



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo  
Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco  
Councilmember Chappie Jones  
Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** December 14, 2018

Approved

Date

**SUBJECT: ACTIONS RELATED TO THE AMENDMENT TO TITLE 5 OF THE  
SAN JOSÉ MUNICIPAL CODE FOR EMERGENCY BRIDGE  
HOUSING COMMUNITIES**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept staff's recommendations;
2. Direct Housing Department to:
  - a. Continue to explore sites and funding for potential additional bridge housing communities, as well as exploring alternative formats that are less costly; and
  - b. Work with the Office of Economic Development and Mayor's Office to reach out to landowners, perhaps by way of a convening in collaboration with the SVO and other business groups, to explore the availability of underutilized industrial land or parking lots for small-footprint, temporary, interim homeless solutions.

## BACKGROUND

Eighty-three percent of our homeless neighbors were housed residents of Santa Clara County before becoming homelessness. They worked and paid their rent or mortgage just like everyone else before they experienced the catastrophe that caused the loss of their home.

And now, in our City on any given night, seventy-four percent of these now-homeless neighbors are without shelter. At this time of year, facing this reality is particularly poignant when many of us are spending time gathered in heated homes out of the rain and cold, together with family, celebrating the holidays.

CITY COUNCIL

December 14, 2018

**Subject: Bridge Housing Communities**

Page 2

While we all agree that building permanent housing, at every income level, is the long-term solution for our homelessness and housing affordability crises, we also know now that we're not building fast enough to address the humanitarian crisis we're seeing on our streets.

At this point and, frankly, in the near future going forward, we simply must put aside our fears to share in the solution. We simply must say yes.

We must say yes to this creative opportunity to rapidly house 80 of our houseless neighbors (with 320 expected to be served over the next several years) and provide them with safe, warm, robustly-supported shelter in interim tiny homes as more permanent housing is built.

Perhaps other future interim shelter options that we decide to try won't have these same amenities and services. However, we can see from our observations of other city's shed communities and the noble, volunteer-powered experiment that is Hope Village, that running water, electricity, and sewer connections significantly improve the comfort and dignity of residents, as well as the day-to-day operations of such communities.

We urge the City Council to approve these two much-needed Bridge Housing communities as well as direction to the Housing Department to continue working on exploring additional sites for tiny homes, shelters, navigation centers, and additional safe car and RV parking.

We would like to thank the Housing Department, Habitat for Humanity, and HomeFirst for their work in putting together this comprehensive and cost-effective plan to implement these first two Bridge Housing Communities. In addition, we thank CalTrans and VTA for being willing partners, particularly in making land available.