



COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 5142

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE URGENCY OF THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS AND THE NEED FOR STATE ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS IT.

PASSED: 7:0

REJECTED:

OPPOSED:

ABSENT: Poling

CONSIDERED: October 28, 2015



RESOLUTION NO. 5142

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE URGENCY OF THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS AND THE NEED FOR STATE ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS IT.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds that:

A. The nation generally, and the City of Eugene and surrounding metro area specifically, are facing a housing crisis. According to a recent one night homeless census, Lane County's homeless population exceeds 1,450 people on any given night.

B. When people are homeless it causes breakdowns in family support and has profound impacts on our public health, public safety and public education systems.

C. Homelessness is a complicated and ongoing concern and the City of Eugene places a great deal of importance on the issue. The City has taken a number of steps to address the issues related to homelessness, including:

- Investing more than \$4.4 million in human services, including the Human Service Commission, over the last four years.
- Expanding the car camping program to over 35 sites and adding Conestoga Huts to the program.
- Providing a site for Opportunity Village, a transitional micro-housing facility for 30-40 homeless individuals and couples.
- Funding emergency winter strategies with \$225,000 of one-time funding to bolster existing services for people who are homeless, or in jeopardy of becoming homeless, including the Egan Warming Shelters, Looking Glass and St. Vincent DePaul.
- Supporting the expansion of the St. Vincent DePaul Service Station to provide for more day-time space for the homeless and improved facilities for feeding people, providing phones, washing machines and showers, and storage lockers.
- Approving the rest stop pilot program and designation of three sites on City-owned property, one on Lane County owned property, and one on private non-profit property.
- Supporting the development of 226 units of affordable rental housing in five new construction projects and one acquisition/rehabilitation project over the past five years. These units are all targeted to very low-income persons earning 50% of Area Median income and below. Many of these

units target special needs populations including veterans, persons with mental and physical disabilities, ex-offenders, children, and seniors.

- Partnering with other government agencies and non-profit organizations to address the complex issues related to homelessness. Some of these agencies include:
 - City of Springfield
 - Catholic Community Services of Lane County
 - Food for Lane County
 - Lane County
 - Looking Glass
 - Sheltercare
 - St. Vincent DePaul
 - United Way of Lane County
 - White Bird Clinic

D. The City currently is working on or partnering with other agencies and entities on a number of additional efforts to augment the existing services for homeless individuals. Some of the efforts include Operation 365 (seeking to create permanent housing for 365 homeless veterans), 15th Night (an effort to ensure that youth do not spend more than 14 nights on the street before permanent housing options are found), the Poverty and Homelessness Board's work, and exploration with Lane County and others about implementation of a Housing First model.

E. In addition, earlier this year, the City Council adopted the Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan guiding the use of federal CDBG and HOME funds for the next five years. That Plan anticipates that Eugene will:

- Create 500 permanent affordable housing units (125 units are under development)
- Rehabilitate 350 units of affordable housing units (174 units rehabs underway)
- Provide emergency home repairs to 150 homes occupied by seniors, persons with disabilities, and other low-income persons to prevent homelessness (30 units underway)
- Invest in 15 facilities that provide services, emergency housing, or transitional housing (2 projects underway)

F. Despite all of these significant efforts to find housing for homeless individuals, the number of homeless individuals appears to be growing rather than shrinking. This problem cannot be solved by local government alone. It will take the combined efforts and resources of the State of Oregon, the federal government, non-profit and religious organizations, and business and individuals willing to contribute time, resources and funds.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Eugene is committed to exploring options for the creation of suitable short-term shelter spaces for the homeless, in addition to the creation of permanent housing options for the homeless. Addressing this issue is urgent in order to aid those in need of shelter.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Eugene joins other governments in acknowledging the crisis that exists with homelessness and housing and requests that the State treat homelessness as a crisis by (a) convening a work group composed of state agencies, local governments and non-profit service providers to address this issue; and (b) appropriating additional funding for the homelessness and housing crisis.

Section 3. The City Manager is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Brown, the President of the Oregon Senate, the Speaker of the Oregon House, and our local state delegation, together with a request that the State take the actions requested above.

The foregoing Resolution adopted the 28 day of October, 2015.

Beth Forrest
City Recorder