



**Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts**

MEETING AGENDA

Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center
2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor
Commission Secretary: Peter Radu (981-5435)

**November 6, 2019
7:00 PM**

1. Roll Call.
2. Public Comment on agenda and non-agenda items.
3. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2019 [Attachment 1].

Updates/Action Items:

4. Agenda Approval.
5. Election of Vice-Chair.
6. Updates from Chair and Staff on budget recommendation time frame and other City business related to homelessness.
7. Update from Agenda and Work Plan Subcommittee, including possible action by the full Commission [Attachment 2].
8. Approval of 2020 Homeless Services Panel of Experts Meeting Schedule [Attachment 3].
9. Discussion, and possible action, of Council sanctioned encampment item [Attachment 4].
10. Discussion of Monitoring Measure P recommendations (No Action)
11. Discussion of the Panel's Role in Making Policy Recommendations (No Action)
12. Adjourn

Attachments:

1. Minutes from regular meeting of October 2, 2019.
2. Draft Work Plan for Years 2019-2020: Panel of Experts (Measure P).
3. Proposed 2020 Homeless Services Panel of Experts Regular Meeting Schedule.
4. Revised Council recommendation item on emergency outdoor shelter for October 15, 2019 meeting.
5. Letter to Council from HSPE on Housing Framework.

Public Comment Policy:

Members of the public may speak on any items on the Agenda and items not on the Agenda during the initial Public Comment period. Members of the public may not speak more than once on any given item. The Chair may limit public comments to 3 minutes or less.

A Vibrant and Healthy Berkeley for All

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https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions_Homeless_Services_Panel_of_Experts.aspx

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Health, Housing & Community Services Department located at 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor.

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https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions_Homeless_Services_Panel_of_Experts.aspx



**Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts**

MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2019

1. Roll Call: 7:01 PM

Present: Carrasco, cheema, Gale, Jordan, Metz (absent 7:01-7:02), Patil, Prado, Sutton (absent 7:01-7:19),

Absent: Trotz (leave of absence).

Staff: Carnegie, Radu

Council: McCormick

Public: 16

2. Comments from the Public: 7.

Update/Action Items

3. Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2019.

Action: M/S/C Jordan/Carrasco to approve the minutes of September 4, 2019 as written.

Vote: Ayes: Carrasco, cheema, Gale, Jordan, Metz, Patil, Prado, Sutton.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Trotz

4. Agenda Approval.

Action: M/S/C Jordan/Sutton to approve the agenda with the following amendment: moving agenda item #8, Update and discussion on Homeless Panel of Experts and Measure O Coordination, after agenda item #6, Discussion and possible action on drafting Homeless Services Panel of Experts work plan for FY2020.

Vote: Ayes: Carrasco, cheema, Gale, Jordan, Metz, Patil, Prado, Sutton.
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Trotz.

5. Discussion and possible action of a best practices letter, including creating a subcommittee.

An Agenda and Workplan subcommittee was created and the Chair appointed the following Commissioners: Metz, Carrasco, cheema, and Sutton.

6. Discussion and possible action on drafting a Homeless Services Panel of Experts workplan for FY2020.

Discussion; no action taken.

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7. Update and discussion on Homeless Panel of Experts and Measure O coordination.

Discussion; no action taken.

8. Discussion and possible action on the policy framework proposal, "Housing for a Diverse, Equitable, and Creative Berkeley," referred by Council.

Action: M/S/C cheema/Sutton to authorize the Chair to draft and refer a letter to Council to express feedback on behalf of the commission regarding the policy framework.

Vote: Ayes: Carrasco, cheema, Gale, Jordan, Metz, Patil, Prado, Sutton.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Trotz.

9. Propose agenda items for next meeting.

Commissioners requested the following items to be agenzized for the next meeting:

- Election of Vice-Chair
- Update from Agenda and Workplan Subcommittee
- Report-back from 10/29 Council meeting of the Panel's budget recommendations
- Discussion of Council's Sanctioned Encampment item.

10. Adjourn

Action: M/S/C cheema/Jordan to adjourn the meeting in memory of Michael Diehl.

Vote: Ayes: Carrasco, cheema, Gale, Jordan, Metz, Patil, Prado, Sutton.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Trotz.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Minutes Approved on: _____

Peter Radu, Commission Secretary: _____

WORK PLAN for years 2019-20
Panel of Experts (measure P)
DRAFT FORMAT FOR REVIEW

Vision

Measure P Panel of Experts will consider currently unmet needs, gaps and opportunities, best practices and currently available data on outcomes. We will make recommendations for increased local investment, including program types, target populations and geographic areas as appropriate. We will seek to consider the best use of these investments in the context of other available Federal, State and local funding. In general we will not make recommendations on the specific agencies to receive funding, nor run our own proposal process, recognizing this as a role for staff and the Council.

Reporting Recommendations

1. Subcommittee produce an annual report to be published in August meeting the requirements of the legislation: “recommendations on how to allocate the City’s general funds to fund homeless services program in Berkeley; information if available, concerning the impact of funded programs on the residents of the City; and any additional information that the Panel deems appropriate.”
2. Produce quarterly memos for city council with updates and input on city funding proposals and decisions.

Recommendations for Agenda Items

- 1) Standing item: Public Comment
- 2) Standing item: 10-15 minute verbal update from City staff on budget items related to homelessness
- 3) Agenda items based on workplan goals below

Goal	Tasks/Agenda	Meeting Date	Recommendations
Goal 1: Create a work plan as a road map for accomplishing the work in a systematic and focused way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee presents a draft to full panel • Committee provides input • Establish subcommittee to prepare for January meeting. 	November 6, 2019 Final Plan January 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee integrates feedback and submits final plan • Submit to City Council
Goal 2: Finalize Guiding Principles and values, draft best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel members share expertise and best practice knowledge • Determine guiding principles for spending new funding (examples: funding leverages other resources, builds system, serves the most vulnerable) 	January 8, 2020	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish subcommittee to focus on consumer input (March meeting) 		
Goal 3: Fully understand Current Landscape of Homeless services currently provided, their outcomes, financing, effectiveness, budgets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request staff provide information needed for panel priority areas- focus on housing and shelter. Presentation on current status, gaps, and coordinated entry process Discuss opportunities to fill key areas of need and leverage existing resources 	February 5, 2020	Preparation of memo with guiding principles, best practices, and recommendations for current opportunities.
Goal 4: Establish recommendations for on-going method to collect consumer input to inform committee, staff and council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee present best practices Staff present current practices Discussion on how to bring consumer input into planning process. 	March 4, 2020	Send recommendations to staff for implementation.
Goal 5: Understand the budget cycle and key timelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff presentation and Q&A session 	April 1, 2020	
Goal 6: Understand potential financial resources that can be leveraged to maximize funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measure O Health Department No Place Like Home HHAP School District 	May, 6, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide groups with key questions to answer, including current programs that touch homelessness and opportunities for partnership.
Goal 7: Produce Annual Report	Review minutes, agendas and other relevant materials Produce Draft Report	August	Submit to Council



