



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Debra Figone

SUBJECT: ACTIONS RELATED TO
DESTINATION:HOME

DATE: March 14, 2011

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution appointing Director of Housing Leslye Corsiglia to represent the City's interests on the Destination:Home Leadership Board.
2. Accept the Theory of Change formulated by Destination:Home.

OUTCOME

The recommended actions will improve the alignment between the City of San Jose and Destination:Home, an essential public-private partnership for ending homelessness in Santa Clara County.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, Mayor Reed and County Supervisor Don Gage jointly chaired the Blue Ribbon Commission on Ending Homelessness and Solving the Affordable Housing Crisis (BRC). The BRC's purpose was to provide countywide leadership for the initiatives contained in the City's and the County's 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness. In 2008, Destination:Home was formed as a partnership between the City, the County, and other public and private agencies to implement the BRC's recommendations. The BRC's five major recommendations are either accomplished or underway.

The Director of Housing has been an active participant on the Destination:Home Leadership Board. Other members of the Board include representatives from the County Executive's Office, The Health Trust (Destination:Home's fiscal agent as well as a service provider), and other community leaders. Staff has been advised by the City Attorney's Office that City representatives on the Board need to be formally appointed by the City Council.

ANALYSIS

The direct involvement of the Housing Department as the City's lead agency in efforts to end and prevent homelessness makes its Director an obvious choice to participate on the Leadership Board.

The Destination:Home Leadership Board recently adopted a "Theory of Change" that outlines a process to implement the organization's priorities. It will also guide and inform its partners about its priorities, strategies and desired outcomes for the immediate future. The Theory can be summarized as follows:

- The focus in the immediate term is on the chronically homeless, veterans and people leaving public systems, including discharge from institutions.
 - It is recognized that homeless children and youth can become the next generation of chronically homeless adults, but strategies to address this population will be developed in the intermediate term.
- Key strategies are:
 - Defining and lead Systems Change efforts, and
 - Developing cross-sector partnerships, such as an improved alignment between the mental health, hospital and prison systems to better serve individual clients.
- The primary substantive outcomes are:
 - Decreasing the amount between entry and/or exit from a system (such as prison, hospital, mental health, and/or substance abuse treatment) and connection to housing services, with cost savings to public systems; and
 - Housing people within 60 days of entry into the housing services system and keeping them housed for at least 12 months.

"Systems Change" is the term used for the re-alignment of services provided by Destination:Home partners and elimination of the "silos" in which too many of these agencies and organizations have been operating. The objective is for each partner to fully understand the services that other agencies provide for the same clientele, and to then build links between agencies so that a unique array of services is seamlessly delivered to address the needs of each homeless individual.

Destination:Home has requested that the City Council accept the priorities, strategies and desired outcomes described above. By accepting the Theory of Change, the City Council is not committing to any particular actions, but instead acknowledging that Destination:Home has the focus described and will use the key strategies to obtain the primary substantive outcomes.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The Housing Department will utilize the City Manager's Weekly Report to keep the City Council updated on Destination:Home's progress in ending homelessness.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Alternative #1: Do not accept Destination:Home's Theory of Change

Pros: The City will retain the ability to act independently in its efforts to end homelessness in San Jose.

Cons: Homelessness does not respect the political boundaries between cities, and the City lacks the resources to provide the necessary supportive services once homeless individuals are housed.

Reason for not recommending: Only on a regional scale and with the active cooperation of many public and private agencies can homelessness be ended with placement in housing accompanied by supportive services.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

The actions recommended in this report do not meet any of the above criteria. Nonetheless, this report will be posted to the Agenda Website for the City Council's April 5, 2011 meeting.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was prepared in coordination with the City Attorney's Office.

CEQA

Not a Project, PP10-068, General Procedure and Policy Making.



DEBRA FIGONE
City Manager

For questions, please contact Leslye Corsiglia, Director of Housing at 408-535-3851.