



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED STRATEGIES  
TO END HOMELESSNESS**

**DATE:** October 5, 2012

Approved

*Madison Nguyen*

Date

10/5/2012

## REPLACEMENT

### REASON FOR REPLACEMENT

To provide more clarification and additional details related to the previously issued recommendations based on recently provided stakeholder feedback.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the San José City Council include the following proposals to address the issues of homelessness and homeless encampments at the Priority Setting Session on October 9, 2012:

1. Direct the Administration to conduct a survey of vacant buildings in the city and assess the feasibility of having them rehabilitated for some form of housing for the homeless.
2. Direct the Administration to include actions in its plan for responding to homelessness that support and expand the Housing 1000 Care Coordination effort to increase permanent housing resources, case management services, and employment strategies. Current Housing 1000 partner organizations include Destination: Home, EHC LifeBuilders, the Downtown Streets Team, InnVision Shelter Network, Abode Services, Catholic Charities, Momentum, New Directions, Goodwill, The Health Trust, and Departments of Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health. Expand Housing 1000 partners to include employment organizations such as The Center for Training and Career's Day Worker Center.

### BACKGROUND

There have been increased concerns in the community about the problems of growing homeless encampments in the City of San Jose. Three main issues have been raised in relation to these encampments: 1) the impact they have on neighborhoods; 2) environmental issues along waterways and parks as a result of garbage and waste dumping; and 3) housing and support service needs of those living in the encampments.

According to the 2011 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey, there are 977 sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families in the City of San Jose and 6,097 in Santa Clara County. There are approximately 60 homeless encampments located along waterways, freeways and other open spaces in San Jose. These properties are owned by various organizations including the

the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, CalTrans, Caltrain, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Valley Transportation Authority.

During the FY 2012-2013 budget process, the Mayor and City Council approved the Homeless Encampment Cleanup Program - Phase I, which totaled \$632,000 from various city funding sources. These funds were used to clean up the following encampments:

- Communications Hill
- Coyote Creek at Selma Olinder Park
- Guadalupe River and Julian
- Bevin Brook Drive
- Tully at Coyote Creek

As an additional component to these clean-ups, city staff from the Housing and Environmental Services departments, in partnership with community-based organizations such as EHC LifeBuilders and the Bill Wilson Center, were able to provide outreach to the homeless community in advance of these clean-ups.

In 2008, after convening the Blue Ribbon Task Force to End Homelessness, the city, together with EHC LifeBuilders and InnVision Shelter Network, established a One-Stop Homeless Prevention Center for both adults and families. This center provided medical services, employment, benefit, and housing search and other support services. However, due to budget reductions, this service is no longer available. Instead, both these organizations have drop-in centers that offer basic supportive services such as meals, showers and shelters.

For the past several months, staff from the Housing Department have been in communication with EHC LifeBuilders and Destination Home to establish a continuum of care model for homeless residents, similar to the Delancey Street Foundation in San Francisco. The goal is to assist homeless individuals to become more self-sufficient through services and resources such as job training and employment.

The city should formally establish a Homeless Continuum of Care Network with the aforementioned partners and include the Center for Training and Careers' (CTC) Day Worker Center. CTC is located in close proximity to the homeless encampments near Coyote Creek. Last year, the Day Worker Center provided skill workshop, ESL and computer access for almost 500 individuals, resulted in 2000 days of work.

The proposed recommendations seek to provide a long term solution for the city to address the issue of homelessness.

cc: Dennis Hawkins, City Clerk

