



Homeless Services Panel of Experts

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts
 Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chair, Homeless Services Panel of Experts
 Subject: Request for One Additional Meeting in 2024 due to Special Meeting to Address Insight Housing Allocation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council recommend to refer to the City Manager that one additional meeting be granted to the Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE) in 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Fiscal impacts of one additional HSPE meeting are minimal. An additional meeting requires a room at the North Berkeley Senior Center and staff secretary time as well as a commissioner stipend.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Generally, City commissions are permitted 10 regularly scheduled meetings a year. However, Council may approve additional meetings.

BACKGROUND

On July 10, 2024, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE) held their regularly scheduled meeting.

On the agenda was a staff request for a recommendation transferring \$549,785 previously allocated for the acquisition of Insight Housing's Russell House to Insight Housing's Dwight Way Shelter for rehab funds.

However, there was no staff report, supporting the staff recommendation, ready for the HSPE commissioners to review. The HSPE commissioners were uncomfortable making a recommendation without full information as they believed that they would not be compliant with fulfilling their statutorily mandated duties.

Thus, as a consensus, they agreed that the Chair should call a special meeting. They further agreed that meeting be scheduled on July 22, 2024 so that there would be time to receive the staff report, review it and communicate their recommendation to Council on July 23, 2024 when the issue of the transfer of these funds was on the Council agenda.

The Chair subsequently presented to Council the Homeless Services Panel of Experts' recommendation at the July 23, 2024 Council meeting recommending the transfer of these funds.

On July 22, 2024, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts voted as follows:

Action: M/S/C Segal/Meany move to approve the report to City Council to compensate for July 22, 2024 Special meeting so that HSPE can hold regular meetings in September, October, and November, 2024 subject to the edits discussed by the panel to be submitted by the chair.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Meany, and Bookstein.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Palmatier (LoA), Kealoha-Blake, and Jones.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The HSPE commissioners believed that in order to fulfill their statutorily mandated duties, they need to be fully informed to make recommendations. The staff report making a recommendation to Council is critical for commissioners to review before making a recommendation.

Thus, the HSPE commissioners believed that it was necessary for the Chair to call a special meeting.

During the balance of the year from August, 2024-December, 2024, there are only 3 remaining scheduled meetings, September, October and November. Particularly given the many evolving issues related to homelessness as well as homeless funding issues that may arise, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts believes that they need to hold these regularly scheduled 3 meetings during the balance of 2024. That requires reinstating the 1 additional meeting.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No other alternatives were considered.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

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