



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Raul Peralez
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco
Councilmember Tam Nguyen

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 2, 2015

APPROVED:

DATE:

[Handwritten signatures and dates]
DATE: 4-2-15
DATE: 4/3/15

SUBJECT: PLACE BASED ENCAMPMENT AND UPDATE ON TEMPORARY HOUSING INITIATIVES: STORY ROAD ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE REPORT.

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the staff report and direct the City Manager to return to the City Council in May 2015 with an update and initial workplan, including potential obstacles, funding needs and resources, with specific implementation schedules for initiatives targeted to address homelessness in the coming 18 months, including:

- a. Motel/Hotel Conversions
- b. Tiny Homes / Micro-Housing Pilot Project
- c. Safe Parking Program
- d. Downtown Supportive Housing Project
- e. any other projects or programs that might address homelessness within the next 18

months.

BACKGROUND

In December of 2014, the City of San José culminated an 18 month-long process to permanently shut down the nation's largest homeless encampment. Responding to pleas from local members of the community, and homeless advocates, the City Council directed to pilot a place based encampment response protocol that could be leveraged for the 294 existing encampments in the City of San José.

While we succeeded in our attempts to close the Story Road Encampment, housing over 175 individuals through partnerships with Destination: Home and other non-profit providers, resource constraints left dozens more with recourse only to shelters. In a city with one of the world's most expensive housing markets and inadequate supply, even vouchers do not enable a person to access permanent shelter.

In many ways, we continue waiting for larger solutions to emerge. A decision by the California Supreme Court on the legality of the Council-approved inclusionary housing ordinance awaits. The Council's successful efforts to enact impact fees will take several years before adequate resources emerge to expand supply. Sacramento, the Governor and legislature continue to mull a response to the ongoing crisis created in part by their own elimination of Redevelopment agencies and reduction in state subsidies.

In the meantime, we need to act aggressively with the solutions that we can implement. "San Jose Gateways," a pilot program to expand pathways to work and housing for the working homeless has launched, and has expanded to include over a half-dozen private sector sponsors, in partnership with the Downtown Streets Team. In my March Budget Message, the City Manager was directed to ensure critical programs, such as the Homeless Rapid Rehousing Program and Homeless Response Team, receive ongoing funds to ensure stability and continuity needed to make these programs effective.

In addition, the City has explored other innovative approaches to assist our homeless community. Of the possibilities presented to achieve this end, a pilot Motel/Hotel conversion project, a pilot tiny house project, a safe parking program and a Downtown Supportive Housing Project surfaced as initiatives gaining traction as viable ways to alleviate homelessness. We must now focus on eliminating the barriers to enable initiatives like these to launch and scale.

Now that our General Fund is able to support critical City services for the homeless with ongoing funds, the time is now to leverage our relationship with the County and partner with community organizations and businesses to demonstrate a widespread commitment to resolving homelessness once and for all. Destination: Home's *Community Plan to End Homelessness*, while a lofty endeavor, demonstrates our community's desire to think big and learn from mistakes. This crisis--and the thousands of our unsheltered neighbors --requires our bold pursuit of solutions.