

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jacky Morales-Ferrand

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 20, 2017

Approved

D. DSyl

Date

12/20/17

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: MODIFICATION TO INCLEMENT WEATHER THRESHOLDS FOR OVERNIGHT WARMING LOCATIONS

BACKGROUND

On November 28, 2017, the San José City Council accepted the Housing Department's recommendations to adopt a resolution declaring a shelter crisis and approve four City-owned facilities to operate as Overnight Warming Locations (OWL). The OWL approved by the City Council include:

- Tully Community Library, 880 Tully Road, San José, CA 95111;
- Southside Senior Center, 5585 Cottle Road, San José, CA 95127;
- Alum Rock Library, 3090 Alum Rock Avenue, San José, CA 95127; and,
- Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E. Santa Clara Srteet, San José, CA 95116

In addition to the City's four OWL, Sunnyvale and Gilroy operate two overnight shelters during the cold weather season. The County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing also currently coordinates with eight other cities in the county to open 16 daytime warming locations (see **Attachment A**). During the cold weather season, these locations are activated during periods of inclement weather which are triggered through the Countywide inclement weather activation system.

The City has traditionally aligned OWL activations with this regional system of shelter and support. Over the past two years, the OWL program has used the following Countywide weather thresholds to trigger the activation of the sites:

- Overnight low of 38 degrees or lower with a probability of rain less than 50%;
- Overnight low of 42 degrees or lower with a probability of rain of 50% or greater; or,
- Prolonged periods of rain with flooding in low-lying areas.

For the 2017-2018 cold weather season, the City added an additional criterion to include:

- 50% probability of rain for two or more days.

While some preliminary discussions took place with the County about adjusting existing activation triggers, City staff was not able to confirm the new County thresholds before the November 28, 2017 City Council meeting. Several days after the meeting, the County released a set of modified inclement weather thresholds. The new Countywide thresholds are as follows:

- Forecasted overnight low of 40 degrees or lower with a probability of rain less than 50%;
- Forecasted overnight low of 45 degrees or lower with a probability of rain of 50% or greater; or,
- Persistent rainfall forecasted for two or more days.

ANALYSIS

To maintain uniformity with the revised Countywide thresholds and ensure that no confusion occurs about activation locations or dates for vulnerable or unhoused residents, the Housing Department is updating the City's inclement weather activation thresholds to align with the County's new criteria. This alignment will create more robust coverage throughout the region and leverage joint communication strategies to spread the message of site availability more broadly. Going forward, when the County declares an inclement weather episode, information about increased shelter capacity and OWL activation will be communicated to vulnerable populations through several channels including:

- Direct street outreach by City-funded outreach teams;
- Service provider and advocate notification through Housing Department e-blasts;
- The Santa Clara County Emergency Alert System (AlertSCC);
- Media advisories; and
- Activation notice posting both online and at the OWL facilities.

Based on data from the 2016-2017 cold weather season, staff does not anticipate that the modified inclement weather threshold will significantly increase the number of days of activation. Therefore, the current agreement with HomeFirst to fund 45 days of activation should continue to be adequate for the 2017-2018 cold weather season.

/s/

Jacky Morales-Ferrand
Director of Housing

For questions, please contact James Stagi, Acting Division Manager, at (408) 535-8238.

Attachment – List of Daytime Warming Centers in Other Cities

INCLEMENT WEATHER EPISODE Warming Centers (not overnight accommodations)

Jurisdiction	Center Name	Capacity	Address	Restrictions	Hours
Campbell	Community Center	Not given	1 W. Campbell Avenue, Board Room (E-42)	If available; follow center rules; no pets	1:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Cupertino	none at this time				
Gilroy	Compassion Center	50	370 Tomkins Ct	Follow center rules	6 am - 3 pm
Los Altos	Grant Community Center	30	1575 Holt Avenue	Service Animals only; no pets	Mon-Fri.: 8 am-4 pm
	Hillview Community Center	30	97 Hillview Avenue	Service Animals only; no pets	Mon-Fri.: 8 am-4 pm
Los Altos Hills					
Los Gatos	none				
Milpitas	Community Center	30	457 Calaveras Blvd.	Service animals; no pets. Limited belongings.	8 am - 6 pm (m-th) 8am - 5pm (fri)
	Senior Center	50	40 N. Milpitas Blvd.		8:30 am-4:30 pm (mon - fri)
	Sports Center	15	1325 E. Calaveras Blvd.		6am - 9pm (mon-th) 6am - 5pm (fri) 8am - 1pm (sat)
Morgan Hill	none at this time				
Monte Sereno	none at this time				
Mountain View	Senior Center	20	266 Escuela Ave.	For seniors, aged 55 or older. Service animals; no pets. Limited belongings. Follow rules.	8:30 am - 9 pm (Mon-Wed); 8:30 am - 5 pm (Th-Fri)
	Community Services Agency Mtn Vw	20	204 Stierlin Rd. 94043	Service animals; no pets. Limited belongings. Follow rules	Mon-Fri.: 9 am - 4 pm
Palo Alto	Opportunity Center	No limit	33 Encina Ave., #103 94301	No alcohol, illegal drugs	Mon-Fri.: 8 am-4 pm
Santa Clara	Senior Center	Not given	1303 Fremont Street	Follow center rules	Mon-Thurs: 7 am - 7 pm; Fri: 7 am-5 pm; Sat: 9 am - noon
	Community Center	Not given	969 Kiely Blvd.	Follow center rules	Mon-Thurs: 8 am - 8 pm; Sat: 9 am - noon
	Central Park Library	Not given	2635 Homestead Rd.	Follow center rules	Mon-Thurs: 10 am - 9 pm; Fri - Sat: 10 am - 6 pm; Sun: 1 - 5 pm
	Mission Library Family Reading Center	Not given	1098 Lexington St.	Follow center rules	Mon-Tues: 1-6 pm; Wed: 1 - 8 pm; Thurs: 10 am-6 pm; Fri: 1-6 pm
	Northside Branch Library	Not given	695 Moreland Way	Follow center rules	Mon-Tues: 11 am-8 pm; Wed-Sat: 10 am-6 pm
Saratoga	Joan Pisani Community Center	Not given	19655 Allendale Ave.	Follow center rules	Mon-Fri: 8 am-5 pm

Inclement Weather Conditions

- forecasted overnight low of 40 degrees or lower with a probability of rain less than 50%, OR
- forecasted overnight low of 45 degrees or lower with a probability of rain more than 50%