



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ON CITY OF SAN JOSE AND THE COUNTY OF
SANTA CLARA EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

The Council of the City of San José convened in Special Session at 1:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Council Members - Arenas, Carrasco (1:42 p.m.), Davis, Diep (1:47 p.m.), Jimenez, Jones (1:54 p.m.), Khamis, T. Nguyen, Peralez, Rocha (1:36 p.m.); Liccardo.

Absent: Council Members - All Present.

Staff: City Attorney Richard Doyle; City Manager Dave Sykes; Deputy City Manager Julie Edmonds-Mares; Director of Housing Jacky Ferrand-Morales; Acting Deputy Director of Housing Ray Bramson; Mayor’s Agenda Assistant Nicole Inamine; City Clerk Toni J. Taber, and Interim Legislative Secretary Suzanne Guzzetta.

Documents Filed: (1) Staff presentation dated October 20, 2017 summarizing the City of San José and the County of Santa Clara efforts to address homelessness. (2) Letter from the Network of Advocates for the Homeless, dated October 13, 2017, regarding public participation at the meeting. (3) Letter from the Guadalupe Park Conservancy dated October 20, 2017. (4) City of Santa Rosa Comprehensive Homeless Services Strategy. (5) Petition with 142 Signatures entitled, “No on Proposal to House Homeless on Corner of Branham and Monterey.” (5) Article from the New York Times Magazine

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Manager Dave Sykes presented opening comments. City Manager Dave Sykes and Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand offered introductory remarks on the importance of the issue and presented the agenda.

BACKGROUND ON HOMELESSNESS

Acting Deputy Director of Housing Ray Bramson presented a background on homelessness in San José including root causes such as Loss of Affordable Housing Funding, Declining Income and Increasing Cost of Living, and Deinstitutionalization and data regarding homeless populations in Santa Clara County, causes of homelessness, and their need for services.

UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Destination: Home Executive Director Jennifer Loving presented the update on the Community Plan to End Homelessness. She discussed the Collective Impact, and the Home Not Found study on the cost of homelessness.

PERFORMANCE, DATA AND OUTCOMES

Director of the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing, Ky Le, presented on the supportive housing system

DISCUSSION ON CHALLENGES

Frenchie Rogers, a formerly homeless San José resident, discussed her experiences and success with PATH San José.

Acting Deputy Director of Housing Ray Bramson presented on challenges to the City and County such as community, environmental, and health and human impacts and response strategies.

DISCUSSION ON OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand presented on opportunities for the City and County such as partnerships, ordinances, planning and land use.

Mayor Liccardo thanked staff for their hard work and their spirit of collaboration.

Mayor Sam Liccardo opened the floor for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(1) Sparky Harlan, CEO Bill Wilson Center, discussed youth homelessness and offered appreciation for the program; (2) Gail Osmer indicated that she has seen a large gap in services to the unhoused, their needs are not being met on many levels and need better access to case management. Day services have mostly been closed, must be reopened;

Public Comments (Cont'd.): (3) Lynette Curose, currently homeless, cited unfair treatment, that belongings are swept away; (4) Jacky Hepner offered that there is no reason that we cannot bring dignity to the people in our community who need it most; (5) Bruce Robert thanked Ray and Jacky for recognizing the danger of outbreaks. This isn't going to go away. He submitted an article by New York Times about the danger of an unvaccinated outbreak. Issue is going to be forced on us whether we like it or not; (6) Network of Advocates for the Homeless (8 speakers) continued with needs of the homeless; (7) Karen Gillette noted that research shows using data driven solutions is the most effective approach, citing the 2016/2017 census and survey; (8) Gabriella, noted she has experienced homelessness and is now successfully housed; she cited a coroner's report, indicating an increase in deaths of the homeless; (9) Ron Johnson asserted that services for the unhoused are not comprehensive, and not sufficient or readily available; (10) Reverend Jim Moore spoke on the need for reliable measurement tools and the need to reevaluate a community plan to end homelessness; since staff time and resources capacity is limited, there is a need to look at alternate partnerships and financial resources to fill services gaps; (11) Ricardo Lopez asserted that temporary and interim shelters are needed now. The special needs of the LGBT, pregnant, elderly, is paramount and they need their own shelters. (12) Phil, representing Santa Rosa comprehensive homeless services strategy, Ingrid (LISTEN) indicated a particular emergency situation now that winter is approaching; (13) Robert Aguirre noted there needs to be agreements between residents and encampments and said tents can be improved to sleeping cabins once camps have been established. (14) Kathy Dieltz, a resident near Monterey and Branham, provided a petition with over 100 signatures of neighbors opposed to having a tiny home area set up there. Appalled and distraught at the thought of the tiny homes homeless community. Will not stand for a proposal that will put the elderly and children at risk. (15) Deb Kramer, representing Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful spoke of environmental risks, and asked homeless advocates to stop providing food in our parks, and instead use partners; (16) Alfonso offered his own personal experiences and commended the City for trying to be at the forefront of solving the homeless issue. (17) Shawna Cartwright asked why there was no mention of the fire issues; (18) Scott Kniess, Executive Director of San José Downtown Association noted that over 90 percent of the homeless want to be housed, but there are still service-resistant individuals. He added that unhoused individuals are not the only victims. (19) My Lee said her experience as a case manager and working with women and spoke of their strong community; (20) Bobbi Jotz noted that many do not agree with the Housing First in neighborhoods and the need for elements of accountability and responsibility. Other more comprehensive to ensure long-term success for people needing help. (20) Joe Silvado – working at Guadalupe River Park, noted he has seen first-hand the human dignity component, and those camping there aren't equipped for the exposure. (21) Roland Lebron said bridge housing should be brought back to the table and should be spread evenly across all ten districts; (22) John Betz, Sacred Heart Action Housing Committee member, indicated he has seen better results in Las Vegas, with homeless to get into shelters immediately. (23) Gary Fishbourne proposed a warming center meeting using existing senior centers. He noted opposition taken for health reasons, such as hepatitis outbreaks and other diseases they are vulnerable to at their age.

Mayor Liccardo noted that the fundamental issue is finding suitable sites. Director of Housing, Jacky Morales-Ferrand responded to questions.

Ky Le, Director, Office of Supportive Housing, County of Santa Clara spoke to direction from Supervisor Cindy Chavez regarding the County's focus on improving mental health system. He responded to questions from the Mayor regarding the plight of young adults who have less resources and are more likely to become homeless.

Mayor Sam Liccardo responded he would like to push back on having more study sessions and task forces. The City Homeless team is one of the most overworked in the City with a very robust workplan.

Councilmember Raul Peralez had questions regarding Measure A dollars, and requested a brief update of projects, such as what is in the existing pipeline. Ky Le indicated that towards the end of September, a notice of availability will be published, and recommendations will be brought forward on November 14, 2017.

Mayor Liccardo left the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand, Director of the County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing, and Acting Assistant Director of Housing Ray Bramson responded to questions from the Committee.

Councilmember Donald Rocha expressed frustration with the presentation not being available for review until the day of the meeting.

Councilmember Rocha left the meeting at 4:17 p.m., and Councilmember Peralez left the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Director of Housing, Jacky Morales-Ferrand provided a closing statement, and indicated that action items will be brought back to Council in six months.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco adjourned the Study Session at 4:49 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared and Respectfully Submitted by,

Toni J. Taber, CMC
City Clerk

Sg/rmk/10-20-17 Homeless SS