



CITY of CALABASAS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JULY 23, 2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: KINDON MEIK, CITY MANAGER
MATTHEW T. SUMMERS, CITY ATTORNEY
EPHRAIM S. MARGOLIN, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
COLANTUONO HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY, PC

SUBJECT: (A) CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT FOR INTERIM HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO UNHOUSED PERSONS
(B) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2021-394, ADDING CALABASAS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 9.38 "USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND PROTECTION OF SCHOOLCHILDREN, BUS STOPS, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND WILDLIFE AREAS," AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS DESIGNATING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SCHOOL ROUTES.

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction to staff and consider entering into an agreement for interim housing and support services to unhoused persons. Provide direction regarding potential adoption of a "Right of Way" ordinance and accompanying resolutions allowing the City to ban camping and other activities which block City sidewalks and streets and a ban on camping and other activities near bus stops, school routes, schools, libraries, parks, wildfire risk areas, and critical infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:

The number of homeless outreach requests for individuals residing in the City of Calabasas has increased in 2021. Calls processed per month through July 22 are detailed below:

Monthly Homeless Outreach Requests						
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2	3	7	11	25	13	10

Many of these outreach attempts involved unhoused individuals who themselves, or through their belongings, obstructed access to public right of ways including: streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, driveways, bike lanes, and transit benches. Staff attributes the increase in the number of outreach requests to a variety of factors, with the most notable being the removal of large encampments in surrounding areas and the re-opening of the local economy.

To address the increase in the number of unhoused individuals in the City, including the impact to public right of ways, the Homeless Taskforce convened on March 25, 2021 to discuss potential solutions. Taskforce members ultimately directed staff to research options that allow the City to protect the public health, safety, welfare, property, and environment of citizens, while also considering the protection and preservation of health, safety, and welfare of the unhoused inhabitants of the City.

The Homeless Taskforce met again on July 16, 2021, ultimately recommending that the following approaches be considered by the entire City Council:

- 1. Enter into an agreement with a local homeless service provider to offer interim housing and other support services to individuals in Calabasas experiencing homelessness; AND**
- 2. Introduce an ordinance to establish the City’s ability to prevent individuals from camping, loitering, or blocking the public right of way at particular times and locations at or near youth-serving facilities, bus stops, critical infrastructure, and wildfire risk areas.**

This balanced and two-pronged strategy allows the City to preserve access to public right of ways and other critical infrastructure, while at the same linking Calabasas’ unhoused individuals with interim housing and much needed services.

DISCUSSION:

Interim Housing and Homeless Services Programs

The San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, founded in 1970, is a private, non-profit agency dedicated to improving the mental health of individuals and families within the community. Primary emphasis is placed on providing services to children, adolescents and transitional age youth with serious emotional disorders, and services for adults and older adults with severe and persistent mental illness. The Center is committed to treating all consumers with dignity and enhancing their quality of life. The Center is proud to have been selected as a 2021 California Non-Profit of the Year by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.

The Center offers the following interim housing and homeless services programs:

I. Adult Full Service Partnership

Individuals receive a full range of recovery-oriented mental health and case management services designed to support wellness and increase community functioning.

II. Cornerstone Field Capable Clinical Services

Daytime drop-in center for homeless, mentally ill adults. The program provides mental health case management and assistance in daily living skills, light meals, clothing, laundry, shower facilities, lockers and mail service, and vocational and educational support services.

III. Project New Start

Transitional housing program with 30 beds for homeless, mentally ill individuals who may be dually diagnosed.

Staff proposes that the City enter into an agreement with San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center to provide interim housing and homeless support services. A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be presented at the following City Council meeting.

"Right of Way" Ordinance

The City Attorney's Office has drafted an ordinance which would add Chapter 9.38 "Use of the Public Rights of Way and Protection of Schoolchildren, Bus Stops, Critical Infrastructure, and Wildfire Risk Areas" to the Calabasas Municipal Code.

As currently drafted, the ordinance bans camping, sitting, loitering, sleeping, and storing property on any street or sidewalk that blocks the public right of way by obstructing pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

The draft ordinance also has location-specific regulations. Camping is banned within ten feet of any bus stop, driveway, or fire hydrant. Camping is also banned within 250 feet of any youth-serving facility, which means schools, parks, libraries, and day-care facilities.

Camping is also banned within 250 feet of any school route or 50 feet from critical infrastructure, both of which will be identified by Resolution.

Camping is banned within 50 feet of any homeless shelter or safe parking/sleeping site. Lastly, camping is also banned in wildfire risk areas, in an attempt to protect the City from wildfires which result from human activities.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The City is currently negotiating with non-profit homeless service providers to secure shelter beds and support services for its unhoused residents. A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be presented at the following City Council meeting.

Enforcement of this ordinance is not expected to result in additional funding costs due to the City's contract with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the City Council provide direction to staff in regards to the consideration of entering into an agreement for interim housing and support services to unhoused persons. That the City Council also consider the proposed ordinance and accompanying resolutions and litigation risk and direct City staff as to how to proceed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A: City Council Ordinance No. 2021- (Right of Way Ordinance)
- B: City Council Resolution No. 2021- (Critical Infrastructure)
- C: City Council Resolution No. 2021- (School Routes)