

RECEIVED

2020 DEC 14 AM 9:06

Pasadena for All
Pasadena, California
(pasadenaforall@gmail.com)

CITY CLERK
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

December 13, 2020

Mayor Victor Gordo
Vice Mayor Andrew Wilson
Members of the Pasadena City Council
Pasadena City Hall
100 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, California 91101

By Email

Re: City Council Meeting 12/14/2020—Agenda Items 3, 4: Lack of a Bad Weather Shelter for Our Unsheltered Residents this Year

Dear Honorable Mayor Gordo, Vice Mayor Wilson, and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

A. Introduction

Pasadena For All is a volunteer-run grassroots organization providing street outreach to unsheltered Pasadena residents inspired by the work model of the organization Ktown for All. Pasadena For All volunteers meet every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. near Pasadena's Memorial Park to distribute community-donated supplies including food, water, hygiene items, clothing, gloves, and sleeping bags. Our deep concern for our unsheltered residents prompts us to seek urgent City Council action as described in this letter.

We want to thank the Council for placing this urgent matter, the lack of a Bad Weather Shelter this winter, on the agenda for the December 14, 2020 Council meeting. Given the dire circumstances facing our unsheltered residents and the fact that the next two Council meetings are scheduled to be cancelled, we urge the Council to take prompt action to protect our unsheltered residents.

B. Background

Pasadena has had a Bad Weather Shelter for our unsheltered residents for decades. But, for the reasons stated in the Housing Department's report attached to Agenda

Item #3 (Housing Report), Pasadena will have no Bad Weather Shelter this year. The Housing Report summarizes the attempts made to establish a Bad Weather Shelter. In summary, Friends In Deed, a respected organization in our City providing critical services for our unhoused, received \$25,000 in contract funding from the City to operate the shelter this year from December through March. According to the Housing Report, Friends In Deed could not find a host site for the overnight shelter due to COVID-19 safety concerns and staffing and location issues.

According to the Housing Report, all of the winter shelters being funded by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) across the county this year changed to a 24 hour-a-day operation plan and have transformed their spaces to meet COVID-19-related guidelines. This is in contrast to Pasadena's model of a "drop-in," night-by-night, congregate shelter in past years, which is the same model that was to be used this winter. The Housing Report states that the drop-in model for a congregate winter shelter would not be workable due to COVID-19 restrictions and lack of staffing. It is unclear why the City did not move to the LAHSA shelter model in sufficient time to operate this winter. When the City approached Union Station Homeless Services in November to operate a Bad Weather Shelter this year under the adjusted model, it was too late for Union Station to adjust its shelter model.

C. Our Unsheltered Residents Face Enormous Health Risks and Death

In September 2019, *LA Times* columnist Steve Lopez reported that the homeless death toll in L.A. County was averaging about three a day. "Illness, addiction, accidents, suicide and the ravages of being unsheltered are among the primary causes of death." (*LA Times*, "He Died on a West L.A. Sidewalk, etc.," 9/4/2019). Last September, Mr. Lopez reported the death toll was already at 962, with three months left in 2020. (*LA Times*, "She Died on a Sidewalk Near Where She Grew Up, etc.," 9/26/2020.)

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) reports that people experiencing homelessness have a much higher risk than the general population of developing exposure-related conditions such as frostbite and hypothermia. These conditions can be immediately life threatening or can have long-term effects. (NCH, *Bringing Our Neighbors in from the Cold*, September 2010.) Our unsheltered population faces many short-term and long-term health risks which escalate during the winter.

D. Urgent Actions Requested

To address the needs of our unsheltered residents this winter, we respectfully request this Council to consider taking the following actions:

- Authorize Expenditure of All of the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES (ESG-CV) Funds Received from HUD (and Allocated for Shelter) and Approve Additional Funds to Provide Motel Vouchers for the Unsheltered

According to the Housing Report, the current plan is to provide the unsheltered with ponchos, some meals, warm clothing and blankets this winter. In addition, the Housing Department requests approval to expend \$419,134 of the ESG-CV funds received from the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide motel vouchers for “those who are identified as highly vulnerable to serious illness or death from COVID-19.” (Report attached to Agenda Item #4.) We are informed by an individual from LASHA that, for the Project Roomkey motel voucher program, San Gabriel Valley motel room rates averaged \$65-75 per day and there was an additional cost of \$80 per day for food, security and housing case management. Assuming the same expenses are contemplated, the \$419,134 requested would only cover 30-32 individuals per day for a 90-day period. The January pre-COVID homeless count for Pasadena reported 527 unhoused residents with 56% of those unsheltered. So the funds requested would only cover a small fraction of our unsheltered residents.

