

County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive
Office of Supportive Housing



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DATE: December 12, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ky Le, Director, Office of Supportive Housing
Jeffrey D Draper, Director, Facilities and Fleet

SUBJECT: Expanding Capacity of the County Shelter in Sunnyvale

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Under advisement from June 6, 2017 (Item No. 13): Consider recommendations related to expanding the capacity of the cold weather shelter program at 999 Hamlin Court in Sunnyvale. (Office of County Executive)

Possible action:

- a. Receive report from the Office of Supportive Housing and the Facilities and Fleet Department regarding expanding the capacity of the County's shelter in Sunnyvale.
- b. Authorize not to exceed 140 persons to occupy the shelter.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the recommended actions will be absorbed by the Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) for the current fiscal year. The immediate fiscal implications include the costs associated with the consultants to determine the scope of work for the property at Hamlin Court. The additional ongoing impact to the General Fund will be considered during the FY 2019 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

On June 6, 2017, the Board directed the Administration to determine the steps and costs associated with using all or part of the currently unused portion of County-owned property at 999 Hamlin Court in Sunnyvale (Property) to provide interim housing for persons participating in the County's permanent supportive housing programs. A portion of the property provides emergency shelter for up to 125 persons during the cold weather season.

As a way to serve additional homeless persons this cold weather season, the OSH and the Facilities and Fleet Department (FAF) have determined that an additional 15 persons can be

accommodated in the area of the building that is currently being used for emergency shelter. Though the original goal was to increase the shelter's capacity by 50 persons this season, doing so would require more significant modifications to the Property than could be completed before the season's end. Increasing the shelter's maximum capacity from 125 to 140 persons would have minimal impact on current shelter operations and the surrounding community. With the Board's approval, OSH will submit a work order to FAF for the installation of panic door hardware to exit doors and door closers to interior doors. The work would be completed no later than December 31, 2017.

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because there are no significant environmental effects associated with the minor improvements to doors of the existing emergency shelter needed to accommodate an additional 15 persons.

The Administration would work toward making the necessary modifications to the unused space so that some or all of it would be ready for 50 or more persons on October 15, 2018, the expected start of the FY 2018-19 cold weather shelter season. This would require the Administration prepare recommendations, including requests for appropriation modification, for the Board's consideration before the FY 2018-19 Recommended Budget is completed.

Finally, the FAF would use funds from the Office of Supportive Housing for consultants to determine the scope of work, timing, and costs associated with using all or part of the unused portion of the property as emergency shelter on a permanent basis. The consultant's project would be completed by August-September 2018. The consultant's work would form the basis of a future capital project, which would require additional funding to complete and would come back before the Board for approval, including necessary environmental clearance.

CHILD IMPACT

Expanding the capacity of the Sunnyvale shelter could have a positive impact on homeless families with children. On a nightly basis, the County Winter Shelter in Sunnyvale and the Gilroy Armory provide emergency shelter and supportive services for approximately eight families with children.

SENIOR IMPACT

Expanding the capacity of the Sunnyvale shelter could have a positive impact on homeless seniors. About 9% of the homeless population in Santa Clara County on any given night is 61 years of age or older.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

The County acquired 999 Hamlin Court in late 2015, and began using a portion of the property as emergency shelter during the cold weather season in the fall of 2016.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Please notify Michelle Covert (Michelle.Covert@hhs.sccgov.org), David Rader (David.Rader@pln.sccgov.org), Alejandra Herrera (Alejandra.Herrera@hhs.sccgov.org), and Ky Le (Ky.Le@hhs.sccgov.org). The Planning Department will file the CEQA Notice of Exemption within five days of the Board taking action.