



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: October 18, 2006 REPORT NO: 06-153
ATTENTION: Council President and City Council
Docket of October 23, 2006
SUBJECT: FY 2007 Homeless Emergency Shelter Program
REFERENCE: Report to the City Council No. 06-048, dated May 3, 2006
Resolution No. R-301425, dated May 11, 2006

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Find that a significant number of persons within the City of San Diego are without the ability to obtain shelter, and that the weather conditions during the cold weather season result in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.
- Declare a homeless shelter crisis to exist in the City of San Diego, in accordance with California Government Code section 8698.2(a)(1).
- Approve the FY 2007 Homeless Emergency Shelter Program [Program] (previously known as the Winter Shelter Program), as described in Report to the City Council No. _____, a copy of which is on file with the Office of the City Clerk as Document No. RR-_____.
- Authorize the Mayor or his designee to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the San Diego Housing Commission [SDHC] and the City of San Diego for FY 2007, under which the City shall receive a total of \$445,000 from the SDHC for the operation of the Program.
- Authorize the City Auditor and Comptroller to accept the \$445,000 from the SDHC for the operation of the Program.
- Approve the \$65,000 increase in Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] funds for the Program, which was previously placed in a reserve account subject to future approval (pursuant to Resolution No. R-301425), thereby increasing the total funding allocation for the Program to \$655,000, consisting of \$445,000 from the SDHC and \$210,000 in CDBG funds.

- Authorize the Mayor or his designee to enter into agreements, and any amendments thereto, to expend the \$445,000 from the SDHC and the \$210,000 in CDBG funds for the operation of the Program, contingent upon certification of funds availability by the City Auditor and Comptroller.
- Authorize the City Auditor and Comptroller to appropriate and expend the \$445,000 from the SDHC and the \$210,000 in CDBG funds for the operation of the Program.
- Authorize the City Auditor and Comptroller to accept, appropriate, and expend any and all additional contributions, private donations, interest earnings, and other City funds associated with the Program, for the operation of the Program.
- Authorize the Mayor or his designee to enter into agreements, and any amendments thereto, to expend any and all additional contributions, private donations, interest earnings, and other City funds associated with the Program, for the operation of the Program, contingent upon certification of funds availability by the City Auditor and Comptroller.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the resolutions.

SUMMARY:

City Council Policy 000-51 (Comprehensive Homeless Policy) serves as the City's framework for addressing homeless issues. The policy supports the operation of emergency shelters, whereby, the City, in coordination with businesses, social service agencies, community groups, and other jurisdictions, assess needs and promote programs that restore homeless persons to their optimum participation in the community.

According to the most recent statistics compiled by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, there are an estimated 4,225 homeless individuals living in the City of San Diego, and of those, 1,980 are sheltered year-round. Hence, there remains a shortage of 2,245 shelter beds in the City.

The weather conditions during the cold weather season have the potential to affect the health and safety of individuals subjected to long-term or constant exposure to the elements. Given the existing shortage of available shelter beds, it is recommended that a homeless shelter crisis be declared in the City of San Diego, and that the Program be adopted in an effort to address the crisis. The Program adds 400 shelter beds, reducing the unmet need to 1,845 shelter beds during Program operations.

Single Adult Shelter

Up to 200 single men and women will be housed in a sprung structure at 16th Avenue and Newton Avenue each night. Shelter participants will have access to programmatic services 7 days a week. Alpha Project for the Homeless will operate the Single Adult Shelter, and be

responsible for providing program operations, services, and gathering appropriate information on shelter participants. In addition, efforts are being made to engage a healthcare provider to meet the basic screening, referral, and follow-up needs at the site.

Veterans Shelter

Up to 150 homeless male veterans will be housed in a sprung structure at the SPAWAR location in the Midway area each night. Shelter participants will have access to programmatic services 7 days a week. Veteran's Village of San Diego will operate the Veteran's Shelter, and be responsible for providing program operations, services, and gathering appropriate information on shelter participants.

Family Emergency Shelter

The City, in coordination with the County of San Diego, the San Diego Rescue Mission [Rescue Mission], and the YWCA, will provide emergency shelter to homeless families. The Rescue Mission will be the point of entry. While at the Rescue Mission, families will be assessed and assigned case managers. Using vouchers, families will be moved to a hotel or motel for up to 30 days and will continue case management services. Once families have completed their eligibility criteria, they will then be placed in the Cortez Hill Family Center, the City's year-round transitional housing program operated by the YWCA, or other suitable programs. For up to four months, families will work on issues and causal factors that contributed to their homelessness. Families will be provided case management (including from the County's Family Self-Sufficiency Programs), enriched services, and other appropriate services, affording them a better chance to regain self-sufficiency and increase their ability to return to a mainstream lifestyle in permanent housing.

The Rescue Mission's hours of operation are from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., seven days a week. The hotel/motel vouchers will provide 24-hour housing, as does the Cortez Hill Family Center.

Period of Operation

On May 8, 2006, the City Council, in Resolution No. R-301425, adopted the budget for the FY 2007 Social Services Program. In doing so, the Council, among other things, approved \$145,000 in Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] funds for the operation of the Winter Shelter Program for a period of 100 days (from December 13, 2006 to March 22, 2007), but placed a \$65,000 increase in CDBG funds for the Winter Shelter Program in a reserve account, subject to future approval. This action recommends approving the \$65,000 in reserved CDBG funds to operate the Program for an additional twenty days, for a total of 120 days, from December 13, 2006 through April 11, 2007.

In addition, Alpha Project for the Homeless has offered to raise additional funds to expand the Single Adult Shelter by 46 days to 166 days. The expanded periods will be from November 1 through December 12, 2006, and from April 12 through April 15, 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no net impact to the City's General Fund from this action. This action accepts \$445,000 from the San Diego Housing Commission, and approves \$65,000 in CDBG funds (in addition to

the \$145,000 CDBG funds previously approved by the Council in Resolution No. R-301425), for the operation of the Program, for a total Program budget of \$655,000. A summary of the Operational Budget for the Program is included in Exhibit A attached to this report.

It should be noted that the \$445,000 from the San Diego Housing Commission may not be available for transfer to the City by December 13, 2006, the start of the City-funded portion of the Program. As a result, the City's General Fund may be needed to temporarily front funds to the Program until such time the \$445,000 from the San Diego Housing Commission is transferred to the City.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution No. R-301425.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

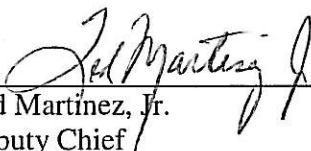
None.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

Residents and business owners in the East Village community and Midway area. In addition, Program partners include the San Diego Housing Commission, 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 Program.



Ernie Linares
Deputy Director
Community Services Division



Ted Martinez, Jr.
Deputy Chief
Neighborhood and Customer Services

Attachment: Exhibit A – FY 2007 Homeless Shelter Program Operational Budget