

Agenda Report

October 17, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Housing and Career Services Department
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A CITYWIDE POLICY STATEMENT ON PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- 1) Find that the adoption of the proposed Citywide Policy Statement on Permanent Supportive Housing is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule); and
- 2) Adopt a policy statement on permanent supportive housing, as set forth in this report.

BACKGROUND:

Research and experience have overwhelmingly shown that investments in permanent supportive housing are extraordinarily effective in reducing homelessness — as well as being cost-effective. Providing permanent supportive housing and services as needed can help to ensure that homeless individuals remain housed, even among persons with severe substance abuse and mental health conditions.

Thus the City of Pasadena began focusing on a crisis response system with rapid connections to permanent supportive housing in 2011. This model combines affordable housing with vital support services for individuals living with mental illness, HIV/AIDS or other serious health problems.

The effects of providing permanent supportive housing are clear: homelessness has consistently decreased in Pasadena since 2011. A linear forecast trend based on the old service model estimated that 1,543 would have been homeless by 2016, as opposed to the 530 that were reported homeless during the 2016 Homeless Count. As a result 66% fewer homeless were counted in 2016 than were expected under business-as-usual predictions, representing a 56% reduction from 2011 (n=1,216).

Presently, there are five (5) permanent supportive housing projects operating in Pasadena, including the recently completed Marv's Place, which was awarded "Supportive Housing Project of the Year" by the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing.

- Centennial Place (144 units), 235 E. Holly Street
- Euclid Villa (15 units), 156 S. Euclid Avenue
- Hestia House (8 beds), 1395 E. Orange Grove Boulevard
- Marv's Place (20 units), 143 Mar Vista Avenue
- Navarro House (6 beds), 1516 Navarro Street

The locations of these projects are mapped in Attachment A.

The City needs to increase its stock of permanent supportive housing if further progress is to be made in reducing the number of persons without homes in Pasadena. Any policy to support the expansion of permanent supportive housing, however, should be consistent with the City's objectives of providing a mix of affordable housing that is appropriately dispersed throughout the City, as set forth in the 2014-2021 Housing Element of the General Plan:

Housing Element Objective HE-2.4 Affordable Housing: Facilitate a mix of household income and affordability levels in residential projects and the appropriate dispersal of such units to achieve a greater integration of affordable housing throughout the City.

Housing Element Objective HE-3.9 Geographic Dispersal: Promote a balanced dispersal of assisted affordable housing developments and associated supportive social services for individuals and households throughout the community.

The map in Attachment B shows the geographic dispersal of Pasadena's current stock of affordable housing projects.

POLICY STATEMENT ON PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the following policy statement:

The City of Pasadena believes that decent, safe and affordable housing is the right of every Pasadena resident. Furthermore, a key long-term solution for homelessness is the provision of permanent supportive housing. Therefore, consistent with the Housing Element, and to the extent feasible, the City will seek to promote a balanced geographical dispersal of affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing throughout the City, with an initial focus on locations where there is a persistent presence of unsheltered homeless persons.

If adopted, this policy statement will be incorporated into various City housing and

planning documents including the Housing Element, Five-Year Consolidated Plan, and Annual Action Plans.

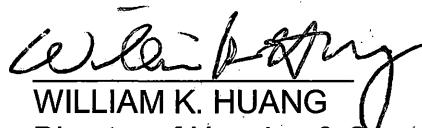
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The proposed action has been determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The adoption of the proposed Citywide Policy Statement on Permanent Supportive Housing has been deemed to not have the potential for significant effect on the environment and, hence, is not subject to CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the proposed action.

Respectfully submitted



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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
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Attachments: (2)

Attachment A – Permanent Supportive Housing Projects in Pasadena
Attachment B – Affordable Housing – All Projects in Pasadena