

DATE ISSUED: August 7, 2003

REPORT NO. 03-173

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program – Final Report

#### SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

#### BACKGROUND

Attached are final reports, submitted by Alpha Project for the Homeless (Alpha Project), Vietnam Veterans of San Diego (VVSD) and the San Diego Rescue Mission (the Rescue Mission) in cooperation with the City of San Diego, summarizing the accomplishments of the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program. Included in Alpha Project's report is a list of recommendations for consideration for next year's program.

#### DISCUSSION

The 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program was designed to provide services to assist the City's homeless population with moving closer toward self-sufficiency during the particularly difficult time of the winter months. This program adds to existing year round programs currently operated by nonprofit organizations. The FY02-03 program operated December 16, 2002 through March 29, 2003 for single adults, December 13, 2002 through March 12, 2003 for veterans, and December 16, 2002 through March 15, 2003 for families. The city again participated in the regional hotel/motel voucher program which operated November 2002 through April 2003 and provided hotel/motel rooms for homeless families with children and the disabled during the winter season.

The Winter Shelter Program was a collaboration with the City, San Diego Housing Commission, County of San Diego, various nonprofit homeless and social service providers and government-sponsored agencies. The program provided homeless families and individuals access to a dry and safe environment during periods of inclement weather. The City contracted with Alpha Project to provide 200 shelter beds for single adults, VVSD to provide 150 shelter beds for veterans, and the Rescue Mission to provide 100 emergency shelter beds for families.

As in prior years, the Winter Shelter Program consisted of three temporary shelters open 24 hours per day, seven days a week for 90 -115 days. In response to a request from the adjacent neighborhood prior to the opening of the 2003/2004 Winter Shelter Program, the City administered a gradual “step-down” closure process that activated on the 90<sup>th</sup> day of the Winter Shelter Program at the single adults shelter not to extend beyond Saturday, March 29, 2003. The shelters were located in the Downtown and Midway areas of San Diego. The specific site locations were as follows:

- ❖ Newton Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, single adults shelter, operated by Alpha Project;
- ❖ 2801½ Sports Arena Boulevard, SPAWAR lot, veterans shelter, operated by VVSD;
- ❖ 1150 J Street, San Diego Rescue Mission facility, family overflow shelter, operated by the Rescue Mission.

A total of \$546,000 was allocated for the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program. Funding sources included: General Fund \$18,280, Emergency Shelter Grant \$30,360, Housing Commission \$348,887, Community Development Block Grant \$18,473, and Mayor and Council Discretionary Funds: Council District 1 - \$5,000, Council District 2 - \$25,000, Council District 3 - \$25,000, Council District 4 - \$20,000, Council District 5 - \$5,000, and Council District 6 - \$25,000.

The final report indicates that services were provided to 1,481 unduplicated homeless persons of which 265 were children. They provided employment and housing information, recovery programs and other supportive services utilizing over 2,700 staff/service hours. Catholic Charities administered the hotel/motel voucher program for the County. Eighteen (18) homeless service agencies in San Diego County participated; 922 vouchers were provided, and 14,654 bed nights were provided.

The success of this year’s program can be attributed to the strong partnership with the nonprofit provider community, County Health and Human Service Agency, the financial support received from the Mayor and City Council, Housing Commission, the generosity of federal and local government staff, and the technical assistance and support provided by the County’s Regional Task Force on the Homeless. The Department of Defense donated hundreds of blankets, made possible by an appeal from Congresswoman Susan Davis. City departments ensured that all vital services were available and were always available to address electrical, maintenance, storage and other issues. In addition, they ensured the necessary services were provided for the timely setup and take down of the two Sprung Structures used to house individuals at the Newton and Sports Arena Boulevard sites. City staff also donated various items to the program including clothing and toiletries. The planning has begun for next year’s program and will be built on this year’s successes.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Pearson-Brown, Homeless Services Coordinator at (619) 533-6280.

Respectfully submitted,

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HANK CUNNINGHAM  
Director, Economic Development &  
Community Services

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Approved: BRUCE HERRING  
Deputy City Manager

CUNNINGHAM/KPB

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Report

Note: Due to the size of the attachment, a limited distribution was made. A copy of the attachment is available for review in the Office of the City Clerk.