Health, Housing & Community
Services Department

To: Homeless Services Panel of Experts
From: Peter Radu, Secretary
Date: November 6, 2019
Subject: **Homeless Services Panel of Experts 2020 Meeting Schedule**

Each November Commissions set their meeting schedule for the following calendar year for submission to the City Clerk's Office. Below is the proposed schedule for 2020, with regular meetings continuing to be held at the Homeless Services Panel of Experts traditional time, the 1st Wednesday of every month except for August and December.

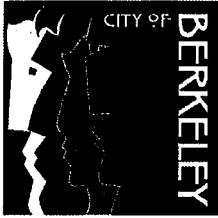
All meetings for 2020 will take place in the Cypress Room, 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

The Commission needs to take formal action to approve this calendar at the 11/6/19 meeting.

Proposed Regular Schedule for 2020

Month	Meeting Date
January 2020	<i>No meeting</i>
February 2020	2/5/20
March 2020	3/4/20
April 2020	4/1/20
May 2020	5/6/20
June 2020	6/3/20

Month	Meeting Date
July 2020	7/1/20
August 2020	<i>No Meeting</i>
September 2020	9/2/20
October 2020	10/7/20
November 2020	11/4/20
December 2020	<i>No Meeting</i>



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

*Brittany
Carnegie
HHCS
Carnegie*

REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: October 15, 2019

Item Number: 38

Item Description: Sanctioned Homeless Encampments

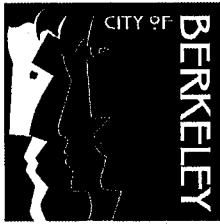
Submitted by: Kate Harrison and Cheryl Davila

Added Mayor Arreguin and Councilmember Robinson as co-sponsors.

Changed references to "sanctioned encampments" to "emergency outdoor shelter" for consistency with the Modesto project.

Corrected the estimate of the cost of portable toilets.

Added attachments 3 and 5, which did not attach properly upon initial submission.



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

ACTION CALENDAR
October 15, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers ~~Kate Harrison, and Cheryl Davila, Mayor Arreguin, and Councilmember Robinson~~

Subject: ~~Sanctioned Homeless Encampments~~ Establishing the Outdoor Emergency Shelter

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt five referrals to the City Manager to begin the process of establishing a ~~sanctioned homeless encampment~~ n outdoor emergency shelter in Berkeley:

1. Enter into a contract to purchase climate-controlled, wind-resistant durable tents.
2. Issue a Request for Proposals for an agency to manage and oversee the encampment emergency shelter.
3. Install a portable toilet and handwashing station at the encampment emergency shelter parcel.
4. Request that Lava Mae to service the encampment emergency shelter parcel once a week, thereby reinstating the City's twice weekly service standard.
5. Add the encampment emergency shelter parcel to an existing garbage pickup route.

Refer the costs associated with establishing the encampment outdoor emergency shelter, about \$5200,000, to the November budget process.

BACKGROUND

According to the Alameda County Point In Time count (see Attachment 1), there are 1108 homeless people living in Berkeley, 813 of whom are unsheltered. Of those people, 251 individuals are sleeping in a tent and 231 are sleeping on a street, sidewalk, or in a park. People in Berkeley are sleeping in tents, whether officially sanctioned or not. Under current policy, many of these encampments do not have any trash, sanitary services, good neighbor policy, or engagement with services, creating unsanitary and unsafe circumstances for both the residents of the encampments and surrounding neighbors.

Over the past several years, Berkeley has made significant investments in affordable housing and supportive services, such as approving the Berkeley Way¹ project that will permanently house 59, and the Pathways STAIR Center which has already housed over 100² in a year of existence. Our long-term investments are working, but in the short term, people are sleeping in tents and outdoors without durable shelter, a potentially dangerous situation with autumn smoke and winter rains approaching.

Sanctioned encampments should be seen only as a temporary fix. Berkeley must continue to build permanently affordable housing and provide comprehensive services to lift people out of homelessness and into homes. However, despite our recent gains, we are still unable to serve all homeless people in Berkeley simultaneously, and there are still gaps in service. An ~~sanctioned encampment~~ emergency outdoor shelter with durable tents and sanitation services is a short term option that is safer and cleaner than the status quo of unsanctioned camping throughout the City. The intention of this item is to create a limited number of sanctioned encampments operated in an organized fashion.

The state of California has declared a shelter emergency.³ The City of Berkeley has declared a shelter emergency.⁴ Berkeley's shelter beds are at capacity just about every night. At present, the need far outweighs the available beds, and it is time to look at other, temporary options.

Establishing a limited number of ~~sanctioned homeless encampments~~ emergency outdoor shelters would represent a positive step for the housed Berkeley community as well. Lack of sanitation services, garbage collection, and potable water can spread infection and disease. Currently, rather than investing in resources to address these important issues, significant resources are being spent on enforcement, simply moving the issues elsewhere in Berkeley. The benefit of an emergency outdoor shelter ~~sanctioned encampment~~ is the ability to choose the most appropriate location, and provide appropriate services, rather than current disorder.

At the September 10, 2019 City Council meeting, unhoused people and their advocates attended with signs⁵ that read "Where Do We Go?" There is currently a community of about 80 living in tents or on the street in the area surrounding the I-80 freeway entrance on University Avenue. People live on a combination of City of Berkeley parkland and CalTrans-owned medians, and the incongruent agencies have created an untenable situation for the residents. CalTrans police chase residents onto City land, then City land pushes residents back onto CalTrans property, and there is no location where anyone can sleep safely. Sleeping in parks has long been prohibited by BMC 6.32.020.

¹ <https://bfhp.org/news/berkeley-way/>

² "Pathways STAIR Center: First Year Data Evaluation and Results-Based Accountability Dashboard", Item 41, September 24, 2019 Berkeley City Council meeting.

³ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB932

⁴ "Extension of Housing Crisis Declaration." Item 10, October 31, 2017, Berkeley City Council meeting.

⁵ http://berkeley.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=627e4d8c-d4ce-11e9-b703-0050569183fa

The Pathways STAIR Center, on the corner of Second and Cedar Streets, acts as a hub for homeless services. The Center is made up of a series of modular buildings on a City-owned lot, with services provided by the Bay Area Community Services (BACS). There is space at the south end of the lot (adjacent to Virginia Street) that is not currently being used (see Attachment 7). Due to its proximity to existing services, including social and housing placement services, showers, and laundry, and the fact that the lot is City-owned, the south end of the STAIR Center lot is a potential location for a City-sanctioned encampment emergency shelter.

Another possibility is at 611-639 University Ave, beneath the bridge connecting Fourth St and the Waterfront. It is a City-owned⁶ lot surrounded by light industry manufacturing to the North, South, and East, and I-80 and Eastshore Highway to the West. There are currently about 15 tents set up in an alley between the lot in question and an industrial plant at 1930 Second St. It is currently not possible to set up tents in the 611-639 University lot because there is a barbed wire fence surrounding it. The lot is mostly empty, with some room used to store old pipes, shipping containers, and other disused pieces of construction equipment.

Regardless of current use, the lot has room for about 15 tents from east to west (judging by the number of tents that are already along the north side of the lot) and, by estimate, room for about 5-8 tents from north to south. Arranged into a grid, there is the potential for up to 75-120 tents on this parcel of City-owned but under-utilized property.

Beyond simply being owned by the City of Berkeley, there are other amenities that make it a strong candidate for the location of a sanctioned homeless encampment an emergency outdoor shelter. It is surrounded on all sides by MULI (light industrial manufacturing), so there is no chance of an encampment disturbing residential or commercial neighbors. Moreover, is not visible from I-80. The lot is adjacent to areas where unhoused people are currently living, thus transferring to this location would permit this community to stay together. There is a water main about 15 feet from the lot line (see attached pictures). The location is three blocks away from the Pathways STAIR Center and about a mile away from Berkeley Mental Health. The location fits the needs of our unhoused community, and is currently housing only old pipes. It is a smart location for a City-managed encampment emergency shelter.

Several other cities have already⁷ sanctioned homeless encampments established similar emergency shelters in response to this housing and homelessness crisis. In February, the City of Modesto⁸ established several hundred tents under a bridge, where about 300-400 people sleep every night.⁹ The project, called the Modesto Outdoor Emergency Shelter (MOES), has proven extremely successful. On September 7, 2019, Gavin

⁶ Attachment 4

⁷ https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/vb9we3/the-homelessness-crisis-is-getting-so-bad-that-cities-are-now-building-their-own-camps

⁸ <https://www.modbee.com/news/local/article226465300.html>

⁹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_gQ54kZXmA&t=65s

Newsom's Homeless and Supportive Housing Advisory Task Force met in Modesto to "observe best practices firsthand."¹⁰ MOES provides portable bathrooms, showers, and handwashing stations, nonprofits and agencies bring food, medical, mental health, and rehousing services, and the encampment is fenced and monitored by a security guard. An editorial in the Modesto Bee applauded MOES for "easing some suffering, however temporary."¹¹ The Sacramento Mayor and City Council are also looking at using Modesto's model.¹² Sacramento, like Berkeley, is in the process of building new shelters and affordable housing developments, but "as the city enters another month in crisis, other alternatives are coming to the fore."¹³

Berkeley looked previously considered sanctioned encampments. At the February 13, 2018 Council meeting, the Council referred to the Homeless Commission a series of questions about what a sanctioned encampment may look like, including how many residents, who provides facilities, how rules are enforced, etc (see Attachment 6). In the 18 months since this referral, homelessness has gone up, as has the need for City-designated encampments.

Modesto, Sacramento, and Governor Newsom have all recently concluded that sanctioned encampments are an appropriate temporary addendum, and that MOES models best practices for sanctioned encampments. Berkeley has the opportunity to learn from Modesto and MOES, and establish ~~a sanctioned encampment~~ a similar outdoor emergency shelter.

Durable Tents

Working with suppliers to provide durable, waterproof tents would be a major step toward improving the health, safety and quality of life of Berkeley's homeless population. Nearly one third of Berkeley's homeless population currently lives in tents or makeshift shelters, a number that has doubled in the past two years.¹⁴ Creating a space with durable tents would allow this sizeable part of the homeless community to shift away from temporary and potentially unsafe, unsanitary and weather-prone tents.

Modesto established an encampment that now houses approximately 400 people in 290 10x10ft waterproof tents,¹⁵ donated by the Reno-based company Qamp.¹⁶ These tents include a heavy-duty steal frame, screen door, and an insulating heat-reflective roof.¹⁷ Partnering with a local company to acquire similarly-sized tents would increase security, community wellbeing and order at the new encampment. Additionally, a 10x10ft space

¹⁰ <https://www.modbee.com/news/local/article234754707.html>

¹¹ <https://www.modbee.com/opinion/editorials/article234558672.html>

¹² <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/homeless/article234483397.html>

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ 2019 HIRD Report

¹⁵ <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/homeless/article234483397.html>

¹⁶ <https://qamp.com/products/qamp-tent?variant=35987893763>

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

grants homeless individuals a larger, constant and secure location to fit their belongings, exceeding the 9 square feet allocation permitted by the Sidewalk Ordinance.

Other durable tents include those made by ShiftPod¹⁸, and Sweetwater Bungalows¹⁹ produces larger tents intended for entire families. The purpose of this item is not to specify a vendor, but to lay out basic criteria for safe tents, including but not limited to:

- Insulation
- Wind resistance
- Solid (easy to set up and take down, but with a durable frame)

Security and Services

A successful emergency shelter ~~homeless encampment~~ will require the City providing services its residents. Such services include but are not limited to:

- Coordination of safety and security
- Coordination of volunteerism and donations
- Supportive services (such as case management)
- Rehabilitative opportunities to support the transition out homelessness

Modesto partnered with Turning Point Community Programs to manage all of these services.²⁰²¹ The city also invited other charitable organizations like the Salvation Army²² to assist with shelter management and food services. Berkeley could similarly work with local organizations specialized in such projects or expand existing city government services to the new shelter.

