



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL
SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
DATE: March 23, 2020

APPROVED:

DATE: 3/24/20

SUBJECT: SPRING INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Do not drop agenda item 3.4, Spring Intergovernmental Relations Report in order for Council to provide direction to City Manager for ongoing State advocacy efforts related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- B. Accept the Administration’s recommendation to defer Staff’s presentation and report to an Information Memorandum.
- C. Prioritize advocacy with the Governor, through the Big City Mayors Coalition with support from City staff, to:
 - a. Waive CEQA, State permitting rules, and State building codes for emergency housing construction—defined as buildings with separate units or rooms for each resident, to ensure physical separation in compliance with County Public Health mandates— for the duration of the State of Emergency,
 - b. Mandate state-chartered or authorized agencies (e.g., CalTrans, utility districts, and counties) to immediately identify and make available specific sites of public land for temporary or permanent emergency housing construction for the duration of the State of Emergency.
 - c. Provide allocation of homeless funding via HHAP or other similar funding mechanisms directly to cities, counties, and CoC’s, rather than with the intercession of a “regional administrator.”

Background

On March 23, 2020, Mayor Sam Liccardo—on behalf of all of the mayors of the California Big City Mayors coalition—communicated via email with the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, advocating for the Governor’s assistance in eliminating state, regional, and local barriers to building emergency housing, such as by waiving CEQA, eliminating state permitting requirements, and mandating the assistance of other land-owning agencies (such as utilities and transit districts) for the use of their land through the duration of this state of emergency. The other 13 large-city mayors unanimously supported that request among the top four COVID-related priorities for which we sought help from the State of California.

Homeless encampments have never been safe places for human habitation, but the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic makes them far more perilous for our unsheltered residents. Rapid construction of emergency housing—leveraging local and state dollars, hopefully with the benefit of FEMA reimbursement for a substantial share of the cost—becomes all the more imperative amid this crisis.