



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Jacky Morales-Ferrand  
Harry Freitas

**SUBJECT: SEE BELOW**

**DATE:** June 28, 2016

Approved

Date

6/28/2016

## SUPPLEMENTAL

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF CHURCH SHELTER URGENCY ORDINANCE**

### REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL

This purpose of this supplemental memorandum is to provide a summary of public comment on the draft Church Shelter Urgency Ordinance received from faith-based communities and advocates engaged in providing shelter and services to homeless people.

### ANALYSIS

On Friday, June 24, 2016, staff from the Housing Department met with with members of faith-based communities for feedback on the draft Church Shelter Urgency Ordinance. Groups who participated in providing shelter or services at religious assembly sites were at the meeting, as well as advocates who provided support for the initiative.

#### **Number of People**

All the attendees felt that the 15 people per location limit was too low and should be increased. Attendees requested that the limit be increased to 20 or as high as 50 people per night, citing that their institutions have capacity to serve the increased numbers. Each faith-based community would determine the appropriate number of people, based on the size and the amenities of the facility. It was noted that many of the participants would be seeking grant funding from the Housing Trust of Silicon Valley to make needed capital improvements to their buildings to ensure the safety and comfort of the people seeking overnight shelter. Participants expressed concern that their applications for grant funding would not be as competitive without being able to show at least a 50% increase in the number of people served over the course of the year.

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### **Number of Days**

All of the participants expressed a strong preference for increasing the maximum number of total consecutive days allowed under the existing ordinance. The increases requested ranged from allowing 70 days in the winter and 70 days in the summer, 90 days, 120 days, or alternatively to allow for year-round shelter. While representatives were appreciative that the number of days was increased from 35 calendar days to 70 calendar days as recommended in the Housing Department's memorandum, they were concerned that they would have to send vulnerable people back out to the streets. For the faith-based groups, members stated that their experience showed that building trust with homeless guests takes a considerable amount of time, and the short periods currently allowed result in people being pushed back into unstable conditions just as they are establishing connections. Increasing the days would also provide the faith communities with flexibility to coordinate their services with other providers.

### **Timing of the Ordinance**

The group also expressed concern on when staff would be able to return to Council with a completed revised ordinance to replace the need for an urgency ordinance going forward. The attendees are anxious to provide a cohesive set of services and felt that if the revised ordinance could not be completed by fall, services would be interrupted and much needed winter relief would not be provided. This is because the majority, if not all, would reach the cap on the number of days they are allowed to shelter people under the Urgency Ordinance by the end of the summer.

### **Conclusion**

As part of the nonurgency ordinance update process, staff will consider increasing the number of people and days. The Urgency Ordinance allows faith-based communities to shelter people with a significantly reduced process, an elimination of fees and no public outreach. Additional analysis is needed to ensure that the increases do not negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood, that the facilities are adequate to shelter the number of people proposed, and that the design of the program meets the need of the community.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

/s/

JACKY MORALES-FERRAND

Director of Housing

/s/

HARRY FREITAS, DIRECTOR

Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

For questions, please contact Ray Bramson, Homeless Response Manager, at (408) 535-8234.