




**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 22, 2017

TO: Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Rick Gentry, President & CEO, San Diego Housing Commission

FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Chair, Select Committee on Homelessness 

SUBJECT: Call to Action: Emergency Homelessness Response Plan

Recent efforts to provide vaccination, sanitation and education in the city of San Diego in response to the widespread and deadly Hepatitis A outbreak public health emergency are a necessary start but have proven insufficient to address the crisis at hand. There is no question that if any other type of emergency was threatening and taking the lives of so many San Diegans, immediate measures would be implemented overnight and throughout the city. San Diegans have shown their generosity and commitment to each other before in such moments and we must do so again now.

The city must go far beyond temporary measures that simply reset the homeless crisis to where we were six months ago. My [March memo](#), which was issued before the Hepatitis A outbreak, outlined a comprehensive, systemic response to address the conditions perpetuating homelessness and I reiterate those recommendations now to quickly address this crisis.

Additionally, the city cannot expect the full Federal and State support that this crisis merits if we do not have a comprehensive plan in action, nor can we expect that people will trust that there is real resolution coming unless the city moves forward immediately with real solutions.

I am calling for immediate action on the following programs and services that can and should be implemented now:

- Implement Safe Camping/City-Sanctioned Camp Zones at the Qualcomm/SDCCU Stadium parking lot, 20th & B Central Operations Property, and Sports Arena/Valley View Casino Center parking lot.
- Implement Safe Parking opportunities at Qualcomm/SDCCU Stadium parking, Sports Arena/Valley View Casino, Council District 6 Properties identified by Councilmember

Cate (5748 Copley Drive, Convoy Street & Copley Place, Aero Drive & I-15, 5255 Mt. Edna Drive), and at any other viable location identified.

- Install mobile shower units and additional restrooms throughout the city, most immediately at the Old Central Library, Golden Hall, and Mission Bay parking lots and increase the current capacity and reach of existing mobile shower service providers such as Think Dignity.
- Provide Bridge shelter beds for families, women and children in Golden Hall.
- Expand storage opportunities at Golden Hall and other locations identified here for the provision of homeless services.
- Increase street cleaning, handwashing stations, sanitation, and security along the San Diego River and in Balboa Park, Bankers Hill, Barrio Logan, Downtown, Hillcrest, Logan Heights, Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach and other communities most impacted by homelessness.

Lastly, I recommend that the San Diego Housing Commission be immediately granted the authority and resources to bring these programs to fruition.

cc:

Council President Myrtle Cole