



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

July 2, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of the “City of Pomona Enhanced Strategic Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness” to Los Angeles County, Outlining Enhancements to the City of Pomona’s “A Way Home” Strategic Plan.

SUMMARY

Recommendation – It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of the “City of Pomona Enhanced Strategic Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness” to Los Angeles County, Chief Executive Office, outlining enhancements to the City of Pomona’s “A Way Home” Strategic Plan.

Fiscal Impact – Authorization to submit the enhanced strategic plan by City Council will have no fiscal impact, but may provide the ability to apply for Los Angeles County Measure H funding in the future. Any funding availability outlined within the plan would be brought back for Council approval.

Previously Related Action –On November 18, 2013, the City Council received a report on the “State of Homelessness”. On February 8, 2016, City Council directed staff to provide an updated strategic plan addressing homelessness within the City. On January 7, 2017 the City Council adopted “A Way Home: Community Solutions for Pomona’s Homeless”. On December 17, 2017, the City Council accepted \$70,000 of Measure H City Planning Grant Funds and awarded a contract to LeSar Development Consultants to assist the City in developing components of the Measure H City Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since accepting Los Angeles County’s Measure H City Planning Grant award, the City of Pomona has been working with LeSar Development Consultants to update and enhance the City’s adopted strategic plan on homelessness. To help inform the plan, the City gathered current statistical data on those who are homeless in Pomona and hosted a series of community meetings and focus groups to solicit input. The result of these efforts culminated in an enhanced strategic plan that has provided fourteen new strategies and activities, expanding the areas of service and focus. The plan also focused on aligning current plan strategies with available Measure H funding. Following adoption by City Council, the Enhanced Strategic Plan will be submitted to Los Angeles County.

BACKGROUND

On June 13, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved Measure H funding recommendations, including \$2,000,000 in one-time funding to support coordination efforts of the Councils of Governments and planning efforts for cities in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care. In September 2017, Los Angeles County and United Way of Greater Los Angeles’ Home For Good Funder Collaborative released a request for proposals to fund cities within Los Angeles County that would result in a Homelessness Plan for each city which receives a grant. There are 45 cities that received grants to create effective, localized solutions to the County’s growing homeless crises. Within the San Gabriel Valley region seventeen cities, including Pomona, received planning grant awards. That is the most cities of any region in the County. Because the City of Pomona had an existing strategic plan addressing homelessness, staff used the opportunity of the planning grant to enhance the strategies of “A Way Home.”

DISCUSSION

On January 9, 2017, the Pomona City Council adopted a strategic plan on homelessness, “A Way Home: Community Solutions for Pomona’s Homeless”, outlining recommended solutions to address homelessness within the City of Pomona. The plan was created utilizing recommendations provided by the Homeless Advisory Committee.

The original plan contained four goals, thirty strategies and over 200 activities that provide solutions to reduce the number of unsheltered persons currently living on the streets and addresses the negative impact of homelessness on the residents, neighborhoods, businesses and public places of Pomona.

Since the adoption of “A Way Home”:

- The City received a new Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless count in 2017 of 390 unsheltered person and 487 sheltered persons, with a total of 877 homeless persons and is expecting the new 2018 PIT Count numbers in the next few months.
- Construction of the Year-Round Shelter and Homeless Service Center is underway.
- A site operator and site partners for the Homeless Services Center have been identified.
- On March 7, 2017, the Measure H initiative passed by a 2/3rd voter approval creating an annual funding stream of \$350,000,000 for homeless services in Los Angeles County.
- The City of Pomona has applied for over \$6,000,000 in Measure H funding and has received just under \$5,400,000 to date.
- 45 cities received funding to create city plans to address homelessness. 17 of those cities are in the San Gabriel Valley and we are working together to develop a regional strategy.

Measure H City Planning Grant

Although Pomona already has a strategic plan to address homelessness, the County’s Measure H City Planning Grant funding allowed the City to further develop this plan and to enhance it with current demographic data and much needed input from those with lived experience in homelessness. It also afforded the City an opportunity to engage consultants to help execute key and urgent components of the City’s adopted Homelessness Strategic Plan, specifically related to the Year-Round Emergency Shelter and Homeless Service Center.

As part of this planning effort the City 1) engaged in an updated demographic survey of the homeless, surveying homeless persons currently in Pomona and accessing Coordinated Entry System data for the past year of those homeless in Pomona; 2) hosted a “Lived Experience Summit” for those who were currently homeless in Pomona and a focus group for those who had experienced homelessness but have been recently housed in Pomona; 3) developed a program plan for the Homeless Service Center that provides an outline of services, measurable outcomes for operation and coordinated data collection for all site partners; 4) coordinated on a regional level with other cities that are part of the SGVCOG and worked locally with partner cities of the Tri City Mental Health Authority jurisdiction; and 5) aligned the City’s strategies on homelessness with Measure H funding to better position the City to apply for funding in the future.

