



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SERVING THE HOMELESS

UPDATES ON HOMELESS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

August 2000

Number 1

City Council Committee Considers Options for Year-Round Shelter

July 19 Meeting Explored Options

As part of its efforts to establish a year-round shelter for 40 families, City staff presented three options to the City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee on July 19. A fourth option was introduced at the meeting by the Rescue Mission.

The options presented by City staff included:

- A purchase plan to acquire the Bay View Center in Sherman Heights,
- Expansion of St. Vincent de Paul Village at 15th Street and Imperial Avenue,
- A fully enhanced Sprung Structure with 150 beds that would be erected on downtown City owned property.

The Rescue Mission plan involves the City's acquisition of its 42-bed family shelter located on 16th Street for use as the permanent family shelter. The Rescue Mission would use the proceeds of the sale to help facilitate the acquisition of the Bay View Center. The Rescue Mission's plan calls for both its family shelter and its men's program to move to the Bay View Center.

A plan to convert the EZ-8 Motel on Pacific Highway was removed from the options list because it is not available for use as a shelter.

The committee is scheduled to take another look at the proposal on Sept. 20.

CITY WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM SERVES MORE THAN 2,960 PEOPLE OVER FOUR MONTHS

On May 15, the City concluded its Winter Shelter Program that provided 660 beds for homeless individuals in three shelters for the four months that began on Dec. 15, 1999. The family shelter remained open another 30 days, and served more than 4,630 individuals.

Last winter, the three shelters provided 550 beds for 2,236 people over three months. The City spent more than \$1 million to operate the shelters this year, a two-thirds increase over last year's \$603,000.

St. Vincent de Paul, in cooperation with the Solutions Consortium, and the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego operated the three winter shelters under contract with the City. In addition to beds and housing, the City and other agencies also provided medical, employment, and social assistance for the individuals who took part in the Winter Shelter Program.

CITY PROVIDES A VARIETY OF HOMELESS SERVICES

The City of San Diego plans, organizes, and coordinates initiatives and strategies to assist the City's homeless community in collaboration with other public and private organizations and programs.

The City's Homeless Services oversees the Winter Shelter Program, Homeless Outreach Teams, City Works program, Special Needs Housing Program, and is seeking to develop a year-round family shelter.

The City's homeless services coordinator represents the City on regional homeless committees, including the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless and the East Village Redevelopment Homeless Advisory Committee.

Through contracts with nonprofit service providers, funds from grants and other programs provide a full

range of assistance to the City's homeless community.

Homeless Services is a program of the City's Economic Development and Community Services Department.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS FOR MORE INFORMATION

The City of San Diego's Homeless Services Program is administered by the City's Economic Development and Community Services Department. For more information about the program, call (619) 533-6525.

Persons who are homeless and need assistance can call the United Way InfoLine at (619) 230-0997.

Concerned citizens or students interested in information or statistics about homeless issues can call the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless at (858) 694-8722.