

DATE ISSUED: November 3, 2004 REPORT NO. 04-235  
ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Docket of November 8, 2004  
SUBJECT: FY 2005 Winter Shelter Program & Cortez Hill Family  
Center

SUMMARY

Issues –

- 1) Should the City Council declare a homeless shelter emergency in the City of San Diego?
- 2) Should the City Council approve the FY 2005 Winter Shelter Program described in this report?
- 3) Should the Auditor and Comptroller accept, appropriate and expend \$95,436 from the San Diego Housing Commission for the FY 2005 Winter Shelter Program contingent upon certification of funds availability?
- 4) Should the City Council authorize the transfer and expenditure of \$65,000 of CDBG funds to the Winter Shelter Program from Fund 18538, Dept. 4257, Org. 5701 (Energy Efficiency Project)?
- 5) Should the Auditor and Comptroller accept, appropriate and expend \$349,564 from the San Diego Housing Commission for the FY 2005 Cortez Hill Family Center contingent upon certification of funds availability?
- 6) Should the City Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute agreements, and expend funds associated with implementing the FY 2005 Winter Shelter and Cortez Hill Family Center Programs, contingent upon the Auditor and Comptroller furnishing certificates of funds availability?

Manager's Recommendations –

- 1) Declare a winter shelter emergency in the City of San Diego.
- 2) Approve the FY 2005 Winter Shelter Program described in this report
- 3) The Auditor and Comptroller should accept, appropriate and expend \$95,436 from the San Diego Housing Commission for the FY 2005 Winter Shelter Program contingent upon certification of funds availability.
- 4) Authorize the transfer and expenditure of \$65,000 of CDBG funds to the Winter Shelter Program from Fund 18538, Dept. 4257, Org. 5701 (Energy Efficiency Project).
- 5) The Auditor and Comptroller should accept, appropriate and expend \$349,564 from the San Diego Housing Commission for the FY 2005 Cortez Hill Family Center contingent upon certification of funds availability.
- 6) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute agreements, and expend funds associated with implementing the FY 2005 Winter Shelter and Cortez Hill Family Center Programs, contingent upon the Auditor and Comptroller furnishing certificates of funds availability.

Fiscal Impact – The total cost from the City equals \$1,071,600. This action accepts a total of \$445,000 from the Housing Commission for the Winter Shelter Program (\$95,436) and the Cortez Hill Family Center (\$349,564). The program budgets are listed in Exhibits A and B of this report. The remaining \$626,600 is available from the Emergency Shelter and CDBG grants.

BACKGROUND

City Council Policy 000-51, Comprehensive Homeless Policy, adopted April 21, 2003, serves as the City's framework for addressing homeless issues. The policy supports the operation of an emergency shelter and supports the continuum of care model whereby, the City, in coordination with businesses, social service agencies, community groups, and other jurisdictions, assess needs and promote programs that restore people who are homeless to their optimum participation in the community. The policy further requires the City Manager to provide annual recommendations for the operation of cold weather homeless shelter programs.

For the past seventeen years, the City has managed a seasonal homeless shelter program. Over time the program evolved into the successful model utilized in the FY2003 program. The program operated a 200-bed shelter for single adults, a 150-bed shelter for male veterans, and shelter for 50 family members from December 12, 2002 through March 22, 2003. The 150-bed Cortez Hill Family Center, operated by the YWCA, houses the City's year-round program.

In a cooperative arrangement, the City, the County of San Diego and the United Way of San Diego created the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (the Task Force) in March 1985. In July 2004, the Task Force issued its County-wide update on the state of homelessness at that point in time. As outlined in that report, there is an estimated homeless population of 9,667 within the region, down from 15,000. Of the 9,667 homeless persons reported, 4,458, including the rural homeless (farmworkers), are in the City of San Diego, down from 6,500 persons in previous years. The reduction in the number of homeless within the City can be explained, in part, by the following factors: 1) an actual “rolling count” by the San Diego Police Department of those sleeping on the streets was conducted this year, 2) the development and success of permanent supportive housing units for an estimated 500 dually diagnosed homeless persons have moved off the streets and established stable lifestyles, and 3) a reduction in the number of rural homeless from 1,100 to 200. The Task Force further reported that, within the City of San Diego, there are currently 2,019 shelter beds available, leaving an unmet need of 2,239 beds.

## DISCUSSION

The weather conditions during the winter season have the potential to affect the health and safety of individuals subjected to long-term or constant exposure. Given the existing shortage of available beds, it is recommended that a winter shelter emergency be declared and a winter shelter program adopted to address the needs of the homeless.

### **WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM:**

The program is targeted to operate from December 15, 2004 to March 14, 2005 (90 days). The seasonal shelter program will serve approximately 400 persons each day. Shelter participants staying at the single adult and veteran shelters will have access to the programs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to maximize the programmatic potential of services provided at each location.

