

Internal Task Force on Homelessness Teleconference Meeting Agenda

July 29, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Call Number: 760-643-5401

Meeting Number: 5207

Access Code: 4010

I. Overview of Task Force

Review role of task force members and information dissemination throughout each dept./division

Homelessness task force meetings were conducted in-person but are now telephone conferences due to COVID-19. The meetings started over a year ago while working on the Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness. City homelessness activities were going on in each department, and we needed a space to bring all of our efforts together. The purpose of these meetings is to synthesize our work so we have one clear message and direction from the City. Each department shares activities, questions, etc. with the group to resolve together.

Mike Easterling - Fire

Walter Chung – City Attorney’s Office

Sylvia Solis Daniels – City Manager’s Office / Housing Division

Jessica Boensch – City Manager’s Office / Housing Division

Jonathan Nottage – Engineering / Stormwater

Sgt. Al Gathings – Sheriff’s Department

Lt. Nancy Blanco – Sheriff’s Department

Derek Clemente – Code Enforcement

Amanda Lee – City Manager’s Office

Delilah Langdon – Economic Development

Clarence Rich – Code Enforcement

Jessica Farrell – Code Enforcement

Robert Anderson – Recreation and Community Services

Michael Ressler – Community Development / Planning Division

Kaitlyn Elliott-Norgrove – City Manager’s Office

Kim Cruz – Engineering

II. Updates from each department represented at the meeting

Code Enforcement:

Following CDC guidelines, allowing encampments on public property to remain unless threat to safety, or if in the biological preserve areas. Increased homelessness complaints in the City. Staff is opening cases and tracking, but not actively removing encampments due to COVID restrictions.

Code Enforcement:

There are transients in the Creek bed areas per usual, but there are also more than usual in public areas. Code is able to go in and clean encampments where individuals were arrested.

Fire:

2nd quarter: 103 homeless contacts. 82% transported to hospital. No positive COVID homeless cases.

There is a fire hazard with all of the overgrown brush behind CubeSmart because Code can't clear it due to CDC guidelines.

Code Enforcement response: There is a specified period of time that clearing can occur in the discussed area due to various restrictions with involved foliage/animals (nesting season which is currently in progress). A citation was issued to CubeSmart for not clearing their brush. Hands are tied to clear anything themselves with current CDC guidelines. A biological monitor is available when we get the green light to move forward with clearing.

City Attorney Office:

Will provide guidance as to whether or not the City can move forward with clearing brush due to Fire Safety Concern. City Attorney's office will look into legal options and get back to Code Enforcement, Fire, and the Sheriff's Department about how to move forward.

Sheriff's Department:

Sheriffs are out almost every day trying to find homelessness resources. Some homeless individuals who commit crimes are still arrested for safety issues regardless of CDC guidelines. Sheriffs are not going into brush due to CDC guidelines. Criminal actions/health and safety concerns can override these guidelines. Two officers are available for homeless outreach every third Wednesday of the month. The County has a team that provides emergency housing vouchers. The Sheriff's Department will offer a thorough presentation about the voucher program at next meeting.

Housing Division response: Social Worker recommendation going to Council on 8/11. Interested in the voucher program, but it would need to be recommended by the Social Worker.

Recreation and Community Services:

There is not as much homelessness activity in parks during the day. Activity mostly occurs at night after parks are closed, and debris is left behind. Creekwalk is a consistent concern. A homeless family has been jumping the fence to bathe in pools at the Wave. Follow up on with Code Enforcement and the Sheriff's Department - Not yet reported. A homeless man has also been hopping the fence to sleep outside the Moonlight restrooms. Homeless individual living in a vehicle parked off of Broadway.

Stormwater:

Noted that all departments should be cautious about directing anyone to cut down trees/brush due to CDC guidance and protected plant species. Natural resource agencies, particularly California Fish and Wildlife may need to be involved.

Economic Development:

No updates.

Public Works:

Unable to join the call, but they have continued extensive vegetation and trash cleanup along Hacienda in the biological preserve overlay areas. They have repurposed land to create a new public access .7-mile trail.

Planning:

No updates.

City Manager's Office:

No updates.

Code Enforcement:

Makeshift shelter and discarded items outside Walgreens left behind by individuals experiencing homelessness. Pass on Sheriff's contact information to the property owner. Code also sent a trespassing letter for Walgreens to use.

Engineering:

Engineering is in touch with the Walgreens property owner for a different purpose and can support Code Enforcement to get in touch with management.

Housing Division:

Reminder for everyone to follow up on feedback from their department/division at internal meetings. The Strategic Plan Update will be presented to City Council on 8/11. Hygiene Kits were provided by the County. They are primarily for the new social worker, but they can be made available for any other departments that need them. Please send an email or call if you would like to request any hygiene kits for your department to have on hand as you engage with the homeless. The kits include a mask and other safety items to protect the homeless community during the pandemic.

III. Brief Overview of Current Strategic Plan Activities in Progress

- A) Internal Homelessness Task Force: Ongoing. Meeting minutes will be placed in the O Drive following each meeting. An update of the Strategic Plan is scheduled for next Council meeting (8/11).
 - a. The task force will continue to meet monthly over the phone until we can meet in person. *Last Thursday of every month at 2:00pm.*
- B) Homeless Prevention Pilot Program: Recommending provider at next Council meeting.
 - a. Contract drafted for North County Lifeline to provide this resource. Provides financial assistance for families that are at risk of becoming homeless. The program will begin following council approval.
- C) Historic Downtown Daytime Outreach Program: On hold per Council direction until social worker comes in and recommends the program.
- D) Homeshare Coordination Services: Drafting contract with Elderhelp for home share services. Interview capacity for homeowners is limited due to COVID-19. Implementing alternative interviewing methods is in progress.
 - a. Working with Elderhelp to draft final contract. The program connects homeowners who have available space to provide a room for services or low rent. Match homeowners with renters. Limited in capacity to do interviews and assessments right now due to high risk target clientele. Working on online/tablet-based interviews.
- E) Encampment Clean Up: Clean-up in BPO area along Hacienda property.
 - a. Public works cleanup along Hacienda.
- F) Education and Outreach Program: The Housing Division is drafting a spreadsheet to outline activities and progress from each Department.
 - a. Task force will work collectively. The Housing Division has drafted the spreadsheet and will connect with each department to review specific departmental activities and goals. This is information to share about how we address homelessness in each department.

- G) Governmental and Legislative Advocacy: No updates at this time.
- H) Secure Shelter Beds: A contract with the Alliance for Regional Solutions is scheduled for review at the next Council meeting (8/11).
- I) FT Social Worker with Flex Funds: The Housing Division will recommend a provider at the next Council meeting (8/11). Pending approved contract, the chosen provider will join the August meeting.

IV. **Next meeting –8/27/20 at 2:00pm**