But the Housing Report also notes that the Housing Department recently allocated a million dollars of funding from HUD to utilize for emergency shelter **over the next year**. We request that the Council consider approving the expenditure of the entire \$1 million over the winter months in order to house as many unsheltered residents as possible in motel rooms.

In addition, we request that the Council consider approving additional funds from the General Fund as needed to ensure that all unsheltered persons who wish to be sheltered this winter are sheltered. This year, as a result of COVID-19, the Council has approved very substantial general fund expenditures for food insecurity programs, a small business disaster relief fund, and an alternate care facility to treat COVID-19 patients at the Convention Center. Approving General Fund expenditures to ensure that our unsheltered residents do not suffer in freezing temperatures and in the rain is consistent with the Council’s other approved, COVID-19-related General Fund expenditures this year.

- Approve Shelter in the Trailers Parked at the Rose Bowl and Any Other Vacant City-Owned Properties

As you know, Pasadena received 50 trailers from the State that are vacant and have been parked for many months at the Rose Bowl. According to an article in *Pasadena Now* dated December 9, 2020, Rabbi Grater approached the City about using the trailers as winter shelter, but was turned down. The trailers would provide ideal shelter for our unsheltered residents this winter. In addition, we request the Council to direct the City Manager to determine whether there are other vacant, city-owned properties that could be used for shelter during the winter. If so, we ask the Council to suspend any applicable municipal code provisions to allow unsheltered residents to sleep in those properties overnight this winter.

- Allow Overnight Parking for Shelter in Vehicles

Under Pasadena Municipal Code section 10.44.010, there is no parking on city streets during the hours of 2:00-6:00 a.m. We ask the Council to suspend all applicable code provisions to allow unhoused persons with vehicles to sleep in their vehicles on city streets overnight. This would be consistent with the Council's suspension of various parking restrictions this year due to COVID-19.

- Allow Tents and Other Makeshift Shelters

Under Pasadena Municipal Code section 17.50.320, tents are allowed only in certain circumstances and may require a permit. We ask the City to suspend this provision to allow unsheltered persons to use tents or other makeshift shelters this winter due to the unusual circumstances, which would be consistent with the City's suspension of certain parking restrictions due to COVID-19.

E. Conclusion

In conclusion, we urge the Council to ensure that all of our unsheltered residents who wish to be sheltered this winter receive shelter. We believe this is a life-and-

death matter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Pasadena For All members,
Raquel Calderon, Pasadena For All
founder

Martinez, Ruben

From: Thomas Petersmeyer <...@...m>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:24 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DEC. 14, 2020 RE: BAD WEATHER SHELTER

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

THOMAS Q. PETERSMEYER
C/O NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

PASADENA, CA 91103

DEC. 13, 2020

Members of the Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Hall

100 N. Garfield Ave.

Pasadena, California 91101

By Email

Re: City Council Meeting 12/14/2020—Agenda Items 3, 4: Lack of a Bad Weather Shelter for Our Unsheltered Residents this Year

Dear Honorable Mayor Gordo, Vice Mayor Wilson, and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

Having read the two Housing Department reports and as a member of the community since 1983 and as a participant in bad weather shelter events in Pasadena through Friends In Deed and Neighborhood Church for many years, I have the following comments for the City Council.

I propose that the CITY OF PASADENA take the following actions:

1. Authorize Expenditure of All of the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES (ESG-CV) Funds Received from HUD (and Allocated for Shelter) and Approve Additional Funds to Provide Motel Vouchers for the Unsheltered.

2. The Housing Report also notes that the Housing Department recently allocated a million dollars of funding from HUD to utilize for emergency shelter over the next year. Request that the Council consider approving the expenditure of the entire \$1 million over the winter months in order to house as many unsheltered residents as possible in motel rooms.

3. In addition, request that the Council consider approving additional funds from the General Fund as needed to ensure that all unsheltered persons who wish to be sheltered this winter are sheltered. Approving General Fund expenditures to ensure that our unsheltered residents do not suffer in freezing temperatures and in the rain is consistent with the Council's other approved, COVID-19-related General Fund expenditures this year.

