

(R-2024-212)

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- **315249**DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE **DEC 11 2023**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SAN DIEGO DECLARING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BED  
CRISIS IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO.

WHEREAS, people experiencing homelessness suffer disproportionately from mental and behavioral health ailments, the response to which has strained the City of San Diego's (City) ability to provide appropriate shelter and housing; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City's first responders responded to over 53,000 mental health crisis calls, spending over 130,000 hours handling them; and

WHEREAS, according to the State of California's Community Care Licensing Division data, since 2017, 146 of the 781 licensed Adult Residential Facilities in the County of San Diego (County) closed, which represents 19 percent overall reduction in facilities that decreased the number of available beds by over 2,500; and

WHEREAS, 138 of the 719 unique Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly in the County closed their doors, reducing the number of people served by over 1,350; and

WHEREAS, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council cited insufficient funding and staffing as two of the most common factors contributing to the loss of licensed beds; and

WHEREAS, the insufficient capacity to address those struggling with mental health has led, and currently leads to, unnecessarily long lengths of stays in locked settings and hospitals, and contributes to the growing homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City remains committed to providing housing opportunities for all San Diegans; and

WHEREAS, the City contracts with various service providers throughout the City to provide shelter options for individuals to stabilize in a safe, sanitary environment where they are connected to permanent or other long-term housing; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of San Diego (Council) and Mayor are committed to addressing the homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City has responded to the rapid increase in its homeless population with unprecedented investments into homelessness solutions; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these efforts, the number of those experiencing homelessness in the City continues to increase and outpaces the resources and services available in the City; and

WHEREAS, public health, mental health, and behavioral health are under the purview of the County; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide the necessary public services to those suffering from mental and behavioral health ailments, the City requires assistance from the County's Health and Human Services Agency and Behavioral Health Services Department; and

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the Board of Supervisors of the County approved the Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) Model which illustrates the ideal behavioral health system for the County; and

WHEREAS, the OCP identified the County's need to increase utilization of subacute services by 64 percent, community-based care by 142 percent (450 beds), and community crisis diversion by 359 percent; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on local and regional leaders to prioritize mental health and behavioral health resources and programs in partnership across all jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City and County's ability to mobilize local resources, coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of mental health and behavioral health housing locations, use mutual aid, and seek assistance and potential reimbursements by State and Federal governments will be vital to successfully responding to this mental health and behavior health bed crisis; and

WHEREAS, San Diegans need impactful action to address the behavioral health bed crisis occurring in our region amongst our growing homeless population; and

WHEREAS, the Council strongly supports state and federal legislation that promotes the retention and expansion of inpatient, outpatient, step-down, and long-term mental health facilities and services, as well as ongoing resources to improve network adequacy and overall health outcomes; and

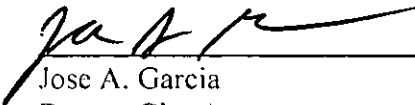
WHEREAS, the Office of the City Attorney has drafted this resolution based on the information provided by City staff and third parties, with the understanding that this information is complete, true, and accurate; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego declares a behavioral health bed crisis within the City of San Diego.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council requests the Mayor and appropriate departments explore updating zoning ordinances in the City as it relates to mental health facilities to ensure barriers to building and operating these facilities are minimal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council requests the Mayor and appropriate departments explore partnering with County, local, and regional partners to ensure proper coordination and action is being executed by all parties to address the Council's declaration of a behavioral health bed crisis in the City.

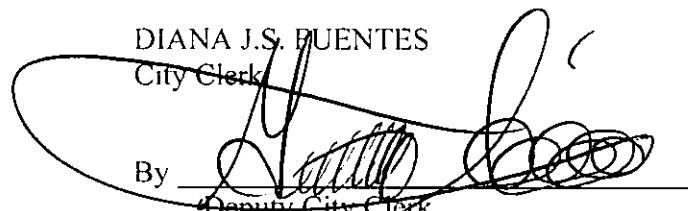
APPROVED: MARA W. ELLIOTT, City Attorney

By   
Jose A. Garcia  
Deputy City Attorney

JAG:nsf  
November 17, 2023  
Or.Dept: Council District 7  
Doc. No. 3476204

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of DEC 05 2023.

DIANA J.S. BUENTES  
City Clerk

By   
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 12/11/23  
(date)

  
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Passed by the Council of The City of San Diego on DEC 05 2023, by the following vote:

Councilmembers	Yeas	Nays	Not Present	Recused
Joe LaCava	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Whitburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District 4 - vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marni von Wilpert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kent Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raul A. Campillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vivian Moreno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sean Elo-Rivera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of final passage DEC 11 2023.

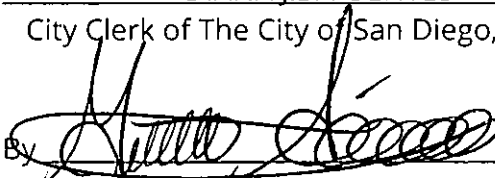
**(Please note: When a resolution is approved by the Mayor, the date of final passage is the date the approved resolution was returned to the Office of the City Clerk.)**

AUTHENTICATED BY:

TODD GLORIA  
Mayor of The City of San Diego, California.

(Seal)

DIANA J.S. FUENTES  
City Clerk of The City of San Diego, California.

By , Deputy

Office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California

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