

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0402

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

October 16, 2018

Establishing a City Policy on Emergency Shelters

BACKGROUND

- A. According to the 2017 Point-In-Time Homeless Census, there are approximately 1,779 individuals experiencing homelessness within the city on any given night. This population includes veterans, women, children, persons with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable groups.
- B. Although the city, Sacramento County and local non-profit service providers aid many of these individuals, a significant number of them are unable to obtain shelter.
- C. There are currently approximately 845 shelter beds and 129 family shelter units available throughout Sacramento County on any given night and an additional 247 beds available during the winter months.
- D. Current shelters are operated by different non-profits and have varying approaches on access, operations and services offered.
- E. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness coordinates the federal response to homelessness in partnership with nineteen federal agencies and recommends that communities work to transition to a shelter system that removes barrier to access and services and embraces the “housing first” approach.
- F. In addition to the use of other funds, including General Funds, the City anticipates receiving \$5.6 million under the new Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), administered by the State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCHS) to support emergency sheltering activities. The Sacramento Continuum of Care will receive an additional \$12.7 million in HEAP for similar sheltering and housing activities. BCHS requires that all programs funded under HEAP must be in compliance with Housing First principles.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The city council hereby declares that City investments in shelters, including those administered by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency on behalf of the City should:
- A. Embrace housing first principles; and
 - B. Work to remove barriers to access, including the goal to serve people with pets, partners and possessions and lowering or removing other thresholds such as background checks, sobriety requirements, and program compliance; and
 - C. Commit to accepting guests through the Coordinated Entry System administered by Sacramento Steps Forward when that system is available; and
 - D. Operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and
 - E. Provide intensive case management and housing supportive services, either directly through the shelter provider or through a contracted partnership with another provider; and
 - F. Commit to collaborative partnerships and regular case conferencing with service providers; and
 - G. Commit to on-going training of staff and leadership on subjects necessary to operate a low barrier, housing focused shelter; and
 - H. Commit to continual improvement and regularly measure and report outcomes to funders and the broader community; and
 - I. Commit to addressing the needs to multiple subpopulations, including families with children and transition age youth.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on October 16, 2018, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Ashby, Carr, Guerra, Hansen, Harris, Jennings, Schenirer, Warren and Mayor Steinberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest: **Mindy Cuppy** Digitally signed by Mindy Cuppy
Date: 2019.05.14 18:20:15
-07'00'

Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk

The presence of an electronic signature certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy as approved by the Sacramento City Council.