

DATE ISSUED: November 20, 2002

REPORT NO. 02-279

ATTENTION: Land Use and Housing Committee
Agenda of November 27, 2002

SUBJECT: Homeless Services Task Force Report

SUMMARY

Issues -

1. Should the City Council accept the Homeless Services Task Force Report?
2. Should the City Council direct the City Manager to begin the process of updating Council Policy 000-51 as recommended by the Homeless Services Task Force?
3. Should the City Council direct the City Manager to begin the process of establishing a Homeless Advisory Committee and Siting Guidelines Task Force as recommended in the Task Force Report?
4. Should the City Council direct the City Manager to prioritize and analyze the remaining recommendations included in the Task Force Report with the participation of the newly formed Homeless Advisory Committee and return with recommendations and fiscal impacts?

Manager's Recommendations -

1. Accept the Homeless Services Task Force Report.
2. Direct the City Manager to begin the process of updating Council Policy 000-51 as recommended by the Homeless Services Task Force.
3. Direct the City Manager to begin the process of establishing a Homeless Advisory Committee and Siting Guidelines Task Force as recommended in the Task Force

Report.

4. Direct the City Manager to prioritize and analyze the remaining recommendations included in the Task Force Report with the participation of the newly formed Homeless Advisory Committee and return with recommendations and fiscal impacts.

Other Recommendations - None.

Fiscal Impact – None with this action.

BACKGROUND

During the approval process of the 2001/2002 Winter Shelter Program, a number of programmatic issues were discussed including operator selection, siting, and prioritization of services. In order to address these and other overall Homeless Services Program issues, a Homeless Task Force was established who met biweekly between February and June of this year.

DISCUSSION

The initial goals of the task force were to: 1) prioritize programs and services as input for funding decisions, 2) prepare siting guidelines, 3) provide input for the RFP process and 4) recommend the next steps. After the first meeting it became clear that in order to address the numerous issues related to homelessness, a long-term advisory group needs to be established. Therefore, the task force determined that a more productive course of action would be to: 1) review the City's current homeless policy, 2) identify and acknowledge progress made, and 3) make recommendations for future actions. In addition to City and Agency staff, several individuals receiving direct funding from the City for the provision of homeless services agreed to serve on the task force. Sister RayMonda Duvall, Catholic Charities and John Thelen, Regional Task Force for the Homeless agreed to serve as Co-Chairs. A list of all members is included as Attachment 1.

The task force developed a number of recommendations based on a comprehensive review of the City's Homeless Policy (000-51), current socioeconomic conditions, and their experience and expertise in the field. While they specifically acknowledged the City sponsored activities and programs designed to meet the needs of the homeless, they also felt strongly that more needs to be done to close the gap in available shelter beds and services. The comprehensive list of recommendations can be found in Appendix B of the final report. The recommendations that can be immediately adopted without a fiscal impact are as follows: update Council Policy 000-51, establish a Homeless Advisory Committee and establish a Siting guidelines Task Force. The remaining recommendations require further analysis regarding feasibility and budgetary impacts. In addition to these recommendations, we have included as an attachment the recommendations of the East Village Redevelopment Homeless Advisory Committee as requested and were forwarded to the members of the Homeless Task Force. Many of their recommendations are similar to those included in the Task Force Report.

Several members of the task force indicated an interest in participating on both the Advisory

Committee and Siting Guidelines Task Force. We recommend the Siting Guidelines Task Force also include City and Agency staff (i.e. Community & Economic Development, Development Services, Real Estate Assets, Housing Commission, CCDC), as well as, a representative from the planning groups in areas where the winter shelter program has been sited in the past. Staff has also prepared and included both the recommended strikeover and revised versions of Council Policy 000-51 for review and is prepared to move forward as directed.

ALTERNATIVES: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Fischle-Faulk
Community Services Deputy Director
Community & Economic Development

Concur: Hank Cunningham
Director
Community & Economic Development

Approve: Bruce Herring
Deputy City Manager

- Attachments:
1. List of Task Force Members
 2. Homeless Services Program Task Force Report
 3. Strikeover Version of Council Policy 000-51
 4. Revised Version – Council Policy 000-51
 5. East Village Redevelopment Homeless Advisory Committee Recommendations

Note: Attachments are not available in electronic format. Copies of the attachments are available for review in the Office of the City Clerk.