

Homeless: The Math Is Horrible

Here's The Math:

3,053 unsheltered homeless (09/16/25 City staff figure)
\$ 85,000 per unit cost per tiny homes/safe grounds (City figure)
\$ 259,505,000 start-up costs (not including ongoing costs)

Given the math, very low cost alternatives are required.

Here is a suggested motion for the City Council to adopt:

City staff shall develop within 60 days five very low cost approaches to move the homeless from city parks.

Here is one possible approach:

1. Homeless in city parks shall be required to move to a vacant lot designated by the city (perhaps the 100 acre site in south Sacramento, and/or other parcels identified by the city).
2. The vacant lot will give the homeless person the same space as a city park.
3. The vacant lot will have a portable bathroom, an improvement for the homeless.
4. The vacant lot will provide a consistent location to receive services from government agencies and NGOs, an improvement for the homeless.

As very low cost approaches are developed and tried, they can be improved or abandoned, and new ones developed.

Mayor Darrell Steinberg took office asking that his success be judged on the homeless issue. By his own metric, Mayor Steinberg's term has to be judged a failure.

This City Council will also fail unless you significantly reduce the numbers of homeless on the streets and in parks. You know that homelessness is the city's #1 issue.

Think of this - if this City Council were to move the homeless from city parks, your terms of office would be judged a resounding success. It is within your power to do so.