Having a team to supervise the camp and provide case management, psychological services, and job search support would ensure that the homeless residents have a shot at keeping their stay in the ~~encampment~~ emergency shelter to a minimum. This could be handled similarly to the Pathways project, or through a mechanism similar to that of Modesto's outsourcing of most service responsibilities to non-profit organizations.

A safe and secure environment is vital to the ~~encampment~~ success of the project. Setting up a fence and hiring a security team, as was done in Modesto,²³ would be one way to achieve this goal, though the lot at 611 University already has a fence surrounding it. Just as in Modesto, the need for security would have to be balanced with limited restrictions on entry and exit. Regulating permitted activities and items brought into the camp would also help ensure improved safety for its residents. Mobility around the camp can be ensured by capping the amount or size of possessions at what residents can fit in their

¹⁸ <https://shiftpod.com/shiftpod/shelter>

¹⁹ <https://www.sweetwaterbungalows.com/>

²⁰ <https://www.tpcp.org/programs/moes/>

²¹ <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/modesto/modesto-homeless-community-to-leave-beard-brook-for-new-location/103-622123290>

²² <http://www.stancounty.com/bos/agenda/2019/20190226/DIS01.pdf>

²³ <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/homeless/article234483397.html>

own tents. A ban on bonfires would drastically reduce the risk to health and life of residents.

Toilets and Handwashing Stations

The potential for disease in compact outdoor emergency shelters is significant, and decreases dramatically with adequate access to handwashing.²⁴ In 2017, three counties in California experienced an unprecedented hepatitis A outbreak that was primarily carried by the homeless population.²⁵ As part of the response, San Diego County implemented 160 new handwashing stations, which was highly influential in curbing the spread of the disease.²⁶ The Here/There encampment on Ashby and Adeline has a portable toilet and handwashing station that was donated by Friends of Adeline,²⁷ because proper sanitation for the homeless encampments is beneficial to entire communities.

There is a water pipe just northwest of the lot at 611-639 University (see Attachment 5) and while the toilet may be portable, there is the possibility to install a real handwashing station with running water, which would reduce the costs to refill a reservoir. Even if the City decides that both the toilet and handwashing station are to be portable, the proximity to potable water provides options.

Mobile Shower Services

Berkeley has an ongoing partnership with Lava Mae, a mobile shower charity. Access to showers prevents disease and allows unhoused people to live in dignity. In addition to showers, Lava Mae and other organizations such as Dignity On Wheels also organize day-long “care villages” that provide dental care, haircuts, clothing, vaccinations, and other services. For several months Lava Mae has been operating at two pilot locations in near the STAIR Center and at the Progressive Baptist Church.²⁸ However, according to City staff, Lava Mae is relocating their South Berkeley location to West Oakland. The mobile shower program has been extremely successful and has improved quality of life for unhoused people in Berkeley. Rather than sending those services to Oakland, we should expand them. Any sanctioned encampment will need some shower services for simple sanitary purposes, and by bringing them to Second and University, Berkeley can reinstate the previous practice of having mobile showers twice weekly, at two separate locations. Reinstating services at this location should not preclude finding other strategic locations for mobile shower services in Berkeley.

²⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/why-handwashing.html>

²⁵ <https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/02/california-scrambles-to-contain-deadly-hepatitis-a-outbreaks/>

²⁶ <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/cosd/SanDiegoHepatitisAOutbreak-2017-18-AfterActionReport.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2017/07/18/homeless-camp-city-berkeley-want-bathroom>

²⁸ [file:///C:/Users/sbarnard/Downloads/2019-09-10%20Item%2066%20Referral%20Response%20Lava%20Mae%20Mobile%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/sbarnard/Downloads/2019-09-10%20Item%2066%20Referral%20Response%20Lava%20Mae%20Mobile%20(1).pdf)

Trash Pickup

On June 4, 2019 the Modesto City Council voted unanimously to perform garbage removal and disposable services for the Outdoor Emergency Shelter (see Attachment 2). Reliable garbage pickup is crucial to the success of any homeless services. Excessive garbage is highly detrimental to all City residents, as it is unsightly and can attract rodents and disease. Housed Berkeleyans have their garbage removed and disposed of once a week. Unhoused people oscillate between having nothing, and having all of their belongings removed that do not fit in nine square feet, whether it is garbage or not.

There is enormous need for refuse services for the homeless population. Early reports on enforcement of the Sidewalk Ordinance indicate that thousands of pounds of refuse have already been removed, since implementation began six months ago. Many complaints regarding homelessness to Council offices and 311 are concerning garbage and illegal dumping. All residents of Berkeley deserve clean streets, and refuse removal will provide not only cleanliness and safety to homeless residents, but more harmony among the community at large as well.

Initiating refuse service is a process typically initiated by the property owner²⁹ and performed by the Customer Service Division. Because 611-639 University is owned by the City of Berkeley, this item refers the initiation of refuse services to the City Manager.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs below could be considered most appropriate coming from Measure P funds allocated for Sshelter and a Temporary Accommodations, CDBG funds, Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds, or the General Fund.

1. High quality tents can be expensive, with potential discounts for purchasing in bulk. However, Modesto had all tents donated by a local company. Maximum of \$10,000 to be spent on purchasing tents, and preference for donations, if possible.
2. The City of Berkeley allocates about \$170,000 annually for the Veteran's Building shelter which provides a comparable level of services as what would be needed for this encampment. This funding comes from CDBG funding as an emergency shelter service.
3. A portable toilet can be rented for \$78/month,³⁰ which includes weekly cleanings, and handwashing stations for \$93/month.³¹ Alternatively they can be purchased outright for between \$500 and \$1000 each, but staff time would be required to clean them regularly. For a large encampment, 2-4 portable toilets seems appropriate. shelter of 100-150 people, 63 portable toilets would be required if

²⁹

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Customer Service/Home/Refuse Start, Stop, or Change Service.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Customer%20Service/Home/Refuse%20Start,%20Stop,%20or%20Change%20Service.aspx)

³⁰ <https://www.portapottyrentalguide.com/advice/prices/>

³¹ *Ibid.*

cleaned once a week, or nine if cleaned every day. Approximately \$255,000 per year for the toilet services of an outdoor shelter of this kind.

4. 20 yard dumpsters are approximately \$500 per week to rent, and 96-gallon trash receptacles are about \$100 each. A large dumpster may be necessary immediately upon set-up of the emergency shelter encampment, and several receptacles for ongoing use. Staff time to accrete the lot into a regular refuse pickup route.