The family emergency shelter program this year will be provided through a City and County collaborative, including funding for hotel/motel vouchers and case management services. The San Diego Rescue Mission (SDRM) will provide a point of entry. While in the SDRM program, families will be assessed and connected with case managers. Appropriate families will be moved to a hotel or motel for up to 30 days using vouchers and will continue case management services. Some families will then be placed in the Cortez Hill Family Center, the City’s year round shelter program. Families will continue to work on stability, employment and other causal factors that contributed to homelessness for up to 4 months. Case-management enriched services will continue, providing families with a better chance of regaining self sufficiency and increase their ability to return to a mainstream lifestyle in permanent housing. The SDRM emergency shelter hours will be 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven days a week; the vouchers provide 24-hour housing as does the Cortez Hill Family Center. This plan significantly increases the case management for each family by County HHS Family Self-Sufficiency Programs.

Up to 200 single men and women will be housed at the 16<sup>th</sup> and Newton Avenue location in a sprung structure. The operator at this site will be the Alpha Project.

Up to 150 homeless male veterans will be housed in a sprung structure located at the staging area of the SPAWAR property owned by the U.S. Navy at 2801½ Sports Arena Boulevard in the Midway area. Vietnam Veterans of San Diego is the operator at this site.

Contractors will be responsible for providing operational support, services, and gathering appropriate information on Winter Shelter participants.

Program partners include the San Diego Housing Commission (\$95,436), the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency (health care workers and case managers), and various non-profit and veteran agencies who provide support services at no cost to the City's winter shelter program.

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and Homeless Outreach (HOT) Team will continue to have priority access to Winter Shelter Program services. The HOT teams consist of two Police Officers, a County Social Worker, and a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) clinician. Each shelter location will provide designated numbers of beds for SDPD and HOT Team referrals.

The total projected cost for the FY2005 Winter Shelter Program is approximately \$497,036 for a 90-day program serving 400 individuals each day. A summary of this year's program funding is included as Exhibit A of this report.

#### **CORTEZ HILL FAMILY CENTER: YEAR-ROUND SHELTER –**

The 365-day year-round program provides 47 units which house up to 150 single-parent and intact family members and their children. Each family can stay in the transitional housing program up to 4 months while meeting with case workers to re-establish stable incomes and long-term or permanent housing. The YWCA of San Diego County is the operator of this program.

The operating budget for FY2005 is approximately \$640,000. The Housing Commission has allocated \$349,564 for the FY2005 Cortez Hill Family Center. A summary of this year's program funding is included as Exhibit B of this report.

It is recommended that the City Council continue implementing the Winter Shelter and Cortez Hill Family Center Programs as outlined in this report.

ALTERNATIVE(S):

Do not authorize a Winter Shelter Program.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sharon Johnson  
Program Manager  
Homeless Services Program

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Ernie Linares  
Deputy Director  
Community Services

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Hank Cunningham  
Director  
Community & Economic Development

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Approved: Bruce A. Herring  
Deputy City Manager

CUNNINGHAM/EL

Attachments: 1. Exhibit A - Winter Shelter Funding  
2. Exhibit B - Cortez Hill Family Shelter Funding

**WINTER SHELTER FUNDS**

Social Service Funds	\$325,000
Housing Commission	\$ 95,436
CDBG	\$ 65,000
Prior Year Savings	\$ 11,600
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$497,036</b>

<b>Single Audit Site</b>		
<b>200 Single Adults @ Newton Avenue</b>	Operator: Alpha Project	\$136,875
	1 meal per day	\$ 47,250
	Restrooms/Showers	\$ 32,400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$216,525</b>
<b>Male Veteran Site</b>		
<b>150 Male Veterans @ Sports Arena Boulevard</b>	Operator: Vietnam Veterans of San Diego	\$100,500
	2 meals per day	\$ 40,500
	Restrooms/Showers	\$ 24,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>
<b>Family Emergency Sheltering Program</b>		
<b>An estimated 60 family members through S.D. County Voucher Program</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
<b>Direct City Costs</b>		
	Tent Set-up / Tear-down	\$ 36,000
	Utility Connect Fees	\$ 29,511
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 65,511</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$497,036</b>

EXHIBIT B

<b>CORTEZ HILL FAMILY CENTER FUNDS</b>	<b>CITY CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>AGENCY CONTRIBUTION</b>
Social Service Funds	\$225,000	
Housing Commission	\$349,564	
YWCA Contribution		\$ 64,970
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$574,564</b>	<b>\$ 64,970</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$639,534</b>	

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel	\$419,990
Operations	\$130,000
Meals	\$ 89,544
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$639,534</b>