



# Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager

Approved by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: May 24, 2021 Meeting date: June 14, 2021

Subject: Homelessness Task Force

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** 1) Discuss the establishment of a Task Force to address issues related to homelessness; 2) Determine the structure and objectives of the task force if appropriate; and 3) Provide direction to staff.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** A Public Safety Liaison position has been included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Proposed Budget to assist Public Safety staff with issues related to homelessness. The full cost of salary and benefits for this position is approximately \$120,000. This position is necessary if a Task Force is created. The Public Safety Liaison will help prepare and post meeting agendas, develop staff reports, and provide other general staff support.

**WORK PLAN:** This item was not included in the Adopted Workplan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

**DISCUSSION:** On May 10, 2021, the City Council discussed the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to address issues related to homelessness and directed staff to bring back an item to discuss the establishment of a Task Force instead. The City Council suggested that the Task Force could include 10 members, with Council members appointing two members each. The City Council would assign specific goals and objectives for the Task Force to work on and report back by dates specified by the City Council.

The City currently has an active Homelessness Working Group (Group) that was established in June 2018 as part of the adoption of the Homelessness Strategic Plan by the City Council on June 25, 2018. The City's Public Safety office oversees the Group, which is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Plan and includes members of the Malibu community, representatives from the City's Public Safety Commission, the faith community, Community Assistance and Resource Team (CART), The People

Concern, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, and the Malibu Library. The Group has done extensive research over the years into different options and strategies to address homelessness in Malibu, including potential locations for an Alternative Sleeping Location and Safe Parking.

The City's Homelessness Strategic Plan was developed through extensive participation and outreach to the community. The Plan was adopted in June 2018, and in January 2021, the Homelessness Working Group updated the Goals and objectives of the plan (attachment 1) to better reflect current efforts. These updated goals and objectives have not been adopted by the City Council but could provide a starting point for a Task Force.

Staff recommends that the City Council consider existing organizations and plans and discuss the options for a Homelessness Task Force and provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS: Draft Homelessness Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

# DRAFT - Homelessness Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

Updated January 2021

<b>Goal 1: Prevent and mitigate any public health and public safety impacts on the community stemming from homelessness.</b>	
<b>1a.</b>	Engage Arson Watch to identify and monitor encampments in high fire risk areas and report them to the City
<b>1b.</b>	Provide access to temporary housing during red flag warnings through vouchers that can be used at motels and local shelters
<b>1c.</b>	Reduce fire risk through an encampment management initiative that includes identifying all open space areas to determine if they are public or private property and obtain Letters of Agency for all private property and install Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone signage if public property
<b>1d.</b>	Develop a plan to prevent and mitigate potential impacts on nearby neighborhoods from the homeless meal services
<b>1e.</b>	Seek opportunities for safe haven parking areas (modeled after the LA Safe Parking Program)
<b>1f.</b>	Work with recipients of the meals program to partner with us to assist with peer advocacy for those who would benefit
<b>Goal 2: Reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Malibu by providing access to temporary and permanent housing solutions within Los Angeles County.</b>	
<b>2a.</b>	Conduct outreach to encourage landlords to accept housing and rental subsidies for the homeless
<b>2b.</b>	Establish a flexible spending account funded by donations and City grants which complements Measure H by helping fund rapid rehousing and other related services for homeless individuals who may not qualify for Measure H eligibility
<b>2c.</b>	Explore the feasibility of developing a new building or converting an existing building to provide bridge/alternative sleeping location
<b>2d.</b>	Explore the feasibility of creating affordable housing for Malibu residents and people who work in Malibu
<b>Goal 3: Implement programs to prevent homelessness among residents of Malibu.</b>	
<b>3a.</b>	Create a mechanism to identify and assist individuals or families at imminent risk of becoming homeless (such as receiving an eviction notice)
<b>3b.</b>	Implement an emergency housing fund to assist Malibu residents who are at risk of becoming homeless (complements action 1b.
<b>3c.</b>	Explore strategies and incentives to encourage landlords and developers to provide more affordable housing for people who work in Malibu

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<b>Goal 4: Provide coordinated outreach and supportive services to homeless individuals and families that promote self-sufficiency and personal stability.</b>	
4a.	Provide field-based outreach to connect homeless individual with services and permanent housing options
4b.	Establish regular communication among all who regularly interact with the homeless in order to share information
4c.	Explore a partnership with Pepperdine University social work students and faculty to strengthen service capacity at ASL if established
4d.	Continue to provide availability and access to case management services in Malibu
4e.	Incorporate best practices for addressing homelessness from other municipalities which are applicable to Malibu
4f.	Partner with local businesses to create jobs for the homeless being serviced by the ASL if an ASL is established
<b>Goal 5: Increase community awareness of the Malibu homeless initiative, its progress, and successes.</b>	
5a.	Implement strategies to change the public perception of affordable housing by demonstrating it meets the real need of members of the Malibu community (i.e. seniors)
5b.	Host regular community meetings and educational workshops to improve community understanding of homelessness and progress in implementing the Homelessness Strategic Plan
5c.	Maintain City website
5d.	Implement a public relations effort to help bridge the gap between our homeless population and the community
<b>Goal 6: Advocate for systemic change at the county, state, and federal levels that will strengthen efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness.</b>	
6a.	Work with County and State elected officials to reform housing voucher rules and restrictions and/or create incentives that will broaden housing opportunities for the homeless
6b.	Collaborate with other local agencies to lobby at a state and national level to expand and improve mental health services to reduce the number of mentally ill individuals who are living on the street
6c.	Advocate for budget allocations at the city, county, state, and federal levels to increase funding for programs that prevent and end homelessness

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*Updated January 2021*

<b>Goal 7: Develop governance infrastructure to facilitate collaboration, provide oversight, and support implementation of the homelessness strategic plan.</b>	
<b>7a.</b>	Establish an 8 to 12-member Working Group that meets monthly with a structured agenda to oversee the implementation of the homeless initiative in Malibu, including committees that are assigned to specific action items
<b>7b.</b>	Advocate for and advise the City regarding resource needs to implement and maintain the Strategic Plan
<b>7c.</b>	Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Homelessness Strategic Plan through the Performance Measures
<b>7d.</b>	Coordinate the Malibu program with the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative and coordinate with nearby cities on shared strategies