

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0017

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

January 14, 2020

Declaring a Shelter Crisis in the City of Sacramento

BACKGROUND

- A. At any point in time, approximately 2,800 persons within the city are experiencing unsheltered homelessness, according to the 2019 Sacramento County Point in Time Report. This population includes veterans, women, children, persons with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable groups. There is a significant threat to the health and safety of unsheltered persons in the number of people experiencing homelessness.
- B. Many of those unable to obtain shelter reside on the streets, in alleys and doorways, along the river, and in unauthorized encampments throughout the City.
- C. These individuals lack adequate sanitary facilities and are at risk from theft, crime, and extreme weather conditions. These conditions threaten the physical and mental health and safety of those experiencing homelessness. These conditions also result in a threat to the public health and well-being of the community.
- D. The City Council has heard extensive testimony on the impacts of homelessness on persons without shelter as well as on the community at large.
- E. Strict compliance with the provisions of state and local regulatory statutes, regulations, and ordinances prescribing standards of housing, health, safety, and environmental impact assessment may prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis.
- F. The State Legislature has passed special legislation to facilitate provision of shelter in certain cities and counties that have declared a shelter crisis, but this legislation is not generally applicable to other cities and counties, including the City of Sacramento. At this time, this leaves available to the City of Sacramento the general state law on declaration of a shelter crisis under the California Government Code Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7.8 including in particular sections 8698, 8698.1, and 8698.2

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. A shelter crisis pursuant to California Government Code Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7.8 including in particular sections 8698, 8698.1, and 8698.2 exists in the City of Sacramento. The effective period of the Shelter Crisis shall begin on January 14, 2020 and shall end on January 14, 2021.

- Section 2. The City Manager is directed to pursue legislation to assist the City in providing shelter to the homeless community, including application of Government Code section 8698.4 to Sacramento, additional CEQA exemptions, and alternative building standards for shelters on privately-owned sites.

- Section 3. The City Manager is directed to prepare alternative local standards and procedures for development and operation of homeless shelters if required.

- Section 4. The City Manager is directed to prepare an interim ordinance if required to streamline zoning regulations for privately-owned or operated shelters, including zoning administrator approval of conditional use permits for shelters, allowing small temporary shelters by right on sites with an approved assembly use, and streamlining approval of city-sponsored shelters on private property that may otherwise require zoning approvals.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on January 14, 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Ashby, Carr, Guerra, Hansen, Harris, Jennings, Schenirer, Warren and Mayor Steinberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest: Mindy Cuppy Digitally signed by Mindy Cuppy
Date: 2020.01.15 16:57:14 -08'00'
Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk

The presence of an electronic signature certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy as approved by the Sacramento City Council.