

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
February 12, 2019 Meeting

9. Public hearing to consider report on Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP) block grant funding; adopt resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$9,674,884 into the HEAP trust fund, adopt resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$1,156,000 into the Homeless Services Coordination Budget for sheltering and public health and safety hygiene infrastructure, professional and special services; approve addition of 1.0 full-time equivalent position for HEAP implementation, and take related actions, as outlined in the memorandum of the County Administrative Officer and Planning Director a Resolution AUD 60 Planning Department b Resolution AUD 60 Homeless Services c HEAP final RFP.

Chamber Position: We are advocating that at least 75% of the CESH and HEAP funding be spent on initiatives that have the potential to support permanent solutions to address the over 2,000 homeless individuals in Santa Cruz County. Given that law enforcement efforts are severely compromised due to a lack of local shelter beds, we support and encourage prioritized use of the CESH and HEAP funding as follows:

1. Establish additional shelter beds in the next twelve months, including pop-up shelters with needed support services and for those with mental health and addiction problems
2. Specifically increase the number of treatment beds available for individuals with addiction problems seeking rehabilitation services
3. Increase the number of Mental Health liaisons to engage with those in need
4. Increase the capacity to identify and support individuals that can benefit from the Homeward Bound program with increased budget resources

Vote: Unanimous vote in Support of the motion

Yes: Coonerty, Caput, Friend, Leopold and McPherson

No: none

Santa Cruz City Council Update
February 12, 2019 Meeting

Response to Homelessness: Update

RECOMMENDATION: Receive an update on local and regional policy, actions, shelter, and services related to homelessness; discuss emerging issues; and provide direction, as appropriate, to include, but not limited to:

1. Motion to approve the principles of, and direct staff to implement, the County and City of Santa Cruz Joint Action Plan (Action Plan) for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management including:
 - a. In collaboration with the County of Santa Cruz, provide Gateway Plaza Encampment residents with alternative shelter options through concentrated outreach and navigation to begin February 13, 2019.
 - b. In collaboration with the County of Santa Cruz, fully evaluate the site and operational feasibility of, and implement when feasible, the temporary shelter options noted in the Action Plan including, but not limited to: new Laurel Street Salvation Army program, new 1220 River Street program, expansion of the Association of Faith Communities shelter program, initiation of a small-scale safe parking program, expansion of Warming Center capacity, and continuation of Veterans of Foreign Wars program in Live Oak.
 - c. In collaboration with the County of Santa Cruz, provide 30-day closure and shelter transition notice to the residents of the Gateway Plaza Encampment on February 13, 2019, with a planned full abatement by March 15, 2019.
2. Motion to fund the Warming Center in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the provision of bedding and supplies.

Background:

This motion is regarding the allocation of the special funding to address the local homelessness issues. The RFP deadline for the Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP/CESH) is February 22nd. The Continuum of Care group is looking to announce decisions for allocations in March or April. Funds will be issued shortly after the announcement.

Motion: Confusing response from the City Council.

The Santa Cruz City Council adopted a different series of priorities. This is not in sync with the county board of supervisor's vote early that day. Further action will be moved at a later Council meeting.

While approving the Motion similar to the County plan to close the River St./Highway 1 encampment. The council did not agree on a firm closure date. The voted to bring back that item at their Feb. 26 and March 12 meeting for further discussion

In a motion by Councilmember Glover via watching the Live stream of the council meeting, the Council engaged in some oddly defined procedural discussions that resulted in long list of new ideas that were not included in the city staff report: Those new ideas will come back for discussion, review and recommendation at the Feb. 26th City Council meeting.

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2 motions votes

Votes — Motion 1: Motion to approve the principles of, and direct staff to implement, the County and City of Santa Cruz Joint Action Plan (Action Plan) for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management including

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Mathews and Meyers

No: Councilmembers Brown, Glover, and Krohn

Votes — Motion 2 - Motion to accept Councilmember Glover's long list of new ideas that were not included in the city staff report to be considered for discussion, review and recommendation at the Feb. 26th City Council meeting.

Yes: Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Glover and Krohn

No: Mayor Watkins, Councilmembers Mathews and Meyers