In addition, during the planning process, the City also presented the 2018 “A Way Home” Annual Update to the Pomona Continuum of Care Coalition, the Community Life Commission, and a service organization. In July, staff will be presenting the annual update, the enhanced strategy and an update on the Homeless Service Center to the Homeless Advisory Committee.

All of these efforts informed the City of Pomona’s Enhanced Strategic Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness (Attachment 2) that will be submitted to Los Angeles County, along with the City’s currently adopted strategic plan, “A Way Home.” (Appendix F) The outline of goals, strategies and activities will then be merged into one comprehensive plan.

City of Pomona’s Enhanced Strategic Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness

The City of Pomona’s Enhanced Strategic Plan will include the following upon submission to the County:

1. An outline of the enhancements to the City’s current strategic plan incorporated in the outline provided by Los Angeles County; with a
 - a. Lived Experience Summit Report;
 - b. Coordinated Entry System Data Analysis;
 - c. Summary of Services to be provided at the Homeless Service Center;
 - d. Homeless Service Center Output and Outcome Summary;
 - e. Homeless Service Center Performance Monitoring Plan;
 - f. “A Way Home” Community Solutions for Pomona’s Homeless strategic plan; and,
 - g. “A Way Home” Annual Update June 2018

Following is an outline of the enhancements to the City’s current strategic plan:

CITY OF POMONA ENHANCEMENTS TO “A WAY HOME”	
GOAL A	Reduce the Number of Pomona’s Unsheltered Homeless
A.1.10	Create and Enter Into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) With and Between All Homeless Service Center Site Partners Delineating Roles and Responsibilities and Establishing Data Sharing/Collection/Reporting Protocols.
A.3.8	Work with local Public Workforce Systems to enhance workforce opportunities by providing program and office space at the Homeless Service Center (HSC)
A.3.9	Develop a Work Program at the Homeless Services Center (HSC) that allows those seeking housing an opportunity to earn income onsite to help end their homelessness.
A.4.8	Provide service referral, resources and linkage to the Pomona HEART Team and Pomona Police HOST program through Outreach Team efforts.
A.4.9	Coordinate local Outreach efforts with County and Regional outreach efforts to better serve the homeless and reduce duplication of effort.
Strategy A5	<i>Establish a Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) for Families and Individuals</i>
Strategy A6	<i>Utilize the Pomona Housing Authority to Access Programs and Resources that will Increase Access to Permanent, Stable Housing for Homeless Persons</i>
Strategy A7	<i>Explore Development of All Housing Options including: Tiny Homes, Shared Housing, Roommate Matching, Accessory Dwelling Units, Motel Conversions, Rehabilitation of Aging Housing Stock, Inclusionary Housing, Public Land Use for Homeless Housing, and Preserving Current Affordable Housing.</i>
GOAL B	Reduce the Negative Impacts on Community Neighborhoods and Public Spaces through the Coordination of Services
B.11.8.	Establish a recuperative care program that would provide safe shelter options for the most vulnerable homeless that are in need of intermediate medical care.
Strategy B12	<i>Establish a Lived Experience Advisory Council at the Homeless Service Center to provide policy input, peer programming and consumer evaluation</i>
Strategy B13	<i>Host Lived Experience and Housed (LEH) group meetings at the Homeless Services Center periodically, inviting Center members to participate prior to reaching housing and creating peer mentoring opportunities for LEH members</i>
Strategy B14	<i>Ensure that core principles such as Motivational Interviewing, Trauma Informed Care, Harm Reduction and Housing First are incorporated into the operation of the Homeless Service Center and City funded homeless programs.</i>
GOAL C	Have an Engaged and Informed Community Regarding Homelessness and Homeless Solutions
C.5.12	Implement Performance Review Monitoring for the HSC and Site Partners using process improvement tools based on the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) model
Strategy C11	<i>Establish a Protocol for Identifying Homeless Service Center (HSC) Site Partners, Service Partners, Community Partners and Site Volunteers; Delineating the Responsibilities, Authority and Interactions of each Entity.</i>
GOAL D	Balance the Needs and Rights of Homeless Persons and the Larger Community through Updated Fair, Legal and Enforceable Ordinances and Policies

Adoption of the “City’s Enhanced Strategic Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness”

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Staff recommends that City Council adopt the City of Pomona Enhanced Strategic Plan as provided for submission to the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office upon approval.

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: City of Pomona Enhance Strategic Plan with Appendices

Prepared by Benita DeFrank