
Date: December 17, 2019

Item Number: 44

Resolution Number: _____

☒ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, and The Board of Commissioners of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission to create and operate Joint Operation Center to address the immediate need for shelter and housing navigation services for people experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County

Whereas, four months following the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fire, Sonoma County experienced its first increase in homelessness since 2011; and

Whereas, the sudden loss of 5% of Sonoma County's housing stock in October 2017 flooded the already-tight rental market with people who lost their homes and drove rents up more than 30% within weeks; and

Whereas, the results of the 2019 Homeless Count indicated that of the 2,951 people experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County, 1,957 were living in unsheltered circumstances ; and

Whereas, more than 21,000 residents live in unstable living situations due to the fire disaster and its effects; and

Whereas, the results of the 2019 Homeless Count included an almost 20% increase in the number of young people experiencing homelessness; and

Whereas, homelessness is a human-made disaster that has reached crisis levels and threatens to grow further without intervention; and

Whereas, significant new funds must be spent to mitigate this crisis and preserve the health and safety of Sonoma County residents; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma and the Board of Commissioners of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission jointly declared a Homeless State of Emergency on October 9, 2018 and those conditions and findings are still relevant and in effect now; and

Whereas, since that time, the number of people occupying the Joe Rodota Trail in a large encampment has increased, resulting in health and safety concerns for those occupants and the overall community; and

Whereas, extraordinary immediate actions and coordination are required to address this dire situation and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors hereby finds, determines, certifies, and declares as follows:

1. Direct the County Administrator, the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission, and Directors of Emergency Management, Permit Sonoma, General Services, Health Services, Human Services, and Regional Parks to establish a Joint Operations Center to coordinate the establishment of a temporary navigation center and shelter alternative;
2. Direct the County Administrator to designate personnel to lead and direct said Joint Operations Center and its projects and programs;
3. Direct the County Administrator and said Directors to exercise all delegated authorities necessary and as requested to support the Joint Operations Center and its projects and programs;
4. Direct the Purchasing Agent to prioritize and expedite procurement and processing of all contracts and agreements necessary and as requested by the Joint Operations Center;
5. Direct the Director of Permit Sonoma, or his designee, to prioritize and expedite review and processing of all permits and approvals necessary and as requested by the Joint Operations Center;
6. Direct the Director of General Services, or designee, to evaluate County facilities and other properties for potential use for emergency shelters and low-barrier navigation centers.

Directors:

Gorin:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.