All told, the expected amount needed is about \$5200,000 per year.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Regular refuse removal will decrease littering and illegal dumping, in line with the City's Zero Waste goals.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, (510) 981-7140

ATTACHMENTS

- 1: Summary of Point in Time Count, 2019.
- 2: Modesto City Ordinance 2019-254.
- 3: *City Officials Suddenly Support Homeless Tent Cities, Car Camps in Sacramento Neighborhoods*, Sacramento Bee, August 29, 2019.
- 4: Map of 2nd and University and surrounding areas.
- 5: Pictures of 2nd and University and surrounding areas.
- 6: Supplemental 3 to Item 38a, "First They Came For The Homeless Encampment" at February 13, 2018 Berkeley City Council Meeting.
- 7: Map of 2nd and Virginia and surrounding areas.

SECTIONS   

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

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As homeless men, women and children in Sacramento wait for three new large shelters to open, another model that local officials have repeatedly rejected over the years is now quickly gaining traction.

The “safe ground” model – essentially creating an area where homeless people can live safely in tent cities or in cars – has not been a part of Mayor Darrell Steinberg’s homeless plan. Steinberg has instead been pushing hard for large shelters with rehousing services. But as the city enters its fifth month without a city-run shelter, other alternatives are now coming to the fore.

Councilman Jeff Harris was previously opposed to the “safe ground” model, along with most of the council aside from Councilman Allen Warren. Now, Harris is proposing the city open a temporary homeless camp similar to one Modesto and Stanislaus County opened earlier this year.

TOP ARTICLES



“To get from today until we stand up more shelter beds, which we desperately need, I suggest we take a look at the safe ground model,” Harris said.

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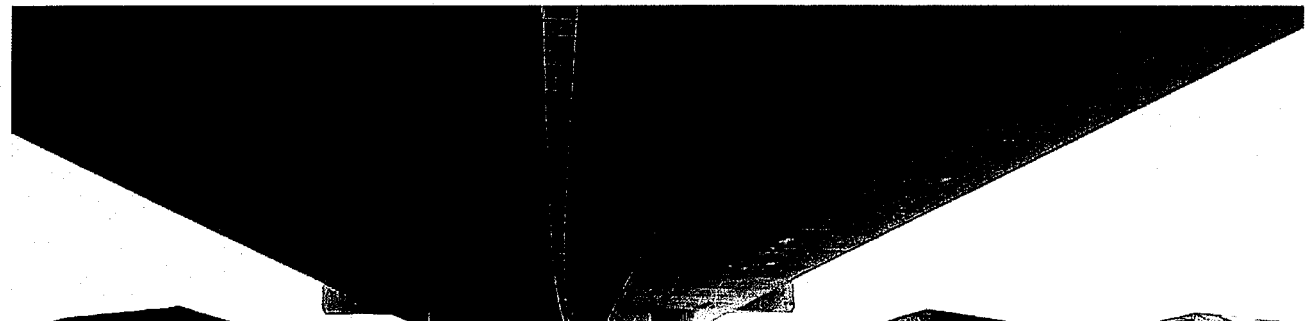
[SAVE NOW](#)

Harris and city staff earlier this month traveled to Modesto to check out that model. He liked what he saw.

The camp, officially called [the Modesto Outdoor Emergency Shelter](#), opened underneath a bridge in a regional park in February. It holds roughly 400 campers who sleep in about 290 white and blue 10-foot-by-10-foot tents donated by a Reno company called Qamp, said Doug Halcomb, the camp’s operations manager.

Local officials provide portable bathrooms and wash stations, and nonprofits provide at least one meal a day, Halcomb said. The camp is fenced in and has two full-time security guards to ensure safety. Providers come to offer medical, mental health and rehousing services to campers. Sacramento-based organization Turning Point handles the day-to-day operations, Halcomb said.

“When I came back from Modesto, I went to the River District and there were more than 150 camps on one city block,” Harris said during a meeting earlier this month. “People were sleeping on the street, defecating in the open. I mean, it’s a mess. This is our city. And this is my district. And that’s what I saw when I came home and I thought, why don’t we do it? Why don’t we try a safe ground model and try to control some of these issues?”





Tents have been assembled in preparation for the new homeless camp under the Ninth Street Bridge at Gateway Park in Modesto, Calif., Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019. Andy Alfaro
AALFARO@MODBEE.COM

Opening a “safe ground” for campers could also be cost effective; Harris estimates well under \$1 million. By comparison, the two 100-bed shelters the council approved Tuesday will cost more than \$20 million to open and operate for two years.

Harris suggested the tent city open next month and close in the spring, after a shelter under the W/X freeway opens. He has a few location ideas in his district – which includes the American River, East Sacramento, South Natomas and part of north Sacramento – but is not sure if they will work.

“It’s not a solution. It’s a way to get from here to there and mitigate the deep impacts on the street in the short term and create safety and hygiene,” Harris said.

Harris previously proposed a shelter site on Cal Expo property, but Cal Expo has not yet approved it.

City Hall has long debated the tent city model. In 2016, a delegation of 20 Sacramento officials toured tent facilities in Seattle, where a network of camps has existed for years. Some officials expressed support for the Seattle model, but the issue was soon dropped.

Councilman Rick Jennings, also struggling to find a site for a large shelter in his south Sacramento district, is pushing for the city to open “safe parking zones,” essentially a safe ground model for car camping.

Volunteers canvassing the county in January found four times the number of vehicles where people were living than they counted in 2015. Researchers estimate people were sleeping in at least 340 vehicles in the county. This included approximately 100 children. Most of the vehicles were in the city of Sacramento.

The City Council on Tuesday asked staff to come back with a plan for both models. Jennings said he hopes staff can come back with a plan, including costs and potential sites for safe parking zones, within 30 days. He wants to start with a pilot program for about six months. If it goes well, he wants to open more.

“We’re going to look at every possibility within our district, from businesses to nonprofit partners to community centers to parks,” Jennings said Wednesday. “We’re going to look and see if there’s an opportunity at every single one to put a pilot in place so we can get some results.”

Steinberg is supportive of both ideas, he told The Sacramento Bee Wednesday.

“I applaud my colleagues who are working to find creative solutions to our community’s greatest challenge,” Steinberg said in a statement. “Our goal is to get people under a roof with the help they need as quickly as possible. I support any efforts to make their plight even a little better as we aggressively help people get inside.”

