

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

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

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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.

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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, as amended in 2019, requires that the Council review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 60 days until such local emergency is terminated. (Section 8630 previously required review every 30 days.) Council has approved an extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency on a regular 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 forty-seventh extension.

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, as recently amended, requires that the Council review the need for continuing the local homeless emergency (Item No.2), at least every 60 days until such local emergency is terminated.

3. Council has approved an extension of the proclamation of local homeless emergency on a regular 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   |
| March 6, 2018      | RES-2018-038   |
| April 3, 2018      | RES-2018-051   |
| May 1, 2018        | RES-2018-063   |
| May 22, 2018       | RES-2018-076   |
| June 19, 2018      | RES-2018-091   |
| July 10, 2018      | RES-2018-116   |
| August 7, 2018     | RES-2018-134   |
| September 4, 2018  | RES-2018-155   |
| October 2, 2018    | RES-2018-173   |
| October 30, 2018   | RES-2018-196   |
| November 27, 2018  | RES-2018-207   |
| December 18, 2018  | RES-2018-225   |
| January 15, 2019   | RES-2019-007   |
| February 12, 2019  | RES-2019-013   |
| March 12, 2019     | RES-2019-024   |
| April 2, 2019      | RES-2019-034   |
| May 28, 2019       | RES-2019-057   |
| July 23, 2019      | RES-2019-115   |
| September 10, 2019 | RES-2019-138   |

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| November 5, 2019                  | RES-2019-162 |
| December 17, 2019                 | RES-2019-188 |
| February 11, 2020                 | RES-2020-019 |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2020      | RES-2020-057 |
| June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2020       | RES-2020-086 |
| July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020      | RES-2020-121 |
| September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 | RES-2020-153 |

4. In light of the continuing conditions of homelessness within the city, which were exacerbated by the 2017 fire emergency and substantial loss of residential units, and now further exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency, staff is recommending that the Council maintain the proclamation in full force and effect at this time. If approved, this will be the forty-seventh 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 and Family Support Center, street outreach through the Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST), expanded services at the Homeless Services Center, and resources for housing assistance, tenant assistance, and landlord incentives and risk mitigation through the creation of a Housing First Fund. The City also launched the Homeless Encampment Assistance Pilot Program, a multi-disciplinary team focused on a compassionate approach to addressing the health, safety and shelter needs of persons living in encampments, as well as to mitigate the impacts to surrounding communities.
6. The declarations provide the City with greater flexibility to address the homeless crisis by waiving certain health, safety, and zoning restrictions for the use of public property (declaration of shelter crisis) or private property (declaration of local homeless emergency) to create additional shelter for persons experiencing homelessness. For example, the City has increased shelter bed capacity at the Samuel L. Jones Hall Homeless Shelter and expanded services at the Homeless Services Center without going through a formal process to modify the conditional use permits for these facilities as well as allowed for the provision of services on private property through the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP). The additional flexibility provided by the declaration will be particularly critical as we seek to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness during the current public health emergency.

#### 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, and now every 60 days (Section 8630 previously required review every 30 days), 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: (Note: the statistical information has been updated with the most current data.)
  - a. Sonoma County's 2019 point-in-time count identified 2,951 homeless persons on a given night, 1,957 (66%) of whom were unsheltered; and
  - b. The point-in-time count identified 1,803 homeless persons in Santa Rosa which represents 61% of the total County-wide count, 1,048 (58%) 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; 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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