

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Omar Passons
Rosalynn Hughey

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: January 8, 2024

Approved



Date

1/8/2024

SUPPLEMENTAL

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS 2020-2025 SAN JOSE
REPORT**

REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL

The purpose of this Supplemental memorandum is to provide feedback from the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCD Commission), an engagement session with current and formerly unhoused residents and staff of service providers, and a summary of comments from the County of Santa Clara (County) and the public on the City of San José Implementation Plan for the Regional Community Plan to End Homelessness 2020-2025 (Implementation Plan). The HCD Commission meeting was held the evening of December 14, 2023, and the engagement session was held December 20, 2023. Both of these meetings were conducted after the December 14, 2023 Neighborhood Services and Education (NSE) Committee meeting.

BACKGROUND

On December 14, 2023, staff presented the Implementation Plan to the NSE Committee. The staff report presenting the Implementation Plan was approved 5-0 by the NSE Committee with cross-reference to the City Council. On the evening of December 14 2023, staff presented the Implementation Plan to the HCD Commission.

On December 20, 2023, the City Manager's Office presented the Implementation Plan to a group of current and formerly unhoused residents and others at the Survivors of the Streets meeting convened by Sacred Heart Community Services. This meeting was also attended by two leaders of the Lived Experience Advisory Board of Silicon Valley, staff of service providers, and other members of the community.

In addition, staff continued to receive input from County colleagues and others relevant to deepening the longstanding relationship between the City of San José and the County.

ANALYSIS

The Implementation Plan provides an important opportunity for the City's 22 departments and offices to align with a unified, One Team, approach to preventing and ending homelessness and managing the impacts of the crisis on the entire community. The Implementation Plan further establishes a vehicle for aligning City actions and outcomes with the Regional Community Plan to End Homelessness and to enhance accountability, transparency, and focus towards identified priorities. It also creates a path for the City to identify the many ways that City services and resources are utilized, often together with regional, state and federal partners, to address the homelessness crisis.

This Supplemental memorandum provides a summary update of the communications received during these meetings.

I. HCD Commission Meeting

On December 14, 2023, staff attended the regular meeting of the HCD Commission. Staff presented substantially the same presentation delivered during the earlier NSE Committee meeting and then engaged in a two-hour question and answer and discussion session with the Commissioners.

Commissioners asked a range of in-depth questions and offered perspectives about areas of improvement with regards to overall efforts to address homelessness. These included requests for increased coordination across the departments, continued and expanded engagement with County partners, and further resources to address the need for permanent affordable homes in addition to temporary housing solutions. Commissioners sought to confirm the Implementation Plan was informed by people with previous lived experience of homelessness. Staff shared input about the past and future efforts to ensure as many members of the community with current or prior lived experiences of homelessness had meaningful input into specific directions the City planned to take. Commissioners requested that staff proactively return to the HCD Commission in the future. As a result, as part of the process for the annual Homelessness Report in the fall, staff will work to ensure engagement with the HCD Commission is built into that process.

II. Survivors of the Streets Community Engagement Meeting

On December 20, 2023, staff participated in a meeting as part of the established *Your Voice, Your Input* regular engagement session, which includes current and formerly unhoused residents, staff of service providers and other community members. These engagements were initiated by the City Manager's Office and are intended to expand the number of people with lived experience of homelessness – especially including people currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness – in open dialogue about potential City policy direction from the City Council or other issues of importance to the members of the community.

Participants in the meeting were provided the Implementation Plan in advance and asked their perspectives about its contents. Input and opinions varied considerably. There was support for the possibility of pursuing safe outdoor sleeping sites as part of the continuum of housing support on a path to permanence, especially when this would reduce abatements. Participants also expressed a desire for alternatives to abatement of encampments and for even greater outreach to people who

have experienced homelessness for their input and help informing policies and programs that impact the lives of unhoused residents. Staff continues to engage this group, with planned sessions to engage youth at the Bill Wilson Center and unhoused people temporarily living at the Boccardo Reception Center, as well as invitations to the Lived Experience Advisory Board of Silicon Valley.

III. Other Communications

Since the publication of the Implementation Plan in advance of the NSE Committee meeting, staff has received input in additional conversations with County colleagues and other partners. In these conversations, a range of items have been discussed as further areas to describe existing collaboration or expand on further coordinated efforts to implement the Regional Community Plan to End Homelessness.

Although the purpose of the Implementation Plan is not to focus primarily on a description of the existing successful collaborative efforts between entities in the region, it is worth noting that there are several longstanding examples that have enabled progress. For example, the Housing Department and Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement, and the County Office of Supportive Housing have regular, recurring meetings explicitly to advance permanent housing developments that need intentional work to ensure they move quickly through the planning process. In addition, the County was a significant partner in key efforts such as the housing of many unhoused residents who were negatively impacted by the FAA-mandated clearing of Guadalupe Gardens. County staff worked extensively with City staff and regional partners to maximize opportunities to permanently house people during that time.

The collaboration is not limited to the Office of Supportive Housing. The County's Department of Employment and Benefits Services in the Social Services Agency is also working with the Department of Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services Beautify San José division to support City staff's ability to help connect unhoused residents to social safety net benefits for which they may be eligible. Similar discussions are in preliminary stages with the Library Department. In addition, the County of Santa Clara Health System is working with the City to understand Emergency Medical Response data and how the City, County, and Managed Care Plan partners can collaborate to improve care and support of people experiencing homelessness in City interim housing communities. Also, the County's Probation, Sheriff, and Diversion and Re-Entry Services have all demonstrated willingness to engage to further efforts to decrease homelessness.

Other potential opportunities that exist to further expand on these partnerships include:

- Expanding the regular meetings for permanent housing development to include other City departments such as Fire, Public Works, or Transportation, where appropriate.
- Engaging with the County to partner on service models at City interim housing communities and to further incorporate interim housing into the Coordinated Entry System in line with the Regional Plan.
- Collaboration on regional planning for property availability on a range of permanent and temporary housing and supportive services needs.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 2024

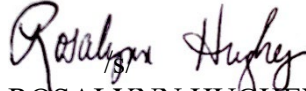
Subject: Community Plan to End Homelessness 2020-2025 San José Report

Page 4

As part of the Implementation Plan and ongoing work, it is anticipated that the City and County will continue to identify specific opportunities to engage to improve the lives of residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness in San José.



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