

**Internal Task Force
Meeting Notes 4.23.20**

An Internal Homeless Task Force teleconference call was held on Thursday April 23, 2020 at 2pm – 2:30pm.

The following members of the committee joined the call:

- City Manager’s Office: Sylvia Solis Daniels, Jessica Boensch
- Code Enforcement: Derek Clemente, Jess Ferrell, Clarence Rich
- Engineering: Kim Cruz
- Fire: Mike Easterling
- Public Works: Chris Arce
- Recreation: Rob Anderson
- Stormwater: John Nottage
- Vista Sheriff’s Department: Lt. Nancy Blanco & Deputy Scroggins
- City Attorney’s Office: Walter Chung
- Economic Development: Delilah Langan

Check-in with all divisions to get updates of current activities with homeless services.

City Manager/Housing: Housing division supports two Vista homeless service agencies through CDBG: Operation Hope and Alpha Project. Alpha Project has suspended CDBG-funded homeless outreach worker from going out in the community. He is currently using teleconferencing as the primary source of contact for homeless community. Operation Hope is reducing capacity for social distancing requirements. They have one confirmed case of CoVid-19 (a staff member). The shelter receives daily visits from County public health nurses.

Stormwater: No updates. Engrossed with the significant rain activity from the last few weeks.

Fire: Fire hasn’t transported any CoVid-19 positive cases in the last quarter We had contact with 115 homeless patients in the 1st quarter of 2020.

- 99 of those were transported to the emergency room
- 2 of them were transported to a landing zone to meet an air ambulance
- 4 transported by Law Enforcement
- 10 not transported

Recreation: Parks have been quiet due to closures. Parks reopening tomorrow for passive use.

Vista Sheriff’s Department: Jails are releasing a large number of people from custody. Many of those people have no place to go they may become temporarily homeless. Sheriff’s department does patrol along the Hacienda area regularly.

Engineering: No updates.

Code Enforcement: Thirteen cases of homeless encampments reported. Eight of the cases are in new locations. Code is currently opening cases and getting back to them once they have the authority to do so (when CDC lifts mandates). There has been a consistent increase in homeless complaints since 2014, and we are at a much higher rate of complaints than we typically are at this time of year. Many complaints include people that used to sleep in cars in the parking lots that are now closed.

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City Attorney: No enforcement with closed courts. Cases are pending until courts reopen.

Public Works: Encampment clean ups are on hold. Employees notify Code if they see any homeless activity.
Driving property along Hacienda: All gates locked for this property.

Economic Development: Virtual Vista Cares visits. No homeless complaints so far from business park or downtown businesses.

City Manager's Office - Provided an update on the approved Strategic Plan activities.

- A) Internal Homelessness Task Force: Ongoing, meeting minutes drafted following each meeting. Each member should review the notes after each meeting to ensure they are accurate.
- B) Homeless Prevention Pilot Program – Funds received from HCD. Going to open RFP for a public service provider to facilitate this program: provide funds to those who are at risk of becoming homeless.
- C) Historic Downtown Daytime Outreach Program - Activity on HOLD per City Council.
- D) Homeshare Coordination Services – In communication with Elderhelp. Working to identify when this program could start. Hopefully they can do background work during the pandemic.
- E) Encampment Clean Up - Hold due to COVID
- F) Education and Outreach Program – Gathering information from each department during meetings to see what potential measurable outcomes are. County providing face coverings for homeless service providers.
- G) Governmental and Legislative Advocacy – Ongoing. No new activity.
- H) Secure Shelter Beds – In Progress. In communication with the Regional Alliance, drafting contract. Shelter beds are especially limited right now because they are required to reduce capacity in order to social distance.
- I) FT Social Worker with Flex Funds – Draft RFP is under final review by City Manager's Office and will then go to City Attorney's Office for review. RFP expected to open May 1 and close by the end of May.

Next Meeting: May 28 at 2pm. Teleconference if not in person.