



Special Meeting **AGENDA**

Civic Center Council Chamber ♦ 300 Seminary Avenue ♦ Ukiah, CA 95482

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April 13, 2020 - 3:00 PM

1. **ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

The City Council welcomes input from the audience. If there is a matter of business on the agenda that you are interested in, you may address the Council when this matter is considered. If you wish to speak on a matter that is not on this agenda, you may do so at this time. In order for everyone to be heard, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes per person and not more than ten (10) minutes per subject. The Brown Act regulations do not allow action to be taken on audience comments in which the subject is not listed on the agenda.

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 3.a. Receive A Status Report on the City's Ongoing Request For the County of Mendocino's Sheltering Plan and Risk Mitigation Strategies to limit COVID-19 Spread Among the Homeless Population in Mendocino County and Consider a Corresponding Letter to the Board of Supervisors Requesting Action.

Recommended Action: Consider and authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors regarding the County's sheltering plan and COVID-19 mitigation measures for the homeless.

Attachments:

1. 04-12-2020 COU Draft Letter to BOS regarding homeless-COVID-19 final

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Please be advised that the City needs to be notified 72 hours in advance of a meeting if any specific accommodations or interpreter services are needed in order for you to attend. The City complies with ADA requirements and will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities upon request. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the City Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the front counter at the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, CA 95482, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the City of Ukiah City Hall, located at 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, California, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting set forth on this agenda.

Kristine Lawler, City Clerk

Dated: 4/12/2020



AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT: Receive A Status Report on the City's Ongoing Request For the County of Mendocino's Sheltering Plan and Risk Mitigation Strategies to limit COVID-19 Spread Among the Homeless Population in Mendocino County and Consider a Corresponding Letter to the Board of Supervisors Requesting Action.

DEPARTMENT: City Manager / Admin **PREPARED BY:** Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager, Shannon Riley, Deputy City Manager
PRESENTER: Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 04-12-2020 COU Draft Letter to BOS regarding homeless-COVID-19 final

Summary: The City Council will receive a status report on the City's ongoing request for the County of Mendocino's sheltering plan and risk mitigation strategies to limit COVID-19 spread among the homeless population in Mendocino County and consider a corresponding letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting additional action.

Background: People who are homeless, including those living in encampments during public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 outbreak, have been specifically identified by public health officials as needing targeted support to avoid becoming sick. Strong coordination between County Public Health, County Health and Human Services, Emergency Management and other service providers is essential to develop the appropriate approaches and strategies to protect the health and well-being of people that are currently homeless. This is also vitally important to reduce community spread and mitigate the significant risk to public safety and our local health care system.

Unfortunately, this risk is materializing in many communities around the world, including this past week in San Francisco where 70 people tested positive in a single homeless shelter. Preemptive and coordinated measures are needed in Mendocino County to mitigate the risk COVID-19.

All homeless and health/human services, resources, and funding are provided at and through the County. Our rural cities in Mendocino County are completely reliant upon the County's administration, management, and delivery of these services.

The Public Health Orders issued by the County of Mendocino's Health Officer cites the importance of obtaining shelter for homeless individuals and strongly urges governmental agencies and other entities to, as soon as possible, make such shelter available (Section 2 of County's Public Health Order). Furthermore, the State of California, at the onset of the emergency, took immediate action to provide new funding/resources to the County and broaden the purposes of existing state homelessness funding already received for use on immediate solutions tailored to combating COVID-19 and its impacts on the homeless population.

Discussion: The City's Marbut/Homeless Ad-hoc, consisting of Councilmembers Brown and Scalmanini, met on Saturday, April 11 with City Staff to receive an update on the County's sheltering plan and risk mitigation strategies to limit COVID-19 spread among the homeless population in Mendocino County.

A noticeably larger number of unsheltered individuals in the county has emerged during this public health emergency. Encampments throughout the county, during and after this emergency, will continue to grow with the piecemeal delivery of services and efforts. It is unfair to place the burden on local law enforcement when the lack of coordination and oversight of County services is enabling illegal camping/sheltering, including the collection and distribution of tents and expansion of mobile services.

After reviewing and discussing the issue, the Ad-hoc requested a Special City Council meeting to review and consider the attached request of the County Board of Supervisors.

