Title: City Council Discussion Regarding Additional Homeless Shelter Proposal Options and Update on Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency’s Proposed Homeless Services Five-Point Plan

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and provide direction.

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Attachments:
1-Description/Analysis
Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: In the late fall of 2018, Mayor Steinberg challenged Councilmembers to help identify opportunities to expand re-housing shelter programs in their districts. On September 24, 2019, Councilmember Angelique Ashby requested that the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) present a proposed Homeless Services Plan for multiple Council Districts.

The crisis of unsheltered homelessness is one that impacts the entire community, both those experiencing homelessness and the broader community of housed residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. Over the past several years, the City has made significant investments to increase access to and availability of shelter, services and permanent housing for people and families experiencing homelessness. Despite these efforts, homelessness and its impacts continue to rise.

Sample statistics from the 2019 Point-in-Time Count are outlined below.

- From 2015 to 2017, the Sacramento region saw an 85 percent increase of unsheltered homelessness.

- The vast majority of individuals experiencing homelessness each night in Sacramento County are sleeping outdoors or in vehicles, abandoned buildings or other locations not suitable for human habitation. Approximately 70 percent of individuals experiencing homelessness in the county are unsheltered, which is consistent with California’s large and growing outdoor homeless population (estimated at 69 percent in 2018).

- Many more families with children are sleeping outside of shelters each night (and particularly, in vehicles) than had been previously assumed; on the night of the Homeless Count approximately 195 families were estimated to be unsheltered, which represented 52 percent of all families experiencing homelessness that night.

Staff seeks Council direction on the five-point plan listed below as preliminary program overviews. Staff will present a funding framework at the time this report is heard. Once direction is received, a more detailed funding plan and project implementation schedule will be developed by SHRA in consultation with selected provider(s), including Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF), Volunteers of America, Life Steps and others.
Five-Point Plan

Over the last decade, the County and City of Sacramento have worked strategically in collaboration with SHRA to end homelessness, including creating a Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (2006-2016). As performance measures were being met in the initial years, the Great Recession of 2007 occurred resulting in a loss of federal, state and local funds that impacted the ability of SHRA, local government and community-based organizations to provide housing and other support services for the homeless. Additionally, as a result of the Great Recession, there was an increase in demand for affordable housing due to foreclosure, evictions, and job loss and at the same time, there was a decrease in funding for safety net services. More recently, the County, City, SHRA and nonprofit partners, including Sacramento Steps Forward, Volunteers of America, Life Steps and First Step Communities expanded and aligned the homeless system to better serve the homeless in our community.

Below are the recommended Five-Point Plan two-year programs/projects:

1. **Scattered Sites (Districts 1 and 8):** 45 scattered-site housing units for homeless women and children, including domestic violence survivors for a total of 90 households (approximately 250-300 beds) are proposed to be provided over a two-year period. Scattered site housing will be provided through master leasing at units located in Districts 1 and 8. Household assistance will be for a continuous 12-month period with wrap around and re-housing services. Families will be exited within 12-months (or earlier) into permanent affordable housing. Wrap around services is the term given to the practice of providing, or making available, various services that a person might need. In the case of homelessness, wrap around services refers to services provided to stabilize and house a homeless person.

2. **Homeless Overnight Parking (District 7):** Overnight parking is proposed to be provided in District 7 to homeless households. Parking will be available for up to 50 cars, including recreational vehicles (RVs). The selected provider will coordinate with service providers, the Sacramento Police Department, and other City departments to provide a safe and clean environment which will include security, mobile sanitation, restrooms and showers, wrap around and re-housing services.

3. **Sleeping Cabins/Tents (District 2 and/or 3):** It is proposed that sleeping cabins/tents be provided for up to 100 homeless individuals. The selected provider will operate and maintain land made available for an interim community consisting of mobile sanitation, sleeping cabins or tents for up to 100 homeless individuals including their possessions and pets. The selected provider will coordinate with service providers, the Sacramento Police Department, and other City departments to provide a safe and clean environment.
which will include security, mobile sanitation, restrooms and showers, wrap around and re-housing services.

4. **Motel Conversion Pre-Development Costs (District 3):** It is recommend that pre-development funds be provided for a motel conversion for homeless services, similar to Capitol Park Hotel, including legal fees, environmental clearance, construction drawings, permits, fees and other related costs.

5. **Permanent Supportive Housing Funding (All Districts):** It is recommended that up to $10 million in gap financing be provided for construction of 100 permanent supportive housing by 2025. Financing could include mortgage revenue bonds, tax credits, No Place Like Home, Multi-Family Housing Program, project-based vouchers and other programs.

**Policy Considerations:** On October 16, 2018, the Council held a workshop on Homeless Sheltering Policies and adopted a resolution embracing Housing First principles for City-funded Triage Shelters. At this meeting, the Council acknowledged the need for other shelter and service approaches, especially for vulnerable populations, including transition age youth and women and families. Using a combination of State and local funding allows for a variety of sheltering options, recognizing different needs of different population and reflecting community preferences and priorities.

**Economic Impacts:** None

**Environmental Considerations:** This agenda item involves council discussion only and does not constitute a project approval for the purposes of CEQA; the Council discussion will not result in any direct or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment because the identified programs/projects will return to SHRA and/or Council for consideration prior to approval. (Pub Res C §21065; 14 Cal Code Regs §15378(a).) Such pre-approval consideration will include the appropriate level of environmental review under CEQA.

**Sustainability Considerations:** Not applicable

**Commission Action:** None

**Rationale for Recommendation:** The number of people living unsheltered in Sacramento is on the rise, and there are not sufficient shelter beds to meet the need. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recommends that shelters focus on assessment and triage, and intentionally link to permanent housing resources so that people move through to housing quickly.
Financial Considerations: With Council direction, staff will refine estimates and bring the Five-Point Plan before Council for final approval. Any contracts for construction and operation of the projects identified in the Five-Point Plan will be brought to Council for approval. Environmental clearance will also be completed before project(s) commences.

LBE - M/WBE and Section 3 requirements: Not applicable