

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution affirming SGVCOG guiding principles on homeless programs.

BACKGROUND

Whether the unhoused population within a city is large, small or nonexistent, all cities are impacted by homelessness. The San Gabriel Valley is within the Greater Los Angeles Continuum of Care which has the greatest number of unsheltered people in the nation. The cities in the San Gabriel Valley share major transportation corridors, riverbeds, hiking and bike trails. People, including those without housing, use these common transit-ways to traverse the region. Residents move between cities to conduct business, shop and worship. Wages for a large segment of society have remained flat, housing stock has not kept pace with the need, and the cost of housing has skyrocketed, creating a homelessness crisis.

Cities play a vital role in addressing homelessness as they control local zoning and land use ordinances. Local first responders are often the first point of contact for those who are unhoused. Residents turn first to city leadership to address the ancillary challenges that accompany an increase in homelessness in the community.

To address this challenge, Los Angeles County adopted the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative Strategies to Combat Homelessness. Recognizing the role of cities in addressing homelessness, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors allocated funding for individual cities to develop homelessness plans. During the Spring of 2018, an unprecedented 20 cities across the San Gabriel Valley created homeless plans. With cities all moving in the same direction addressing homelessness at the same time, a unique opportunity is presented to address the questions of how cities can collaborate and partner to address a challenge that is too complex for any one city to manage independently. As part of the planning process, cities identified subregional groupings and participated in discussions about implementing collaborative common and mutually supportive strategies.

Eight key cities that have been proactive and provide leadership in the homeless services and housing arena engaged in conversations addressing the challenges and opportunities of providing homeless services. These discussions have resulted in the policies outlined in the “San Gabriel Valley Positions on Homeless Housing, Shelter and Services Provision” (Attachment A). The cities participating in working group informing the document were Pasadena, El Monte, Pomona, Industry, South El Monte, Claremont, Baldwin Park and Temple City.

Fourteen staff participated in five meetings over five months to develop this document. The final draft was reviewed by the working group participants and final feedback provided prior to SGVCOG internal review. The Homelessness Committee and Executive Steer Committee provided revisions and approved the proffered document.

WHITE PAPER PRINCIPLES

This document is now presented for the Governing Board’s review and approval. The participating cities agreed upon four overarching categories, as follows:

REPORT

- Commitment to Help Solve the Crisis of Homelessness,
- Local Preference for Housing,
- Reciprocal Agreements and Cooperation in Providing Shelter, Services and Housing, and
- Expectations in Collaborating with the County.

Each category highlights various principles for cities to follow in order to collaborate and partner to effectively to address homelessness.

Prepared by: _____

Approved by: _____

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – White Paper

Attachment B – Resolution