



City Council Meeting
08-08-22

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Item

6.A.

Council Agenda Report

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

Prepared by: Luis Flores, Public Safety Liaison

Reviewed by: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager

Approved by: Steve McClary, City Manager

Date prepared: July 6, 2022 Meeting date: August 8, 2022

Subject: Homelessness Task Force Recommendation for Securing Beds

RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Review the recommendation by the Homelessness Task Force to secure beds at an existing facility outside of the City; and 2) Provide direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for homeless shelter beds was not included in the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 or the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Depending on the Council's direction, a moderate fiscal impact is anticipated in connection with the procurement of existing shelter beds at a facility outside of the City. The associated costs will depend on factors such as the number of beds, case management and general service provision, and transportation from Malibu to the contracted facility, but are likely to be approximately \$2,400 per bed, per month, or \$24,000 this fiscal year for September 2022 through June 2023.

WORK PLAN: This item was included in Item #1.k. (Homelessness Outreach and Services) and Item #1.l. (Homelessness Shelter and Safe Parking Program (SPP) – Identify Site) of the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

DISCUSSION: At the City Council Special Meeting on March 24, 2022, the City Council reviewed the Alternative Sleeping Location (ASL) Recommended Action Plan, a document developed by the Homelessness Task Force (Task Force) that explores the feasibility of establishing an ASL within or around the City as a means of addressing the City's growing homelessness concerns. Upon review and discussion, the City Council directed the Task Force to pursue the establishment of an ASL outside of the City using non-City funding sources.

To implement this recommendation, the City will need to identify a funding source and jurisdiction/s to partner with. Therefore, in preparation for the April 19, 2022 Task Force meeting, staff met with representatives from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (Homeless Initiative) to explore funding options.

Based on information provided by LAHSA and the Homeless Initiative, current funding opportunities are all tied to the creation of new housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) within a respective geographic area. For example, the County of Los Angeles' Notice of Funding Availability for the newly announced Cities and Councils of Governments Interim Housing Services Fund (CCOGIHS) states that "applicants may apply for funding to expand or develop local interim housing capacity to address homelessness and move PEH into permanent housing." The County Board of Supervisors approved \$10 million for the CCOGIHS Fund.

CCOGIHS will not fund capital costs and can only fund a maximum of \$80 per bed per day, meaning that cities and Councils of Governments (COG) are still required to fund all costs not covered by CCOGHIS. However, CCOGHIS does support operating costs, which includes utilities, site maintenance, restrooms, security, and more. CCOGHIS also provides funding for support services, such as crisis intervention, housing navigation, and 24-hour bed availability.

To take advantage of the CCOGIHS funding, the City would either have to explore the creation of interim housing beds within City limits or coordinate an effort with the Las Virgenes–Malibu Council of Governments (COG) to create or expand interim housing within one of the COG cities. Currently, no city within the COG hosts an interim housing site or has expressed interest in doing so. The initial application for CCOGIHS funding was due May 25, 2022, and the final application is due February 28, 2023, or until funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.

In addition to exploring available funding, staff reached out to three cities that have implemented a similar strategy of finding beds outside of their jurisdictions, including Beverly Hills, Calabasas, and Redondo Beach. After speaking with staff at these cities, the following information was gained:

City of Beverly Hills

To assist people experiencing homelessness, the City of Beverly Hills (BH) contracts with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to provide five beds in its West Los Angeles site. Beverly Hills also has a Homeless Outreach Team that is provided through a contract with Step Up On Second. Referrals to the beds provided by PATH must be made through BH's Homeless Outreach Team, who conducts the intake and facilitates transportation. Once

in the PATH shelter, individuals can stay for as long as necessary, so long as they continue to work with PATH's case management team to create a housing plan while receiving additional social services.

BH also supports a variety of efforts to assist with homelessness through a Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) program, including the Safe Parking LA program, which provides a safe parking location for individuals experiencing homelessness in their vehicles and allows for them to be compliant with local laws, have access to restroom facilities, and get connected to resources. BH does not have a Safe Parking LA site, but the Outreach Team does refer individuals to sites within the Service Planning Area (SPA), if need be. The CAGF program also funds the Homeless Outreach Team, the PATH contract, and other service providers within and outside of Beverly Hills.

Lastly, BH is part of the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WCCOG), which includes the Cities of Culver City, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Los Angeles (Districts 5 and 11), and the County of Los Angeles (Districts 3, 2, and 4). Through a joint agreement with the WCCOG, BH helped finance the establishment of the Upward Bound House family shelter in Culver City in 2008; however, no formal partnership exists between the two cities, and BH does not use this facility.

City of Calabasas

The City of Calabasas (Calabasas) contracts with the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center for access to one unit in an apartment complex that is staffed and serviced by the Mental Health Center and its Cornerstone Recovery, Resilience, and Reintegration (RRR) program. The partnership is a three-year contract with the Mental Health Center that includes access to the apartment unit, meal delivery, and case management. Individuals must be facing mental health or substance abuse issues to qualify for the unit and the accompanying services. The contract is funded through Calabasas' American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and is subject to review and renewal after a year, for up to three years. Calabasas can expand the contract to include additional units should the need arise and if availability permits.

Additionally, Calabasas provided transportation through Dial-A-Ride for individuals to go to and from the Mental Health Center. The transportation contract has since ceased and is being reviewed for continuation.

