



# Council Agenda Report

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

Prepared by: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager

Reviewed by: Steve McClary, Interim City Manager

Date prepared: September 22, 2021 Meeting date: September 27, 2021

Subject: Letter to Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Urging the Opening of Emergency Shelters during Fire Season

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** At the recommendation of the Homelessness Task Force, send a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors urging that it authorize the opening of emergency shelters during high fire season.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

**WORK PLAN:** This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

**DISCUSSION:** Since the beginning of 2021, Malibu has experienced 19 fires attributed to unhoused individuals living in the City's hillsides and parks. As more individuals live unhoused in areas designated by CAL FIRE as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), the risk of vegetation fires started by warming and cooking fires increases, especially in the fall when the nights are cooler and Santa Ana winds may be present.

On August 10, 2021, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion that prohibits homeless encampments in unincorporated regions of the County that are designated as VHFHSZ, which covers a majority of the Santa Monica Mountains. As part of this effort, the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) and Mental Evaluation Team (MET) have begun providing notification, outreach, and resources to those who reside in the unincorporated VHFHSZ.

On August 23, 2021, the Malibu City Council adopted a Resolution Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency and Establishing a Program for Reducing the Risk of Fires Associated with Individuals Living Unhoused and Otherwise Engaged in

Unpermitted and Unregulated Camping. The resolution declared the existence of an emergency and based thereon, prohibits homeless encampments in areas designated as a VHFHSZ in Malibu.

To assist in the efforts to relocate individuals who are living unhoused in the VHFHSZ to safer locations, consideration should be given to opening some type of emergency shelter. It is a common practice for government agencies to provide temporary shelter for people to protect them from life-threatening events. In the case of people experiencing homelessness, this is usually done during extreme cold weather in the form of a Winter Shelter.

Los Angeles County runs a Winter Shelter program each year to protect people experiencing homelessness during the colder months (Attachment 1). Typically, the Winter Shelter program begins November 1 and ends March 31. This year, the program was extended through October 31, 2021 and operates 24 hours a day due to COVID-19. Winter Shelters are located throughout the County and offer meals, showers, and case management.

Los Angeles County also runs a Weather-Activated Shelter Program. This program is a short-term, weather-activated emergency response to provide individuals experiencing homelessness a safe and supportive short-term shelter during severe inclement weather. This program is run to protect individuals from the rain and cold weather to avoid hypothermia, pneumonia, and other conditions caused by cold temperatures.

Due to the extreme fire danger that exists in Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains, and in light of the Emergency Declaration adopted by the City Council and the motion passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, it seems appropriate to open a fire weather-activated shelter in a location outside of the VHFHSZ.

Staff recommends that the Council consider the Homelessness Task Force's recommendation to send a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors urging that it authorize the opening of emergency shelters during high fire season. Sheriff's Deputies, HOST, MET, and homelessness outreach workers could then share the shelter locations with those individuals being removed from encampments.

ATTACHMENTS: 2020-2021 Winter Shelter Program

# 2020-2021 WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM **EXTENDED**



Operating Dates: April 1, 2020 - October 31, 2021

LAST UPDATED JULY 15, 2021

## ARE YOU IN NEED OF SHELTER?

The Winter Shelter Program is held annually to protect people experiencing homelessness during Los Angeles's colder months. Winter Shelters are located all across the County and will be operating 24 hours a day this year due to COVID-19. Due to continued safety and health concerns the program is extending.

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM?

To have access to the winter shelter program, you must be:

- At least 18 years old or older
- Experiencing homelessness

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT A WINTER SHELTER SITE?

- Shelters will follow new "Safer at Home" guidelines to keep everyone healthy and safe indoors. This includes daily temperature checks and staff conducting a COVID19 screening questionnaire.
- Shelters welcome pets and emotional support animals.
- Shelters serve 3 meals a day.

For any inquiries, please email us at [wintershelter@lahsa.org](mailto:wintershelter@lahsa.org)

## ACCESSING A WINTER SHELTER

### 1 FIND A SHELTER

On page 2 is a list of shelter locations and their addresses. Pick one that is close to you.

### 2 CALL TO CHECK AVAILABILITY

All shelters require you to call first before coming. There is a limited amount of beds at each site.

### 3 PACK YOUR BAGS

All shelters have a **two (2) bag restriction**. Anything more will not be allowed into the site.

### 4 FIND TRANSPORT

Transport is limited - refer to page 2 for sites that offer transportation.

For more information, please call the Winter Shelter Hotline 1 (800) 548-6047 or visit [LAHSA.ORG/WINTER-SHELTER](http://LAHSA.ORG/WINTER-SHELTER)



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# WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM-EXTENDED

## SHELTERS EXTENDING FROM 4/1/2021-10/31/2021

SPA	Location	Service Provider	Address	# of Beds	Phone Number	Population Served
2	Pacoima Church	Hope of the Valley**	Confidential (please call for location)	52	(818) 257-8521	Coed
4	Weingart Center	Weingart Association	566 S. San Pedro St. Los Angeles, 90013	49	(213) 689-2152	Coed
4	Echo Park Community Center	First To Serve	313 Patton Street Los Angeles, 90026	27	(323) 758-4670	Coed
6	Athens Park	Home at Last	12603 S. Broadway Los Angeles, 90061	63	(323) 787-7241	Coed
6	Bryant Temple Women's Shelter	Bryant Temple CDC	2514 W. Vernon Ave Los Angeles, 90047	20	(323) 792-4162	Women
6	HAL Facility	Home at Last	5171 S. Vermont Ave Los Angeles, 90037	20	(323) 305-6999	Males
6	HAL Facility	Home at Last	8311 S. Western Ave Los Angeles, 90047	30	(323) 909 -5913	Women
8	Former Library	Volunteers of America LA*	5571 Orange Avenue Long Beach, 90805	80	(213) 328-9928	Coed
	<p><b>*Note:</b> No walk-ins allowed. Transportation services are subject to bed availability, must call 2-1-1 to confirm. Pick up point at Long Beach Multi-Service Center (1301 W. 12th Street, Long Beach 90813) to access the site. Transportation by bus.</p>					

\*\* Indicates the site is not a walk up and has transportation services



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