



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 10/16/2020

Approved by:

Date: 10/16/2020

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR PROJECT HOMEKEY FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF THE BEST WESTERN SAN JOSE AIRPORT HOTEL LOCATED AT 1488 NORTH FIRST STREET FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation and include the following:

- Provide a high-level outreach plan that includes an overview of the continuation of services at the hotel and a community contact for the surrounding neighborhoods

BACKGROUND

At the onset of COVID-19, we quickly recognized the enormous task of keeping the City's 5,117 unsheltered residents safe from infection. Residents in encampments did not have the option to safely shelter in place, and most encampments lacked basic amenities such as clean water and bathroom facilities. Within a few short weeks, City and County staff worked diligently with our nonprofit service providers to thin out congregate shelters and double shelter capacity with hotel/motel rooms and temporary beds at convention and community centers. Thank you to every Housing and EOC team member who dedicated long hours and weekends towards this effort. Their quick actions likely helped curb the spread of COVID-19 in our homeless communities, which fortunately have not experienced high positivity rates.

COUNCIL AGENDA: 10/20/2020

ITEM: 8.1

We welcomed Governor Newsom's announcement of \$600 million dollars in state and federal funding to allow local jurisdictions to purchase and rehabilitate housing, hotels, and motels and transform them into supportive permanent housing. Project Homekey funding comes at a critical time when we must establish long-term solutions to avoid pushing our homeless neighbors back out onto the streets when the pandemic subsides.

We are tremendously grateful for the Governor's steadfast leadership and collaboration in our fight to end homelessness, and for granting us the resources and flexibility we need to stably house our most vulnerable residents. With the help of Project Homekey, we will add a third hotel to San José's transitional housing portfolio, and eventually provide 76 permanent supportive homes to serve our community beyond the pandemic.

As a best practice, we ask that staff share an outreach plan with an overview of services that will be provided onsite, and establish a point of contact for surrounding neighborhoods -- Rosemary Gardens, Hyde Park, and Rincon South – to answer questions or resolve concerns that may arise.