City of Redondo Beach

In January 2021, the City of Redondo Beach (RB) entered into an agreement to rent five apartment units in a private transitional housing complex using federal grant funds. The complex is also being utilized by other organizations, including Self-Help and Recovery Exchange. Individuals are temporarily housed in these units until permanent housing becomes available with the help of the homeless service provider, City Net. However, this

action has faced severe pushback from Los Angeles City Council District 15. Despite this pushback, RB continues to utilize the complex.

RB also established an interim, 15-unit pallet shelter site on City-owned property that is managed and serviced by Harbor Interfaith Services. The pallet shelter site consists of onsite case management, daily meals, restrooms, and showers, and is monitored on a 24/7 basis to ensure individuals are abiding by rules and regulations. RB's Outreach-Housing Navigator is responsible for referrals to the pallet shelter. Additionally, RB established a monthly Homeless Court program where individuals can have their cases dismissed if they complete judge-assigned programs, such as substance abuse rehabilitation and mental health counseling. A variety of service providers, including Harbor Interfaith Services, attend the monthly Homeless Court hearings to provide onsite support and counseling. Public Safety staff was able to visit both the pallet shelter site and the Homeless Court to observe and learn from those operations.

In summary, the cities of Beverly Hills, Calabasas and Redondo Beach have all implemented programs that include beds outside of their jurisdictions; however, all the cities have allocated some or all the funding needed to cover the associated costs.

Homelessness Task Force Recommendation

Upon assessing the feasibility of establishing an ASL outside of the City with non-City funding sources, the Task Force concluded that it is unlikely given the lack of financial support that currently exists for solutions that do not create additional housing opportunities. In addition, securing non-City funds to establish an ASL outside of the City is an extensive process that could take a year or more.

Therefore, the Task Force recommends that the City Council direct staff to implement Item II in the Recommended Action Plan due to the immediate need of emergency shelter beds while also continuing to identify options for establishing an ASL outside of the City using non-City funding sources. Item II reads as follows:

“As a non-mutually exclusive option, the City should also immediately explore opportunities to ‘acquire’ rights to utilize beds which may be available in one or more existing facilities proximate to the City, PROVIDED THAT: (i) the City is willing to provide, at the City’s expense, reasonable transportation to such facilities, (ii) such facility operates in a manner consistent with the philosophy described above, and (iii) providing access (and transportation) to such beds would pass legal ‘muster’ for law enforcement to enforce Malibu’s ‘no camping’ related ordinances. This option, if viable, would most likely require the City to make financial contributions to such facilities (in an amount as yet undetermined) in order to have such beds ‘reserved’ exclusively for the City’s use. An advantage of

this option, besides expediency and scalability, is that these would be owned and operated by others (contracted by other jurisdictions) and the City would have no management responsibilities.”

Staff Recommendation

The Task Force’s recommendation did not specify what type of bed should be pursued. There are two types of beds that could be acquired: emergency shelter beds and interim shelter beds.

Emergency shelter beds are “low-barrier” with limited or minimal requirements and are strictly for single day use. They do not require an extensive intake process or an agreement to enroll in comprehensive services, though services will be offered to all individuals utilizing the beds. This type of bed would allow the Sheriff’s Department to have immediate overnight access to a sleeping location that can be offered to PEH for enforcement purposes. Deputies would be able to keep fire-sensitive and hazardous areas clear of encampments by providing PEH with a safe and immediate sleeping location.

The City may also explore referral-based interim housing beds to support outreach workers in getting individuals off the street and into eventual permanent housing. Interim housing beds are granted to individuals constantly engaged in services and require a formal intake from the outreach team or the facility service provider. Currently, there are various homeless individuals in Malibu that have been granted housing vouchers and are constantly engaged with the outreach team. Providing them with an interim housing bed as they continue to receive services would facilitate their eventual transition into permanent housing and reduce the number of homeless individuals in Malibu.

In alignment with Item II (Identify “Beds” At Existing Shelters) of the Recommended Action Plan, staff recommends that the City explore securing a combination of both interim and emergency housing beds for maximum effectiveness as staff continues to pursue the establishment of an ASL outside of the City using non-City funding sources.

To accomplish this, there are two options the City can pursue to reserve guaranteed beds for the City’s use:

- 1) The City’s Homeless Outreach Services contract with The People Concern (TPC) was renewed through June 30, 2024. While it does not include a requirement for a provision of beds exclusively for the City’s use, TPC is willing to discuss adding a provision for dedicated beds to the contract at a cost of \$2,400 per month per bed. This cost is consistent with similar contracts that other cities have for dedicated shelter beds, which ranges from \$20,000 to \$35,000 per year, and may reduce the cost for motel vouchers in our current contract.

2) The City may also solicit bids for a new service contract dedicated solely to the provision of emergency shelter beds. Given that outreach and housing services would not be required, the applicant pool will likely be more expansive and the City would have added options for facilities with access to beds. If the organization selected for this contract is a long distance away from Malibu, the City would need to account for the higher transportation costs associated. Cost per bed will vary per facility, and referrals will need to be coordinated in conjunction with the outreach team and the Sheriff's Department for effectiveness.

Staff requests that the City Council review and discuss the Task Force recommendation, as well as the options provided in this report, and provide direction, as appropriate.

ATTACHMENTS: None.