 point-in-time count identified 2,906 homeless persons on a given night, 1,906 (66%) of whom were unsheltered. The point-in-time count identified 1,877 homeless persons in central Santa Rosa which represents 65% of the total count, 1,216 (65%) of whom were unsheltered.
2. Staff has prepared the appropriate declarations and a letter to the Governor for Council consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this item does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund, however, staff does not know for certain at this time the potential impacts of declaring an emergency.

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

- Attachment 1 – Letter to Governor
- Resolution – Declaration of Shelter Crisis
- Resolution – Declaration of Local Emergency

CONTACT

Kelli Kuykendall, Program Specialist, kkuykendall@srcity.org, 543-3315