

Santa Cruz City Council Meeting
March 12 and continued to March 19, 2019 - 7 PM

General Business

- 1) Declaration of a Shelter Crisis, Transitional Encampment and Safe Parking Programs Ordinance and Listing of City-Owned Properties, Status of the Joint Plan for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management and Council Actions on Homelessness (CM/CA)

- (1) Receive a report on implementation of the City/County Joint Action Plan for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management and other policy and action items related to homelessness, and take action as appropriate.
- (2) Resolution declaring a Homeless Shelter Crisis in the City of Santa Cruz
- (3) Review and refer to the Planning Commission for consideration and recommendations an Ordinance adding Part 19 "Transitional Encampments and Safe Sleeping Programs" to Chapter 24.12 "Community Design" and adding Section 24.22.858.5 "Transitional Encampment" to Chapter 24.22 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code.

AND/OR

Motion to adopt an Interim Urgency Ordinance adding Part 19 "Transitional Encampments and Safe Sleeping Programs" to Chapter 24.12 "Community Design" and adding Section 24.22.858.5 "Transitional Encampment" to Chapter 24.22 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code, to be effective immediately

- (4) Receive a report on a comprehensive list of possible City-owned locations for transitional encampment and safe parking locations and program elements and process, and take action as appropriate.

General Description & background: At its meetings of February 12 and 26, 2019, the Santa Cruz City Council discussed and adopted various policy actions around homelessness as well as a response plan to the Gateway Encampment articulated in the City/County Joint Action Plan for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management (Joint Action Plan). The Council requested updates on the Joint Action Plan at its February 26 and March 12 meetings.

DISCUSSION: This agenda item is responsive to the majority of City Council direction from February 26, 2019. Please note, however, that given publication deadlines for the March 12th City Council agenda, this written report presents a bare summary of actions, with a substantive staff presentation and discussion to occur on March 12th.

Joint Action Plan Update

On March 12th, staff will provide a verbal report and presentation on the current status and conditions at the Gateway Encampment, recent actions around outreach and noticing of shelter alternatives, and efforts toward additional safe sheltering programs.

Shelter Crisis Declaration

As directed, the City Attorney prepared a new Shelter Crisis Declaration Resolution (attached) with broader applicability to a range of solutions or options the City may wish to pursue, in addition to more clearly articulating local and state statutes subject to the Shelter Crisis Declaration.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION: From the continuation of the Feb. 26th, March 12 into the March 19th council meeting the City Staff Recommended the following:

City Council may Declare a Shelter Crisis if it finds that “a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their life and safety” (Cal Gov’t Code §§ 8968- 8968.2)

- Provides immunity from liability for ordinary negligence
- Allows suspension of any state or local regulatory statute, regulation or ordinance prescribing standards of housing, health or safety when necessary to expedite the use of public facilities for shelter. Allows alternate health and safety standards.

3/19/19 Revision

- Removes reference to any specific proposal or plan, for greater flexibility in application
- Adds additional background
- Eliminates reference to some specific to state statutes
- Sets Council as hearing body

ACTION REQUESTED:

Motion to establish a small scale safe sleeping and storage site for up to 50 people and use Lot 24, with a community problem solving process (Motion DG; 2nd CK).

30-day temporary, renewable by the City Council in 30-day increments (CM Friendly Amendment-Accepted) Implementation of Standard Operating Procedures Guide to be brought back to the Council.

Direct City Manager to implement a small scale safe sleeping and storage program

- Select a site
- Adopt the revised Shelter Crisis Declaration

Site 2 – Lot 24

- Proximity to business – need consideration of business concerns
- Density
- Like centrally located, existing lot, low environmental impacts
- Proximity to transit
- Lacks privacy
- Immediately across from soccer field
- Heavily used lot for parking permits and residential areas/apartments nearby and public parking in summer time

Chamber's Position: Chamber supports homeless shelters at the River Street site and seeking second site that is more compatible to serve the homeless population with wrap around services as necessary. The Chamber does not support have temporary small 'encampment' spread across the City at city owned lots near tourist and businesses that bring tax revenues to the city. The Chamber does not believe moving the homeless population around the city, near schools, and into neighborhoods serves the citizens of our community.

Council Vote: Motion 1

- The council move to adopt a revised shelter crisis declaration. The revised version with additional language was adopted -
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- YES on the motion: Council members Brown, Glover, Krohn and Mathews,
- No on the motions: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings and Council member Meyers

Motion 2

- The Council moved to on site selection Lot 24 known as the triangle lot at the wharf on Beach and Front Street. With a condition to close the site in 30 days or April 17
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- YES on the Motion: Council members Brown, Glover, Krohn and Mathews,
- No on the Motion: Mayor Watkins, Vice Maror Cummings and Council member Meyers