



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAPLAN

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FOLLOW THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (“CDC”) INTERIM GUIDELINES ON HOMELESSNESS AND COVID-19 TO ONLY CLEAR ENCAMPMENTS IF INDIVIDUAL HOUSING UNITS OR ALTERNATIVE SHELTER IS PROVIDED

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

WHEREAS, on May 5th, 2019, the Oakland City Council declared via Resolution 87640 C.M.S that homelessness was a local emergency as it had increased 47% since 2017; 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 health conditions; 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 with 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 a Resolution 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 Order to shelter-in-place, ordering residents to stay at home and go outside only for essentials but exempts individuals experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the CDC further 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; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED: That the City Council requests the City Administrator to follow the Center for Disease Control interim guidelines on homelessness and COVID-19 to only clear homeless encampments if individual housing units or alternative shelter is provided

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