Crystal Sanchez, a homeless activist who visited the Modesto site earlier this year, has been urging local officials to replicate the model here. She and other activists, including civil rights attorney Mark Merin, urged Sacramento County Board of Supervisors members to create a safe ground at the former San Juan Motel lot on Stockton Boulevard, where Sacramento Sheriff's deputies cleared out dozens of campers earlier this year. They didn't go for it.

"Modesto is utilizing what is already in place to help their homeless population," Sanchez said. "It is a full-scaled organized community ... It is cost effective and involves every aspect of the community. The local government and the community grassroots have been doing what they do to help."

The Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness also supports the model as a temporary response until there is enough affordable housing.

"Safe ground means that people experiencing homelessness can camp without fear of harassment from law enforcement and can come and go without the fear that all their possessions have been taken or destroyed," Bob Erlenbusch of SRCEH said. "Equally important is that they can get a good night's sleep without fear of violence from predators who prey on vulnerable people."

James "Faygo" Clark, a local well-known homeless activist, said he is in favor of a safe ground model that rotates locations periodically.

"It would allow people a place to begin to stabilize and move forward," Clark said. "They would need private security, access to trauma-informed services, access to water, sanitation, and trash pickup to succeed. We should also work to ensure that such encampments give the unhoused a voice in their operation."

Warren, who proposed safe ground sites on his property years ago, said he still supports the model.

"I started on this three years ago and the council wasn't prepared at that time," Warren said. "They seem more willing now."

Merin and other activists in January 2017 proposed a "safe ground" site near Sacramento Army Depot off Florin Perkins Road.

Councilman Eric Guerra, who represents that area, opposed it, and so did his colleagues.

Now, Guerra, also struggling to find a site for a large shelter, appears to be supportive of a safe parking zone in his south Sacramento district.

Guerra Tuesday suggested staff contact the nonprofit Power Inn Alliance to see if any parking lots could be used in the industrial area for nighttime car camping. A representative for the Power Inn group was unavailable for comment.

