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City Manager's Report
December 13, 2022, City Council Meeting
Prepared by: Cleve Morris, City Manager
Item #: 12.1

Subject: Adopt a Resolution Ratifying a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Placerville and Housing El Dorado for use of Scout Hall for a temporary Inclement Weather overnight Warming Center.

Purpose: To provide a temporary Inclement Weather Overnight Warming Center at Scout Hall when weather conditions meet certain established parameters. The Shelter will be available until the Navigation Center is fully up and operating and those participating at the Warming Shelter have been offered an opportunity to be part of the Navigation Center.

Strategic Plan Strategy: Health and Safety 2. Strategy – Address Homelessness a. Work with El Dorado County to identify interim and long term solutions to mitigate the effects of homelessness

Background: During the winter storms of the week of December 2021 staff elected to open a nightly warming shelter for some of the most vulnerable of our homeless population at 525 Main Street. Staff entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Housing El Dorado to operate the warming shelter which provided rules and conditions for use of the building. Council subsequently approved use of the building for the continued Nomadic Shelter operated by Housing El Dorado, three nights a week.

Recently, El Dorado County approved plans to open a navigation center to provide housing and services to the homeless population. Work is currently underway to provide necessary improvements for the center and Volunteers of America is currently recruiting employees to staff the facility. It is anticipated the facility will be operating sometime between January 15 and January 31, 2023. Due to upcoming inclement weather, staff entered into a MOU with Housing El Dorado to use Scout Hall located at 3071 Benham Street to provide an Inclement Weather Overnight Warming Center.

Scout Hall is a small building that is in somewhat disrepair and is only used minimally at this time. Staff has walked through the building with Housing El Dorado and they have agreed that it could meet the need for an interim inclement weather facility.

Discussion: The attached MOU signed by Housing El Dorado and the City Manager outlines the provisions for use of the building. In addition, attached are the Inclement Weather Lodging Program Guidelines. These are similar to the guidelines for the nomadic shelter which operated last year at 525 Main Street. Some of these provisions include the following:

1. Daily Covid Testing
2. Separation of Sleeping Quarters for Men and Women
3. No one allowed in the facility if under the influence of Drugs or Alcohol

4. No drug paraphernalia allowed in the facility. If discovered, it is stored separately and returned to the client when they leave.
5. Clients are searched (metal detector) for any weapons or any other inappropriate items, or contraband.
6. Clients are asked to assist with cleaning and closing the facility each morning.
7. A program manager is on site for all check-ins.

In addition to these rules established by Housing El Dorado, the following will also be enforced:

1. No clients shall be allowed to leave or approach the premises on foot. All clients shall be bussed to the premises from predetermined sites. All clients shall be bussed to the predetermined sites following the end of the overnight shift.
2. No clients shall be allowed to loiter outside the building, except for the purpose of smoking, which shall only be allowed in a designated area and at designated times. Housing El Dorado will be responsible for enforcing this rule and making sure it is done in a safe manner and that all debris is cleaned up immediately, such as cigarette butts.
3. The facility shall be supervised at all times by a minimum of 2 responsible persons.

The program will be implemented when the following temperature and rain/snow conditions exist.

Dry Weather: 35 degrees or lower

Wet Weather: 45 degrees or lower

During the review of this program, staff was reminded that City Code Section 10-15-17 allows for only one emergency shelter in the City and can only be located in the Highway Commercial Zone (HWC). 3071 Benham Street is located in the Open Space Zone. In reviewing this with the Director of Development Services and the City Attorney, it is recommended that the use can be authorized through a Special Temporary Use Permit with the following findings:

1. The use is required for the proper functioning of the Community.
2. The use will be conducted so that it will not be detrimental in any way to the surrounding properties or to the community.

Staff is recommending the Council ratify the Memorandum of Understanding including the above noted findings, allowing the use of 3071 Benham Street for an Inclement Weather Overnight Warming Center from December 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023. If the Navigation Center becomes available prior to the end of January and all clients are provided the opportunity to go to the navigation center, the Memorandum of Understanding will be terminated at that time.

Options:

1. Ratify the Memorandum of Understanding as recommended.
2. Make amendments and approve the Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Do not approve the Memorandum of Understanding and do not allow use of Scout Hall for this purpose. Provide further direction if any to staff.

Environmental:

This program does not qualify as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and therefore no Environmental Statement is necessary.

Cost: Only minor costs are anticipated for utilities. It is anticipated these costs can be absorbed in the Community Services Budget. All other costs for operation of the facility will be provided by Housing El Dorado and the Upper Room.

Budget Impact: It is not anticipated that this program will have any major effects on the budget

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution Ratifying a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Placerville and Housing El Dorado for use of Scout Hall for an Inclement Weather overnight Warming Center.



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Resolution
- B. Memorandum of Understanding
- C. HED Program Guidelines