4. Approve Shelter in the Trailers Parked at the Rose Bowl and Any Other Vacant City-Owned Properties As you know, Pasadena received 50 trailers from the State that are vacant and have been parked for many months at the Rose Bowl. According to an article in *Pasadena Now* dated December 9, 2020, Rabbi Grater approached the City about using the trailers as winter shelter, but was turned down. The trailers would provide ideal shelter for our unsheltered residents this winter.

5. In addition, request the Council to direct the City Manager to determine whether there are other vacant, city-owned properties that could be used for shelter during the winter. If so,

we ask the Council to suspend any applicable municipal code provisions to allow unsheltered residents to sleep in those properties overnight this winter.

- 6 Allow Overnight Parking for Shelter in Vehicles Under Pasadena Municipal Code section 10.44.010, there is no parking on city streets during the hours of 2:00-6:00 a.m. We ask the Council to suspend all applicable code provisions to allow unhoused persons with vehicles to sleep in their vehicles on city streets overnight. This would be consistent with the Council's suspension of various parking restrictions this year due to COVID-19.

- 7 Allow Tents and Other Makeshift Shelters Under Pasadena Municipal Code section 17.50.320, tents are allowed only in certain circumstances and may require a permit. We ask the City to suspend this provision to allow unsheltered persons to use tents or other makeshift shelters this winter due to the unusual circumstances, which would be consistent with the City's suspension of certain parking restrictions due to COVID-19.

In conclusion, I urge the Council to ensure that all of our unsheltered residents who wish to be sheltered this winter receive shelter.

Sincerely, Thomas Petersmeyer

RECEIVED

2020 DEC 14 AM 11:13

CITY CLERK
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Scott O'Connor
c/o Neighborhood Church
301 Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91103

December 13, 2020

Members of the Pasadena City Council
Pasadena City Hall
100 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, California 91101

By Email

Re: City Council Meeting 12/14/2020—Agenda Items 3, 4: Lack of a Bad Weather Shelter for Our Unsheltered Residents this Year

Dear Honorable Mayor Gordo, Vice Mayor Wilson, and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I have read the Agenda Report on the Status of the Bad Weather Shelter and Alternative Shelter and Cold Weather Homeless Services. I appreciate the time, effort, and diligence of the City's Health Department, Friends in Deed, and Union Station in searching for a solution to this local humanitarian crisis. The report makes those exhaustive efforts clear, as well as the risks COVID poses to homeless services staff, volunteers, and our unhoused neighbors. Although a bad weather shelter isn't possible this winter, there are still actions the Council can take to help, namely:

- ***Authorizing the expenditure of all the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES (ESG-CV) Funds received from HUD (and Allocated for Shelter) and the approval of additional funds to provide motel vouchers for our unhoused neighbors.***
- ***Approving any possible additional funds from the General Fund to ensure that all unhoused persons who wish to be sheltered this winter are sheltered.***
- ***Suspending parking restrictions to allow overnight parking for shelter in vehicles.***
- ***Allowing tents and other makeshift shelters during the winter months.***

These extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures to ensure the health and safety of our unhoused neighbors. Please consider these actions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Scott O'Connor

12/14/2020
Item 3 & 4

Martinez, Ruben

From: Amara Ononiwu < >
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:50 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Items 3 & 4

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Dear City Council,

I am the Housing & Homelessness Outreach coordinator for Lake Avenue Church. Our community meal guests have often found safe haven after our meal at the BWS previously located just down the street. I am supportive of there being plans B-Z for the critically felt absence of the BWS this year. I also believe we need to take extraordinary measures to ensure that no one dies on the streets of Pasadena this winter. I therefore urge the Council to consider the following: 1) no harassment or enforcement against people sleeping in their vehicles during rain and other increment weather. I am asking the Council to suspend all applicable code provisions to allow unhoused persons with vehicles to sleep in their vehicles on city streets overnight. In light of the current crisis this does not seem unreasonable. 2) expansion of public-private network partnerships across the city to ensure no one slips through the cracks 3) having a dedicated mobile team and hotline to identify those who need or are requesting shelter in real time 4) increased funding for motel vouchers and other creative housing solutions. 5) a well thought out transportation plan to getting our unhoused citizens to safety. Thank you for your consideration. We are not just suggesting but willing to partner to ensure we do not lose lives needlessly this winter.

Kindest regards,
Amara

12/14/2020
Item 3 &4