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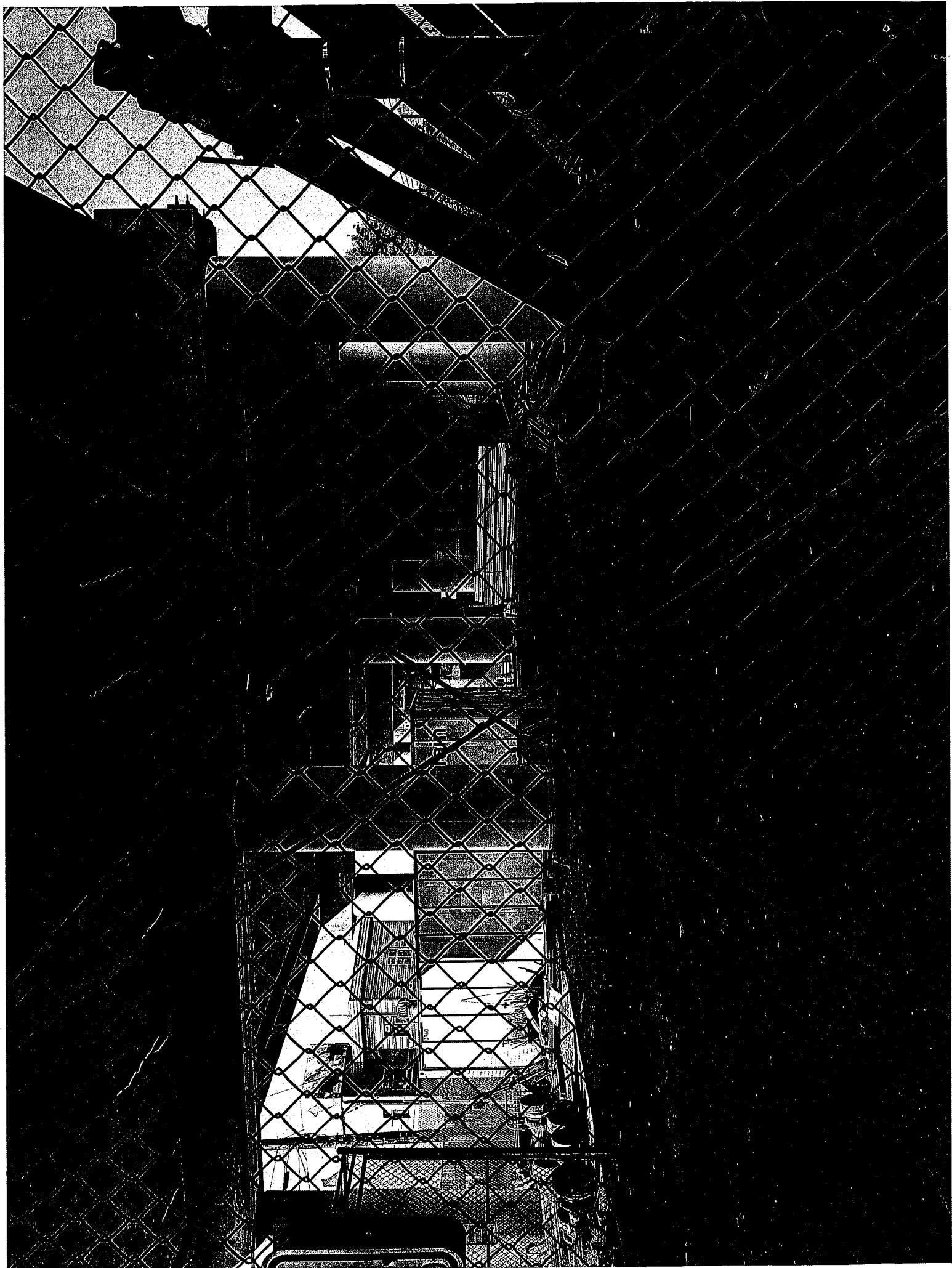
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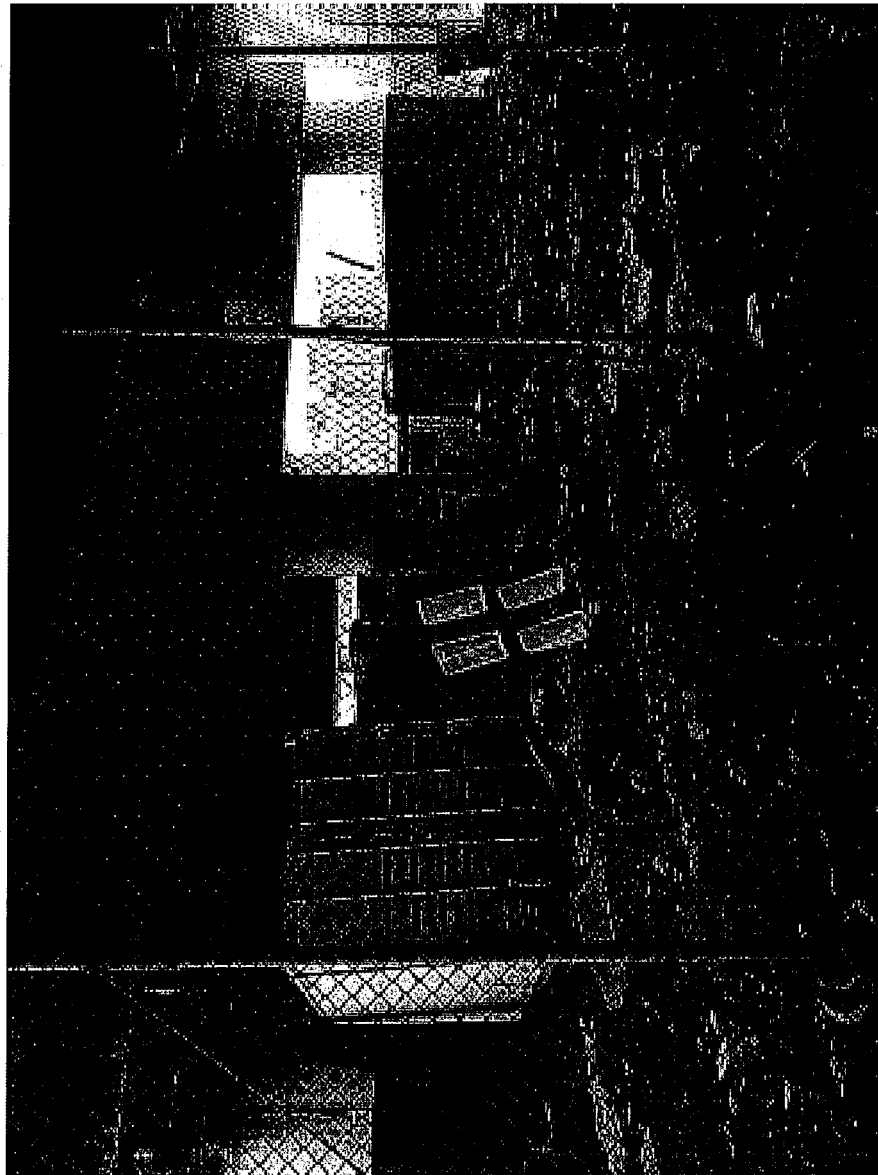
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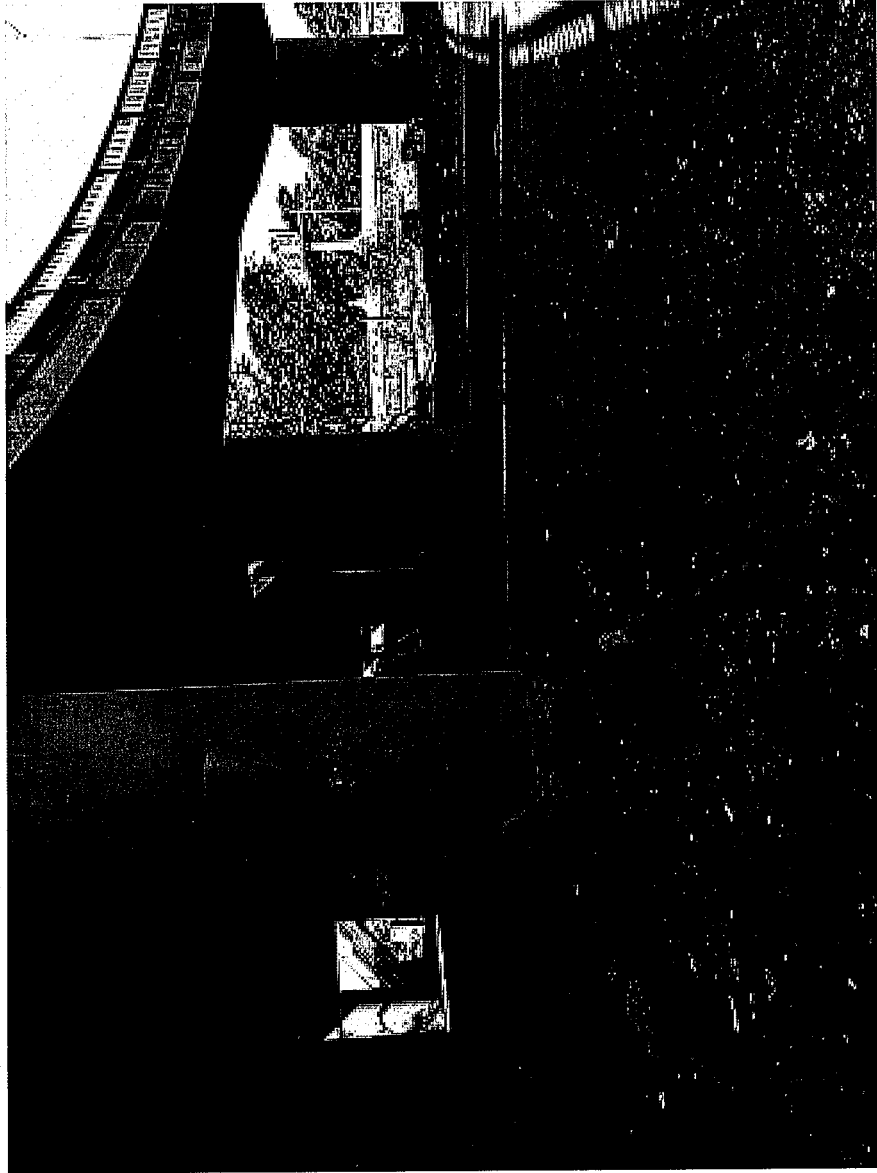
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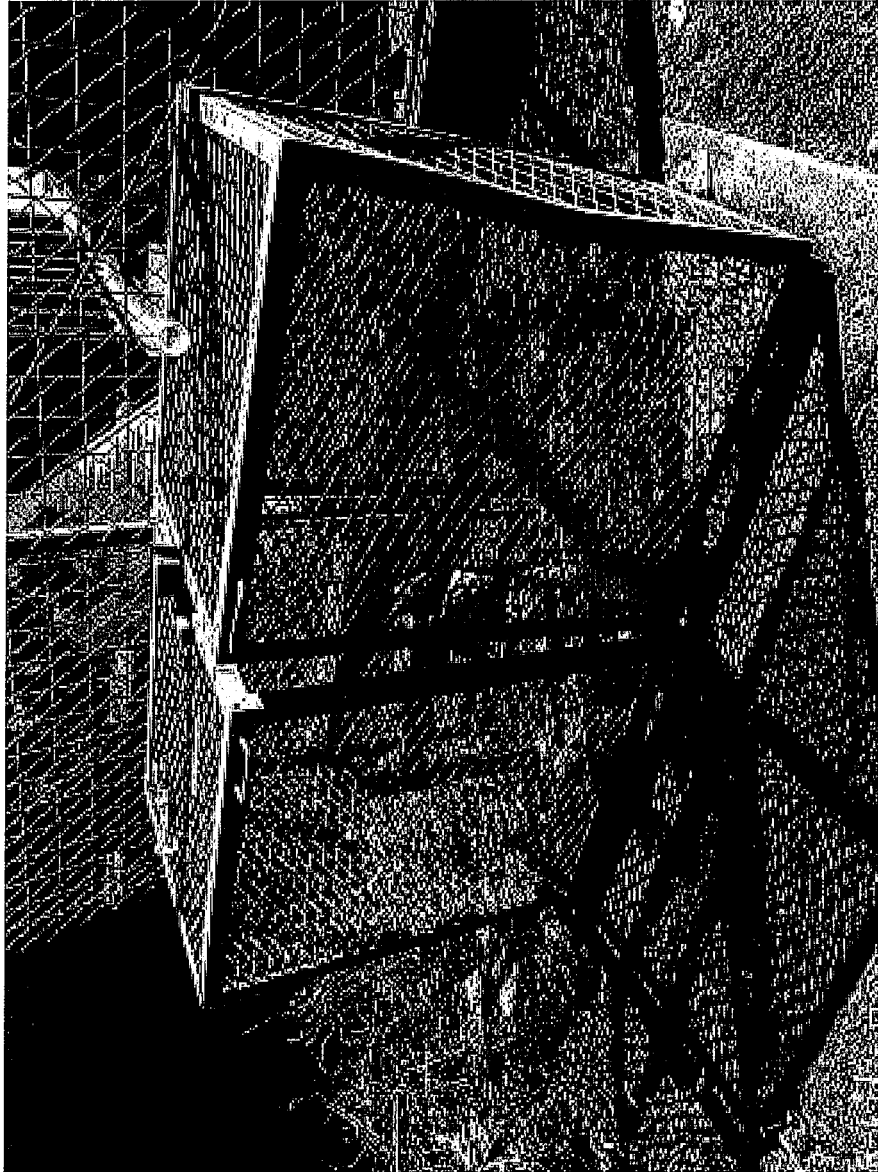
Where will Modesto's homeless go when shelter opens and there's not enough room?

