



Jesse Arreguín
Councilmember, District 4

ACTION CALENDAR
April 2, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Jesse Arreguín
Subject: Compassionate Sidewalks Community Process

RECOMMENDATION:

Establish a Homelessness Subcommittee to not only further explore questions and issues raised at the April 2nd work session, but to focus on a needs assessment of services, looking at what services are currently being provided and how to better integrate and deliver services, in addition to recommendations for funding and programs to address service gaps. In addition, the subcommittee should explore ways to increase transitional and permanently supportive housing for the homeless. The subcommittee should explore any best practices in these areas employed by other cities.

The subcommittee will hold focused discussions on issues related to service needs and delivery, and housing. The subcommittee will not only invite City staff, but service providers and other experts to present and participate in discussions.

A community working group will be formed on its own initiative separate from the Council subcommittee (the working group will not be organized or facilitated by city staff). The community working group will also participate in and present recommendations to the Council subcommittee on these issue areas.

The goal of the subcommittee/community working group is to develop recommendations to Council on improving the delivery of services and creating housing opportunities for homeless individuals.

The Council Homelessness subcommittee should report back to City Council no later than one year.

BACKGROUND:

On January 29, 2013 the City Council unanimously adopted the following motion:

M/S/C (Arreguin/Anderson) to:

1. Approve item (1) from the recommendation of the revised report with the provision that the City Manager will provide the requested information “to the extent possible” and with the removal of item 4) from list.
2. Replace item (2) from the revised recommendation with the stated commitment of the City Council to an open process and dialogue on the issue of homelessness with further details to be examined at the April 2, 2013 meeting.
3. State that there will be an Action item on the regular agenda of April 2, 2013 to be submitted by the Mayor and/or Council.

Vote: Ayes – Maio, Moore, Anderson, Arreguin, Capitelli, Wengraf, Worthington, Wozniak, Bates; Noes – None.

This item implements the City Council’s direction by presenting a proposed public process on homeless issues. Consistent with the Council’s motion, the recommendation is for the City Council to establish a subcommittee, which will further examine the issue of services and housing, in consultation with staff and stakeholders.

Independent of the Council subcommittee, a community working group will be established with the goal of having broad stakeholder representation (service providers, homeless persons, business owners etc.). The working group will hold workshops and focused discussions with the goal of providing recommendations to the City Council.

Prior to this meeting, the Council held a work session where city staff presented extensive information on the demographics of the homeless, current services being provided, existing plans and policies, enforcement of quality of life laws and best practices from other cities.

While the City currently provides and funds a diversity of services, there are still identified gaps, particularly in the area of housing. Moreover, existing services are not often coordinated. Housing is a critical solution to homelessness, however not only are there not enough shelter beds, but there is a need for more transitional and permanently supportive housing.

While homelessness can never be fully solved, it can be improved by better delivery of services and by more housing opportunities. This proposed process, working side by side with a community working group, will formulate solutions based on research and consultation with stakeholders.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Staff time involved in scheduling and holding meetings, and developing and presenting information to the Council Subcommittee.

CONTACT PERSON:

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