



Memorandum

TO: RULES COMMITTEE

FROM: Leslye Corsiglia

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: June 15, 2005

Approved

Date

6-16-05

COUNCIL DISTRICTS: Citywide

SNI: All

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Rules Committee recommend that the City Council support federal legislation – H.R. 1471 by Representatives Pryce (R-OH) and Eshoo (D-CA) and S. 709 by Senator DeWine (R-OH) – known as the “*Services to End Long-Term Homelessness Act.*”

BACKGROUND

In 2003, the federal government adopted a goal to eliminate chronic homelessness within ten years and called upon the nation’s cities to adopt plans to make this goal a reality. The National Alliance to End Homelessness, the federal government, the Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors have all embraced this objective.

On September 23, 2003, the San José City Council adopted a resolution approving a Homeless Strategy for the City of San José. The Homeless Strategy, adopted by the Mayor and City Council, outlines the extent of the homeless problem in San José and lays out a series of policies and actions designed to eliminate chronic homelessness in San José within ten years. A recent homeless count conducted in the Santa Clara County finds that, in San José, there are currently over 4,900 homeless individuals. Of this figure, there are over 370 family units living without shelter. The federal government has made available \$9.2 million, countywide, to address this problem, however, much more is needed to effectively eradicate homelessness in our community.

ANALYSIS

The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health recommended the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan designed to facilitate access to 150,000 units of permanent supportive housing for consumers and families who are chronically homeless. The

Commission found that affordable housing alone is insufficient for many people with severe mental illness, and that flexible, mobile, individualized support services are also necessary to support and sustain consumers in their housing.

Permanent supportive housing is a proven and cost effective solution to chronic homelessness. A recent study by the University of Pennsylvania found that each unit of supportive housing for homeless people with mental illness in New York City resulted in public savings of \$16,281 per year in systems of care such as mental health, human services, health care, veterans' affairs, and corrections.

The two bills offered by Congress, H.R. 1471 and S. 709, would amend the Public Health Services Act to add a grant program for services to end chronic homelessness. This proposed grant program would be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and would help with funding for supportive services in permanent housing situations. H.R. 1471 and S. 709 were introduced April 5, 2005, and complement the City of San José's 10-Year Homeless Strategy by helping provide much-needed resources for supportive services. These grants could be used for the following activities:

- Mental health services, including treatment and recovery support services;
- Substance abuse treatment and recovery support services, including counseling, treatment planning, recovery coaching, and relapse prevention;
- Integrated, coordinated treatment and recovery support services for co-occurring disorders;
- Health education, including referrals for medical and dental care;
- Services designed to help individuals make progress toward self-sufficiency and recovery, including benefits advocacy, money management, life-skills training, self-help programs, and engagement and motivational intervention;
- Parental skills and family support;
- Case management;
- Coordination or partnership with other agencies, program, or mainstream benefits to maximize the availability of services and resources to meet the needs of chronically homeless persons living in supportive housing using cost-effective approaches that avoid duplication; and
- Data collection and measuring performance outcomes.

The grants would be made on a three to five year basis for the initial grant and no more than five years for each subsequent grant. The grant would be contingent upon availability of appropriation and annual approval by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The legislation would also require matching funds of \$1 from the applicant for every \$3 in federal funds for the initial grants. Each renewal grant would require a \$1 to \$1 match.

The Santa Clara County Collaborative on Affordable Housing and Homeless Issues has taken a position of support regarding these two measures.

OUTCOME

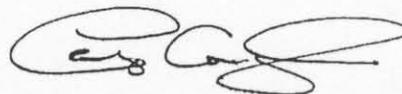
The City's 2005 Legislative Priorities, approved by City Council in January 2005, stipulate the support of the City to seek funding from the federal government to implement its 10-Year Homeless Strategy. With the support of the Rules Committee and City Council's support for these measures, San José will send a strong message to Congress about the need to partner with local entities in order to ensure success of the federal government's strategy to end chronic homelessness.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

S. 709 and H.R. 1471 were discussed with the Housing Advisory Commission at its June 9, 2005 meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to support these two measures and encouraged City Council to accept staff's recommendation.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Attorney's Office, the Director of Intergovernmental Relations, and the City's federal lobbyist, Patton Boggs.



LESLYE CORSIGLIA
Director of Housing

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