In summary, the draft letter requests the Board of Supervisors/County of Mendocino take the following actions (Attachment #1):

1. Details of the County's efforts to address sheltering and mitigation for the homeless population have been slow to materialize. There remains a lack of a unified approach among the County Office of Emergency Services, Health and Human Services, the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the County's contracted services providers, resulting in duplication of services, an inefficient utilization of already-scarce resources, and significant gaps in service. **To that end, the Council recommends the County immediately identify a point person with sufficient authority and scope to undertake a unified and coordinated response for this effort, and be appointed and empowered to report directly to the Executive Office and the Board of Supervisors.**
2. While the City disagrees with the County's approach regarding the encampment in the Runway Safety Area and firmly asserts a greater effort should be made for a suitable location and sheltering approach, CEO Angelo has asserted that the County will provide a specific focus on the encampment. The County's current level of service at this location is inadequate and lacks the proper sanitation, monitoring, security, coordinated support services and other specific points detailed in the County's Public Health Order. **To that end, the Council requests a detailed plan on how the County will provide the appropriate services at the encampment in the Runway Safety Area and to the remaining unsheltered homeless, who remain vulnerable to COVID-19 and thus, represent a significant risk of community spread. Within the plan, please provide specific detail for the transition to appropriate sheltering and a specific end date for services in the Runway Safety Area, which is critical to the safe and continued operation of the Ukiah Municipal Airport.**

Recommended Action: Consider and authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors regarding the County's sheltering plan and COVID-19 mitigation measures for the homeless.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED: N/A

CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

PROPOSED BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

FINANCING SOURCE: N/A

PREVIOUS CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER NO.: N/A

COORDINATED WITH: Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager

Approved: 
Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager

Dear Supervisors,

For more than a month, the City of Ukiah has sought information on the County's sheltering plan and risk mitigation strategies to limit COVID-19 spread among the homeless population in Mendocino County. There is a noticeably larger number of unsheltered individuals in the county that has emerged during this public health emergency. This is likely due in part to the modifications to intake/releases in the correction/judicial system along with modified service delivery of homeless related services by County Health and Human Services and contracted service providers. There is undoubtedly an increased risk to the homeless population from COVID-19 and as such, our first responders and health care resources are at significant risk from a major spread event. A preemptive and coordinated county-wide response is imperative.

We appreciate the County's work to develop a hotel voucher program for homeless individuals who are elderly or medically vulnerable or otherwise at high risk, and a quarantine/isolation plan for when individuals become sick. While these efforts are important, they fail to address a mitigation plan that must include sheltering, which has been identified as imperative, during this emergency for the greater homeless population and encampments. In fact, the County's Health Order specifically identifies the importance of providing shelter and/or other proper COVID-19 mitigation measures. It is important to note that all homeless and health/human services, resources, and funding are provided at and through the County. Our rural cities are completely reliant upon the County's administration, management, and delivery of these services.

Details of the County's efforts to address sheltering and mitigation for the homeless population have been slow to materialize. There remains a lack of a unified approach among the County Office of Emergency Services, Health and Human Services, the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the County's contracted services providers resulting in duplication of services, an inefficient utilization of already-scarce resources, and significant gaps in service. Please understand, that we make this point with a constructive emphasis and a desire to see a more effective planning model and response effort related to unsheltered individuals during as well as beyond this emergency event. This feedback is currently also being expressed by other stakeholders, providers and local jurisdictions. **To that end, the Council recommends the County immediately identify a point person with sufficient authority and scope to undertake a unified and coordinated response for this effort, and be appointed and empowered to report directly to the Executive Office and the Board of Supervisors.**

We want to further emphasize that this has been and remains a county-wide issue, not just a Ukiah issue, and currently the most apparent impact is in Ukiah on the north end of Runway Safety Area at the Ukiah Municipal Airport. This current issue grew from 15 people to well over 60 people since the onset of the COVID-19 emergency.

This encampment and others throughout the county will continue to grow with the piecemeal delivery of services and efforts. It is unfair to place the burden on local law enforcement when the lack of coordination and oversight of County services is enabling illegal camping/sheltering, including the collection and distribution of tents and expansion of mobile services. Furthermore, business and property owners in our community are experiencing increased levels of vandalism and theft, which can be directly attributed to this issue.

While we disagree with the County's approach regarding the encampment in the Runway Safety Area and firmly assert a greater effort should be made for a suitable location and sheltering approach, we do appreciate CEO Angelo's recognition that the County will provide a specific focus on this encampment. The County's current level of service at this location is inadequate and lacks the proper sanitation, monitoring, security, coordinated support services and other specific points detailed in the County's Public Health Order. **To that end, the Council requests a detailed plan on how the County will provide the appropriate services at the encampment in the Runway Safety Area and to the remaining unsheltered homeless who remain vulnerable to COVID-19 and thus, represent a significant risk of community spread. Within the plan, please provide specific detail for the transition to appropriate sheltering and a specific end date for services in the Runway Safety Area, which is critical to the safe and continued operation of the Ukiah Municipal Airport.**

We appreciate your service and thank you for addressing these concerns.

Sincerely,

Douglas F. Crane
Mayor, City of Ukiah

Authorized by: X-X vote of Ukiah City Council on 04-13-2020.

Cc:

Carmel Angelo, County CEO
Lt. Shannon Barney, EOC Manager
Brentt Blaser, Emergency Service Coordinator
Tammy Moss Chandler, HHSA Director
Dr. Noemi Doohan, Mendocino County Public Health Officer