



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo  
Councilmember Raul Peralez

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** January 8, 2021

**APPROVED:**

**DATE:**

*January 8, 2021*

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE HOMELESS HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Accept staff’s recommendations and direct the City Manager to explore the overflow parking lot adjacent to the San José Police Department (“Lot E”) as a potential future site for an emergency interim housing community.

**DISCUSSION**

We are immensely grateful for staff’s diligent work over the past several months to expeditiously erect three emergency interim housing communities (EIHC) for more than 300 unhoused residents in San José. Their innovative planning and resourcefulness allowed us to leverage State and Federal funding to construct this housing in a matter of few months instead of four to five years, and at a small fraction of the cost of traditional apartment units. We now have a replicable model for emergency and transitional housing that we can scale city-wide to bring more of our unhoused neighbors indoors and out of crowded encampments or shelters, and provide a national model for rapid, cost-effective response to our homelessness crisis.

Our first EIHC at Monterey/Bernal opened in September and is providing dignified housing for homeless residents who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. As the two EIHC sites at Rue Ferrari/101 and Evans Lane finalize construction and start moving residents in, we should explore additional opportunities to leverage State, Federal, and/or philanthropic funding to expand this program on other sites and to take advantage of the streamlining and red-tape-clearing HHAP funding makes available. Since 2017, staff identified potential sites for bridge

housing, which included Lot E as a site for evaluation and analysis, given that it is city-owned, relatively flat, uncomplicated for utility connections, and is close to transit and resident services<sup>1</sup>.

Other sites were prioritized for use first, yet during the current crises the need for humane housing near this area is crucial. Our Guadalupe River Park has been inundated by an influx of encampments, keeping the park from beautification and conservancy efforts. Given that the Lot E site is proximate to Guadalupe River Park presents an opportunity to pilot a program that would house work-ready homeless or formerly homeless residents near the park and engage those residents in park clean-up, beautification, repair, and stewardship.

Currently, Public Works is overseeing improvements in the adjacent Police Department parking lots to improve the fencing and we encourage those efforts to be completed prior to moving residents into the Lot E area.

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment A: City Owned Sites – San Pedro St. at Taylor St. for District 3  
<http://sanjose.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=7a66a628-faa6-4835-ab44-a13bcec43d67.pdf>