

Fact Sheet: Temporary Winter Shelter

Provided by the office of Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Faulconer

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Contact: Tony Manolatos, 619-533-6229

The Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in the San Diego Region, adopted unanimously by the City Council, identifies five strategic planning areas that must be developed, including establishing Regional Access and Intervention Centers.

According to a recent survey by the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless, nearly half (44 percent) of the city's homeless population is located outside of not only Downtown, but the entirety of District 2.

District 2 will again house the Veteran's Temporary Winter Shelter, a 150-bed facility in the Midway area that will operate between Dec. 2, 2009 and March 31, 2010.

District 2 also is willing to house a permanent intake center Downtown, an item scheduled to be heard by the Land Use & Housing Committee Oct. 21. It should come to the City Council shortly afterward. Kevin chaired the task force that paved the way for this. A request for proposals was sent out in April, and a review of these proposals is nearly complete.

For 11 years the temporary winter shelter has been located within a six-block radius in the Barrio Logan and East Village neighborhoods.

The provider that operates the temporary winter shelter says the facility offers the following:

- Breakfast (muffins, cereal, fruit)
- One hot meal
- Showers and restrooms
- Books, movies and television
- Clothing
- 24-hour security
- Limited medical services (flu shots, mobile medical services from UCSD and Family Health Centers)
- Employment referrals and opportunities
- Housing referrals and placements
- Drug and alcohol treatment and referrals (including 140 bed center in Vista where men can be referred directly from the tent)
- Each participant also receives a pack of personal hygiene products, a blanket and a bed

The provider estimates that this 225-bed facility serves 800 to 1,000 homeless individuals, many of whom are moved into transitional housing from the temporary winter shelter.

The temporary winter shelter is a self-sustaining facility that can be located anywhere in San Diego. Homelessness, unfortunately, is a problem that touches every part of our region. It's important for every elected official in the city and county to share the responsibility of caring for these people.