



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Perez

SUBJECT: See Below

DATE: December 17, 2018

Approved by:

Date:

12/17/18

ACTIONS RELATED TO THE AMENDMENT TO TITLE 5 OF THE SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL CODE FOR EMERGENCY BRIDGE HOUSING COMMUNITIES

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff report and recommendations to execute two Emergency Bridge Housing Communities (BHC) at the Valley Transportation Authority staging site located at Mabury Road and at the Caltrans site located at the South West Quadrant of State Highways 101 and 680.

BACKGROUND

The lack of affordable housing has created a difficult situation for the most vulnerable, unhoused members in San José and this challenge continues to grow as our City becomes a more lucrative place to live. Our Housing staff has taken up this tremendous challenge by utilizing innovative tools to disrupt homelessness and has proved to be a leader of affordable housing in Santa Clara County. Unfortunately even with our accomplishments, over 3000 of our residents sleep on the streets everyday illustrating the dire need for interim housing.

Our Bridge Housing Communities will be a much needed interim housing solution alongside other City initiatives to prevent the cycle of homelessness by serving as a safety net, stopping these individuals from falling into chronic homelessness. It provides those who are on the edge of homelessness with the stability of a permanent structure and the support to exit into housing. And while the long term solution is more permanent affordable housing, it is critical that we understand that the process is lengthy, and we should not stand idly by while we wait for more housing. Bridge Housing Communities

will address the immediate needs in a manner that is both safe and humane.

Moving forward, the creation of these two sites will serve as the blueprint for potential future sites in our City. As stressed in the Audit of the City's Homeless Assistance Programs Report, homelessness affects every single one of our Districts. However, our concentration of homeless assistance programs are overly represented in just a few. It is with hope that BHC does not just end in District 3 and District 7, but that we see these sites replicated across San José. If we are to address our housing and homelessness crisis, there must be a substantial efforts in every district or we can not truly say that we are doing our all to help those who are suffering the most.