



Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilmember Jimenez

SUBJECT: Annual Homeless Report and Homeless
Emergency Assistance Program

DATE: November 26, 2018

Approved

Date

11/26/18

RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept the recommendation by Vice Mayor Carrasco and Councilmember Peralez regarding the Commercial Linkage Fee (CLF) for full Council discussion by the end of the calendar year.
2. Direct the Housing Department and the Office of Economic Development to approach Google about allowing the temporary use of one or more of their recently purchased properties for the purposes of creating additional shelter beds within San Jose.
3. Recommend the following parameters to guide the negotiations with Google:
 - a. Temporary use should be for no less than two years;
 - b. Shelter should be year-round;
 - c. Leasing of property from Google should be negotiated at the least possible cost to the City;
 - d. Google's agreement to lease property to the City will not count towards their anticipated community benefit contributions;
 - e. There should be a definitive end date for use of property, and the City should lead the closure;
 - f. Provide an update to the Council regarding these negotiations on or before the December 4, 2018 Council meeting.

ANALYSIS

The Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) is an opportunity to fund crisis response strategies, including interim shelter beds and essential programs or services. The Neighborhood Services and Education Committee recommended that the City prioritize HEAP spending on crisis response that would accommodate the greatest number of participants.

Allowing temporary use of vacant buildings provides protection against blight and illegal activity. For example, the recently vacated ACO Furniture site on Blossom Hill Road serves as a

temporary, low cost home for one of our faith communities seeking a location in South San Jose. This temporary use has quelled community concern about blight and has given new life to a building that would otherwise go unfilled and underutilized while the developer makes their way through the planning process.

It is understood that buildings on property owned by Google will eventually be demolished and the sites redeveloped. However, if the buildings stand and remain vacant, it presents an opportunity to add much needed shelter space for the City's most vulnerable population.

We have an urgent need to find shelter for our most vulnerable residents, especially as we enter our Winter months. We have spent ample time studying the issue, and now we have an opportunity to address the crisis and provide temporary shelter for unhoused members of our community. Let us continue to find aggressive and innovative solutions to our housing crisis, a crisis where we all must play a part.