



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAPLAN

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACQUIRE BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND SUPPLIES FOR THE PROVISION OF AIDE AND HOUSING TO THE HOMELESS RESIDENTS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN HOMELESS COMMUNITIES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACQUISITIONS.

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 Alameda County's Homeless Persons Point-In-Time, 4,071 people in Oakland are experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a highly infectious virus, was first identified in late 2019 and is marked by severe and acute respiratory illness that has overwhelmed hospitals across the world and whose mortality rates disproportionately impact older individuals and those with underlying diseases; and

WHEREAS, there are 335,403 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with 1,555 in California as of March 22nd; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has stated, in relation to COVID-19, that the "lack of housing contributes to poor health outcomes, and linkage to permanent housing should continue to be a priority;" and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California due to the spread of the COVID-19 in California and impacts on the public and public services; and

WHEREAS, on March 9th, 2020, the City Administrator acting as the Director of the Emergency Services Operations Center declared a local emergency within the City of Oakland due to the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Oakland City Council adopted Resolution 88075 C.M.S. confirming and ratifying the existence of a local emergency due to COVID-19, acknowledging that if COVID-19 spreads in the City of Oakland and surrounding communities at a rate comparable to the rate it has spread in other parts of the United States and other countries, the number of persons requiring medical care may exceed locally available health and other resources; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the health officer of the County of Alameda issued a sweeping “shelter-in-place” Order, directing residents to stay at home and go outside only for essentials but the Order exempts individuals experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the CDC offers the following guidelines for responding to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness:

- Unless individual housing units are available, do not clear encampments during community spread of COVID-19. Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread;” and
- Encourage people staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual; and
- Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day; and
- If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, provide access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is paramount for the city of Oakland to substantially increase sanitation services to encampments and to acquire facilities to help provide unhoused residents housing; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Sec. 501 (b) of Stafford Act, increasing federal support to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in its role as the lead federal agency for the COVID-19 pandemic response to assist state, local, tribal and territorial governments; and

WHEREAS, Section 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207, eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed under Category B of FEMA’s Public Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allows state, territorial, tribal, and local government entities and certain non-profit organizations to apply for 75 percent federal cost share, requiring execution of a FEMA-State/Tribal/Territory Agreement, and execution of an emergency plan; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That City Council requests that the City Administrator or his or her designee acquire buildings, facilities and supplies to prevent Covid-19 from spreading among high risk and unhoused communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That City Council authorizes the City Administrator to seek reimbursement from Federal Government, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Health and Human Service, and Center for Disease Control for costs associated with the acquisition of buildings, facilities and supplies to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the homeless community.

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IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR,
THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California