

Internal Task Force on Homelessness Teleconference Meeting Agenda

August 27, 2020
2:00 p.m.- 2:50pm

The following members of the committee joined the call:

- City Manager's Office: Kaitlyn Elliott-Norgrove, Sylvia Solis Daniels – Housing Division
- Engineering: Kim Cruz, Leila Sadrieh – Stormwater Division
- Recreation & Community Services: Rob Anderson
- San Diego County Sherriff's Dept. - Lt. Nancy Blanco, Sgt. Al Gathings
- Public Works - Chris Arce
- Planning - Michael Ressler
- Exodus Recovery Inc. - Noelani Dizon, Tamara Stark, Tina Klotz, Nina Careri
- Code Enforcement - Jessica Farrell
- City Attorney's Office - Walter Chung

I. Welcome New Members to the Task Force & Task Force Purpose

A brief introduction for Exodus Recovery Inc. who will be joining the monthly calls to provide additional support including a full time Social Worker who will work with the Sheriff's Department and the City to provide outreach support for those experiencing homelessness. Exodus is currently interviewing the Social Worker who will join our task force.

A reminder that the Task Force meets monthly (via teleconference), to discuss how each division and/or department is addressing or providing services to the homeless. All Task Force Members should discuss the Task Force in their departmental meetings to provide updates, and bring questions nor feedback back to the Task Force.

II. Department and/or Agency updates of current activities with homeless services

- Stormwater – Notified group of new staff member, joining the Stormwater Division to oversee the Trash Implementation Program. This could be a future presentation at an upcoming meeting, to provide an overview of the program and how homelessness impacts the Trash Program.
- Recreation – Reported that there has been a spike in dumping in parks. Also noted that the bathing at the Wave has ceased as more programming and activity at the Wave increased.
- Sherriff's Dept –COPPS unit was able to work with the County HEART Team to go out to an encampment site off of University behind 24hr Fitness. This was a one-time event as the HEART Team typically only works within the County areas.
- Public Works – Reached out to CalTrans contact regarding encampment near the 78/Vista Village which is a CalTrans property, to note site for future clean up. All agencies are limited in capacity to enforce clean-ups due to CDC restrictions during the pandemic. Public Works also supported the Fire Department following the recent fire off of Melrose.
- City Attorney's Office – We are unable to enforce any encampment clean-ups or citations due to CDC restrictions. We can not force people out of 'shelters' or remove shelters per the CDC order. We can go out to sites to assess or evaluate and offer resources but no citations or encampment removals. Provided an update on eviction moratorium, noting that the COV does not have an eviction moratorium but we are following the Courts closure and limitations on eviction hearings. The Court is not hearing any eviction cases and has limited the ability for landlords to evict anyone in the state.
- Exodus – Noted they are in the interview process for candidates to hire a FT Social Worker. They look forward to helping the COV and partners to provide homeless outreach and education. They are also available to support at the mentioned encampment sites to go out with the Sherriff's Dept and Code.

- Code Enforcement –2220 Watson Way, the property behind the Cube Smart, is an ongoing issue and the site has been active for the last 3-4 years. The nesting season is ending and they are going to go out to do an evaluation to identify next steps.
- Housing & Fire – Fire Chief provided an email update to share at the meeting in his absence. The recent fire was a vegetation fire that was accidentally started near a homeless encampment site off of Melrose. Luckily there were no injuries but the incident did require 31 firefighters and 13 units from Vista, Carlsbad and Oceanside to assist to contain the fire in 20 minutes for a total incident response time of 3 hours. The Sheriff's Department and Public Works were also on site to support. There was a significant amount of resources that were involved in this response. Contracts for the Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness were taken to Council and approved at the August 11 meeting.

III. **Brief Overview of Current Strategic Plan Activities in Progress**

- A) Internal Homelessness Task Force: Ongoing, meeting minutes following each meeting will be emailed following each meeting.
- B) Homeless Prevention Pilot Program: Emergency Assistance Program is opening 8/31 and will be run by North County Lifeline.
- C) Historic Downtown Daytime Outreach Program: Provided overview of program and noted that Council has requested that we hold on proceeding with this program until the Social Worker is able to evaluate and recommend this program to proceed.
- D) Homeshare Coordination Services: We are in the final stages of drafting a contract with Elderhelp for home share services. Their capacity is limited due to COVID-19, and the vulnerable population they work with. Noted that this program is not intended for the chronically homeless population, primarily older adults who are at risk of becoming homeless and/or those seeking alternative, affordable home share options.
- E) Encampment Clean Up: Over the last year a significant amount of clean-up has occurred in the Biological Preserve areas creating repurposed land and new public trails off of Hacienda Drive.
- F) Education and Outreach Program: Housing Division is drafting a spreadsheet to outline activities and our progress for our collective Homeless activities to quantify the amount of resources the City is dedicating to homeless services.
- G) Governmental and Legislative Advocacy: No updates at this time.
- H) Secure Shelter Beds: Council has approved a contract with the Alliance for Regional Solutions and we now have low-barrier shelter resources to provide for homeless individuals in Vista.
- I) FT Social Worker with Flex Funds: Council approved a contract with Exodus Recovery Inc. to provide a Social Worker to work with the City and Sheriff's Department on homeless outreach.

IV. **Next meeting –9/24/20 at 2pm**