



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Dev Davis

SUBJECT: OVERNIGHT WARMING
LOCATIONS

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2019

Approved:

10-25-2019

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation to designate Bascom and Roosevelt Community Centers as Overnight Warming Locations (OWLs) during the cold weather season.

BACKGROUND

There are over 6,000 homeless residents in San José, of which 5,117 are unsheltered. There are only 849 emergency shelter beds available in San José. This leaves 4,268 homeless residents unsheltered on any given night. As cold weather months approach, it is imperative that we provide our homeless residents with as many emergency shelter beds as possible. One such solution is an Overnight Warming Location.

We would like to thank the Housing Department for all their hard work in coordinating and planning for the two OWL locations that will be available during the upcoming cold weather season. Their efforts included hosting an additional community meeting and incorporating community feedback to increase security and janitorial services. We also want to thank our residents for their willingness to work collaboratively on this issue to create the best possible experience for all stakeholders, including OWL clients and library and community center users, and for establishing a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Overnight Warming Location program at Bascom.

The purpose of the CAC is to be the vehicle for constant communication between the community, PRNS and Library employees, the Housing department, HomeFirst and the Council office. The CAC will be a vital resource to ensure that there is a forum for the community and department representatives to raise comments and concerns for resolution. We believe the CAC will help ensure the success of the OWL program, and that its methods can be replicated to future OWL programs throughout the City and other interim housing solutions.

CONCLUSION

Approval of Overnight Warming Locations moves us closer to providing more interim housing solutions in the City of San José while fostering collaboration amongst City departments and County agencies.