

# CITY MANAGER REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Meeting Date: September 3, 2019

## Agenda Item:

**Report on the Prioritization of Recommendations from the Homelessness Task Force.**

## Background:

At the August 5, 2019 Council meeting, the Council accepted the report from the Homelessness Task Force. This report was generated as a result of Resolution No. 3829, which created the Task Force to address two areas identified in the Greater Newport Area Vision 2040 Plan. The Task Force identified 15 recommendations to help address homelessness in Newport. In reviewing the recommendations, I have prioritized them as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3. It would be my intent to work on Tier 1 recommendations during this current fiscal year, with a focus of Tier 2 recommendations being considered for the next fiscal year, and Tier 3 recommendations would be in the 2021/2022 fiscal year or beyond. If there is momentum, or other circumstances arise, to move any of the Tier 2 or Tier 3 projects forward, there is nothing that would prevent them from occurring earlier than this proposed prioritization.

### Tier 1 Priority Recommendations:

- (1) Placement of toilets in identified areas of the City, including Grace Wins Haven.
- (2) Consider purchase of a portable shower facility that could be transported to various locations if needed.
- (4) Coordinate the creation of a standing non-governmental group consisting of social agencies, law enforcement, interfaith community, and other groups that respond to homelessness in the greater Newport area.
- (9) Create a car camping area.
- (11) Consider utilizing the City's construction excise tax for funding efforts toward solutions to homelessness.

### Tier 2 Priority Recommendations:

- (5) Consider creating a program in which homeless individuals could be utilized to clean up litter and trash in return for financial assistance.
- (7) Develop an inventory of resources available to the homeless population.
- (8) Explore a county-wide discussion on homelessness.
- (10) Identify areas where campsites could be created with portable toilets and garbage disposal.

Tier 3 Priority Recommendations:

- (3) Explore the future installation of Portland loos in key locations throughout the community.
- (6) Request that the organized faith-based community coordinate services offered by local churches and other faith-based groups.
- (12) Conduct a study on the economic impact of the cost of homelessness to property owners.
- (13) Pursue efforts to create a more permanent overnight shelter.
- (14) Health related issues, including mental health, physical health, and drug and alcohol abuse issues.
- (15) Determine the impact of affordable housing on homelessness.

The City Council has appropriated \$20,000 in the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year to facilitate homelessness efforts. I am recommending that Council consider an agreement with Grace Wins Haven to offset utility expenses for the operation of a shower trailer. The City also has placed, and plans to pay the rental fees for, a portable toilet located at the Grace Wins shelter. It is our intent to locate a second portable unit somewhere in the City Center area. These funds will be used for this purpose. I would also recommend that the City make a request for funding from Lincoln County which has also appropriated funding for homelessness to partner with the City on a dollar for dollar basis for these two endeavors. This will leave additional funds for other endeavors through the course of this fiscal year.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the City Council consider the following two motions:

**I move to accept the City Manager's Report on the prioritization of recommendations from the Homelessness Task Force Report dated July 29, 2019.**

**I move that the City Council authorize a request to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners for matching the City's funding for portable toilets, and offsetting utility expenses for the operation of a shower facility, to address certain homelessness issues within the City of Newport.**

**Fiscal Effects:**

These costs are not determined at this time. However, if the motion is approved by the City Council, agreements will be made with Grace Wins Shelter on supplemental income to offset utility expenses for the shower trailer, as well as for portable toilets.

**Alternatives:**

Prioritize the projects differently, or as suggested by the City Council.

Respectfully Submitted,



Spencer Nebel, City Manager