

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, PROGRAM SPECIALIST  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL HOMELESS  
EMERGENCY, ADOPTION OF THE HOUSING FIRST STRATEGY  
AND WORK PLAN, DIRECTION ON COMMUNITY HOMELESS  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS, AND WINTER  
SHELTER EXPANSION  
AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Council, 1) by resolution, approve an extension of Resolution No. 28839 which formally proclaimed a local homeless emergency within Santa Rosa; and 2) by resolution, adopt the Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan; and 3) by motion, provide direction on possible amendments to the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP) and additional winter shelter on public property.

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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. 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 sixth extension. Staff is also asking Council to adopt the Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan and to provide direction on possible amendments to the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP) and additional winter shelter on public property.

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:

Council Meeting	Resolution No.
August 30, 2016	28851
September 27, 2016	28863
October 25, 2016	28876
November 15, 2016	28884
December 13, 2016	28894

4. On October 25, Council directed the Mayor to submit letters to our congressional representatives seeking support to change the Continuum of Care Funding Formula to increase potential funding for local City efforts.
5. The City Council Homeless Policy Subcommittee, with the assistance of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), has prepared recommendations in the following areas – an interim Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), approved by Council on October 11, 2016, a Comprehensive Homeless Services Strategy, and an Emergency Declarations Work Plan. Staff presented the strategy, work plan, and requested cost estimates for CHAP to the Council on November 15. Council directed staff to work with the Subcommittee to further revise the strategy and work plan and directed the City Manager to make available up to \$20,000 for CHAP.
6. During its regularly scheduled meeting on December 19, the Subcommittee directed staff to bring forward the revised strategy and work plan – now renamed as the Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan – for consideration by the full Council and to seek direction regarding possible amendments to CHAP and additional winter shelter on public property.
7. 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 sixth extension. Staff is also asking Council to adopt the Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan, to authorize the Director of Housing and Community Services to adjust the Work Plan as needed to facilitate efficient implementation of the Strategy, and to provide direction on possible amendments to CHAP and additional winter shelter on public property.

### 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.

### 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 2016 point-in-time count identified 2,906 homeless persons on a given night, 1,906 (66%) of whom were unsheltered; and
  - b. The point-in-time count identified 1,877 homeless persons in central Santa Rosa which represents 65% of the total County-wide count, 1,216 (65%) 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.
3. The Housing First Strategy supports an evidence-based model that aligns with State and Federal policy and 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 which the Council may consider implementing to further address homelessness in our community. The Work Plan includes cost estimates for CHAP, as requested by the Subcommittee.
4. Potential CHAP amendments, for the Council’s consideration, include allowing homeless service uses on commercial property and clarifying the process and noticing required for establishment of new CHAP sites, including staff involvement with education and outreach to the surrounding neighborhoods. Potential options for winter shelter on public property may include exploring the feasibility of using such sites as the National Guard Armory, Veterans Memorial Building, former Fire Station 5, recreation facilities, or City parking lots, for example, subject to Council’s direction.

### 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 continuing the proclamation of local homeless emergency. The Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan does identify additional funding for the implementation of new initiatives subject to the Council's discretion. Additionally, there will be costs associated with activating public property for winter shelter should the Council wish to pursue this option.

### 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 – Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan
- Resolution – Extending a Proclamation of Local Homeless Emergency
- Resolution – Adopting a Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan /Exhibit A – Housing First Strategy and Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan

### CONTACT

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