



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Creates Comprehensive Shelter Strategy for Homelessness Solutions

REPORT DETAILS CURRENT STATUS, FUTURE NEEDS FOR SHELTER, SAFE SLEEPING, SAFE PARKING AND OUTREACH TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS

SAN DIEGO – Mayor Todd Gloria and the Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department (HSSD) released its Comprehensive Shelter Strategy for the City of San Diego, which it will present to the City Council tomorrow at 1 p.m.

The Comprehensive Shelter Strategy outlines the current status of homelessness, progress that has been made to expand homeless services, contributing factors to the increasing need for shelter, and the short-, medium- and long-term solutions for shelter, safe sleeping, safe parking and outreach needs in the City of San Diego.

“We are bringing forward a comprehensive shelter strategy with detailed proposals for the short, medium and long terms that include expanded shelter, more safe parking and safe sleeping offerings,” Mayor Todd Gloria said. “This strategy articulates the complexity of homelessness, takes inventory of the shelter capacity we’ve recently added, and, most important of all, it lays out a path forward with solutions to our homelessness emergency.”

According to the 2023 Housing Inventory Count and Annual Point In Time Count conducted by the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH), shelter created by the City of San Diego accounts for most of the beds in the region. The City of San Diego has increased shelter capacity by nearly 70% over the past two years. Of the region’s 18 cities included in the tallies, only San Diego and four other cities have added shelter beds, and only 10 cities in the county provide any shelter at all. The majority of local cities in the region have zero shelter space for the residents who become homeless there.

Key elements of the shelter strategy include expanding shelter options to fit the specific needs of veterans, seniors, youth and others; expanding services that provide compassionate and equitable services to individuals experiencing homelessness; and engaging with regional partners to identify sites for additional shelter, safe camping and safe parking needs.

“Our department is continually working to develop solutions to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in San Diego,” said HSSD Director, Sarah Jarman. “Given the collective desire of the City Council and Mayor to tackle this problem together, we have taken great diligence to detail the work in progress by our department. This shelter strategy lays out options the City is taking to significantly expand the crisis-response system in collaboration with our regional partners.”

The strategy also outlined immediate steps that are being taken to provide relief to more San Diegans in need, including:

- Opening 42 rooms for families at a former Travelodge motel in Barrio Logan by July 2023.
- Opening Safe Camping sites for up to 536 spaces at 20th St. and B St. and “O” Lot.
- Enhancing the existing and successful Family Reunification Program to connect individuals with their families and personal support systems.
- Expanding the existing Safe Parking Program Lots and siting additional lots.

Along with existing shelter data, the comprehensive shelter strategy provides a breakdown of combined funding from the City of San Diego and state and local grants totaling \$78.3 million dedicated to homelessness. Of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, the City has allocated \$7.3 million for new interventions specifically for safe sleeping, site improvements and preparations for transitioning shelter facilities, and expanded safe parking capacity.

The new strategy will be presented to the City Council tomorrow as an informational item.

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