MAY 17, 2019 5:39 PM









October 10, 2019

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mayor Arreguin and Members of the City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Homeless Services Panel of Experts. The Council referred to us the “*Housing for a Diverse, Equitable and Creative Berkeley: A Framework for Affordable Housing.*” We reviewed this document at our October 2, 2019 meeting, discussing both the content of the Framework that we liked and support as well as areas that raised concerns or the Panel felt were insufficiently covered. At that meeting, the Panel took the following action:

Action: M/S/C cheema/Sutton to authorize the Chair to draft and refer a letter to Council to express feedback on behalf of the Commission regarding the policy framework.

Vote: Ayes: Carrasco, cheema, Gale, Jordan, Metz, Patil, Prado, Sutton.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Trotz.

The Panel provides the following feedback:

Strengths of the Framework

We know the solution to homelessness is housing and we support the promotion of more affordable housing. The Framework is strong in identifying the large and growing gap in affordable housing and many of the factors that contribute to this gap.

We also appreciate that it takes into account the new resources from Measures O, P and U1 and offers suggestions for how these can work together, encouraging coordination. As expressed in our statement of purpose, we support strong coordination between Measures O and P to ensure that significant new homeless-targeted units can be created with Measure O funds and made affordable and sustainable for people experiencing homelessness with support from Measure P.

We also support ensuring that housing in Berkeley is created to cover the *entire range of incomes*, including mixed income housing, as laid out in the Framework and we support the exploration of creative strategies such as expanding coops and cooperative land trusts, etc. that can increase the range of types of affordable units available.

Concerns & Suggestions

We have a deep concerns, however, that this Framework does not adequately address the lowest income population (including those with fixed incomes such as seniors and people with disabilities, and all with incomes at or below 15% of AMI). We do not see how it intends to address the current situation

in which extremely low income people, and especially people of color who historically lived in Berkeley, cannot afford to live here.

Particularly, we did not see any meaningful or adequate way the Framework addresses the needs of people who are living in RV's or on the streets today or how they will have an affordable place to live as a result of this effort. ***Without specific goals for addressing homeless people and communities, and prioritizing the creation of additional housing for those with the lowest incomes, we do not think the Framework's overall intent to expand affordable housing will reach those with the highest need for housing.***

We support the suggestion that that developers create on-site inclusionary units and not just pay out fees, but we have grave concerns about allowing developers to focus those units exclusively on moderate income households. We believe that inclusionary units should include units for people at the lowest incomes as well, and this should be required.

Additional suggestions from the panel include:

- Provide greater detail about the impact of high construction costs, limited land availability and zoning barriers and zoning reform, to make clear what is needed to meet the goals in addition to funding alone.
- Include a greater discussion on the role of housing density, including determining whether greater density is needed to meet the goals and how that can be achieved.
- Include tiny homes as part of what could be considered for Auxiliary Dwelling Units, and in general as a creative strategy for additional housing.
- Incentivize the creation of housing that is permanently affordable.
- Incentivize the creation of buildings with common spaces that support community-building.
- Address the role of other City and public agencies in addressing the housing crisis as partners, including coordination with BUSD, the Health Department, Parks and Recreation, etc.
- Use the term Prevailing wage (rather than "Fair" wage.)

Thank you for your consideration of our feedback. We look forward to working with you to address Berkeley's housing crisis and particularly to ensuring that people with the lowest incomes have a place to live in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katharine Gale', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katharine Gale
Chair, Homeless Services Panel of Experts