



# Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Silverstein and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director

Approved by: Steve McClary, City Manager

Date prepared: March 22, 2023 Meeting date: April 10, 2023

Subject: Homelessness Task Force Recommendations Regarding Public Safety and Public Outreach

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** 1) Review a report from the Homelessness Task Force (Task Force) that includes recommendations for public safety and public outreach; and 2) Provide direction to staff.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

**WORK PLAN:** This item was included as part of 1.l. and 1.m. in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

**DISCUSSION:** During the March 21, 2023, Task Force Regular Meeting, the Task Force unanimously voted to present the Fire, Health, and Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee Report (attached) to the City Council. The report addresses the Task Force Charter assignment to “develop a plan to mitigate public safety and environmental impacts, particularly fires related to homeless encampments,” and includes the following recommendations:

- Prioritize securing emergency shelter beds with the \$100,000 appropriated at the August 8, 2022 City Council Meeting.
- Continue to seek emergency shelter beds reserved exclusively for the City’s use.
- Continue to support LASD in their enforcement of all codes (Municipal, Vehicular, Camping, Pedestrian) and to vigorously provide the help necessary to overcome the court mandated legal requirements of enforcement.

- Confirm that the issue of people living in vehicles within the Malibu community is within Task Force charter to address.

The last recommendation is meant to clarify the boundaries of the Task Force Charter. Some members of the Task Force have noticed what appears to be a shift in more unhoused individuals living in vehicles as opposed to outdoors. The Task Force is interested in analyzing this issue to come up with strategies to address it, including looking at our current parking restrictions and enforcement but is seeking clarification as to whether this is part of their existing Charter or if a new Charter assignment would need to be added.

In addition, the report makes recommendations on multiple public outreach and education actions that can be taken to better involve the community in the City's homelessness efforts.

ATTACHMENTS: Fire, Health, and Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee Report

## **Fire, Health & Public Safety Ad Hoc & Public Outreach Observations & Recommendations**

February 2023 revised (September 13, 2022)

Submitted by: Kelly Pessis, Scott Dittrich and Terry Davis

After months of observation, investigation and consolidation, the Fire, Health and Public Safety Ad Hoc (FHS Ad Hoc) committee recommends that the Homelessness Task Force make the following recommendations to the City Council. Please note that they are separated into two categories:

- Fire, Health & Public Safety
- Public Outreach & Education

The FHS Ad Hoc found that public outreach and education is a natural offshoot of public safety, therefore it has been included in this report.

### **Fire, Health & Safety recommendations:**

1. **Prioritize securing EMERGENCY shelter beds** with the \$100,00.00 that was appropriated at the August 8, 2022 City Council Meeting. These beds are needed to support the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD) ability to enforce the "no camping ordinance" in all of Malibu. We believe that the City Council understands the necessity of procuring the emergency beds and we are grateful for the interim beds being provided through the Los Angeles County Measure H Grant and The People Concern. However, emergency shelter beds are "low-barrier" and do not require the extensive intake process or an agreement to enroll in comprehensive services that is needed for the interim beds. Emergency shelter beds facilitate the expedited removal of encampments in the hillsides, especially during high wind and fire conditions. It is therefore recommended that City staff continue to procure emergency shelter beds reserved exclusively for the City's use.
2. **Continue to support LASD in their enforcement of all codes** (Municipal, Vehicular, Camping, Pedestrian) and to vigorously provide the help necessary to overcome the court mandated legal requirements of enforcement.
3. **Given the increase in the number of people living in their vehicles** within the Malibu community, the Task Force asks the City Council to confirm that this population is within its Charter to address and seek solutions in collaboration with City staff, LASD and homeless service providers.

### **Public Outreach & Education**

While most of the communities surrounding Malibu have seen an increase in the numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness, Malibu has had great success resulting in individuals being housed, and an overall reduction in our Point in Time (PIT) counts, 3 years in a row.

It is the FHS TF belief that—educating the community as to all that Malibu is doing, and accomplishing to alleviate homelessness will encourage community effort and foster

collaboration. We ask the Task Force to recommend to the City Council that they direct staff to move forward with as many of the following actions as soon as possible.

1. Host a community meeting and possibly hire a neutral facilitator to both provide information regarding what is being done and solicit public feedback.
2. Design and administer an ongoing Social Media Campaign (possibly public/private) engaging all media and promoting success stories.
3. Offer opportunities for volunteering and designate space to do so.
4. Supply handouts and Outreach business cards to businesses and individuals with proper information as to how to properly direct their efforts to assist those in need. (Staff is currently working on an update of a pre-COVID handout)
5. Create community bulletin boards both physical and digital.
6. Revisit and update (again) the Homelessness Strategic Plan = Community Action Plan.
7. Encourage the City Council to track and support state and federal bills (e.g. SB 1338 Care Court) that address the medical and mental health needs of the unhoused and provide housing and funding opportunities.

We commend the City, the Public Safety Commission, the Public Safety Commission, Captain Seetoo and the LASD, Mark Russo and the Volunteers on Patrol, our City Manager, Steve McClary, our Outreach Workers, faith based organizations, non - profits and the volunteers for their concerted efforts and success in reducing and controlling the trials and tragedies of homelessness. We also want to acknowledge the City's Public Safety Director, Susan Duenas and Public Safety Liaison, Luis Flores for their efforts in coordinating outreach, working with LA County and the Las Virgenes-Malibu COG to procure funding, and to all who work tirelessly to help and house those in need.