

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#13

Tuesday,
February 8, 2022

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CLERK OF THE BOARD

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Vizcarra, Nancy

From: Floyd, Victoria
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:12 AM
To: FGG, Public Comment; Vizcarra, Nancy
Subject: FW: [External] Item 13: Letter of Support
Attachments: Letter of Support - Item 13 Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults 2.8.22
RTFH.pdf

Please see attached for circulation. Thanks!

Victoria Floyd
Policy Advisor
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Board of Supervisors
Office:(619)531-5940
Cell: (619)251-2036
Victoria.floyd@sdcounty.ca.gov



From: Susan Bower <susan.bower@rtfhsd.org>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 7:43 PM
To: Floyd, Victoria <Victoria.Floyd@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: Tamera Kohler <tamera.kohler@rtfhsd.org>; Aimee Cox <aimee.cox@rtfhsd.org>
Subject: [External] Item 13: Letter of Support

Victoria - please find attached a letter of support from the Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) for Item 13: Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults on the February 8, 2022 Board of Supervisors agenda. We appreciate Supervisor Anderson and Supervisor Lawson-Remer bringing this proposal forward for the County's consideration.

Aimee Cox, Chief Impact Officer for RTFH, will provide public comment in support of this item at tomorrow's meeting.

Thanks,

Susan Bower, MSW, MPH

Local Government Liaison

Regional Task Force on Homelessness

(760) 696-2736 - cell

4699 Murphy Canyon Road

Suite 104

San Diego, CA 92123

(Pronouns: She/Her/Hers)



www.rtfhsd.org

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February 8, 2022

SUPPORT FOR ITEM #13: ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AMONG OLDER ADULTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

The Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) fully supports today's Board action to design a pilot shallow rent subsidy program for older adults who are rent-burdened, homeless, or develop a shallow subsidy program for older adults who are low income, rent-burdened, or at-risk of homelessness. Recognizing the increasing number of people who are 55 years of age or older who are faced with housing insecurity and living on our streets, the RTFH's Continuum of Care created an Ad Hoc Committee on Aging and Homelessness in 2021. Chaired by one of the Continuum of Care Advisory Board members, Paul Downey, CEO of Serving Seniors, the Committee established four key pillars to meaningfully reducing homelessness among our region's older adults. One of these pillars is the establishment of shallow subsidies and shelters designed to meet the unique needs of this population. Preventing people from experiencing the trauma of homelessness is critical, and RTFH appreciates the Board's recognition of this need.

The use of shallow subsidies has been successfully implemented by the Veteran's Administration's Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF) by several organizations throughout San Diego. The shallow subsidy model is a well-established homeless prevention approach that incorporates the tenant's share of cost. Veterans enrolled in the program have been able to remain housed and receive the services and supports necessary to maintain their housing and not experience the trauma of experiencing life on the streets. SSVF's Shallow Subsidy Program has allowed Veterans in San Diego to remain stably housed and have access to the supports they need when they need them. RTFH urges the County to take this opportunity to implement a similar approach to prevent older adults from falling into homelessness.

The RTFH serves as the Housing and Urban Development's federally designated Continuum of Care for San Diego County. In that role, the RTFH is committed to a vision where any individual or family experience of homelessness is a rare, brief, and non-recurring event. The RTFH conducts the annual Point in Time Count, operates the region's Homeless Management Information System, and promotes best practices and policies throughout the region to address homelessness. During the period of October 2021-December 2021, 39% (or 7,639) of the individuals served through the region's homeless services system were 55 years or older. Preventing people from experiencing the trauma of homelessness is critical and RTFH fully supports this action.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at Tamera.Kohler@rtfhsd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamera Kohler". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tamera Kohler, CEO
Regional Task Force on Homelessness



February 8, 2022

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer
District 3
County of San Diego Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Joel Anderson
District 2
County of San Diego Board of Supervisors

RE: SUPPORT: Item 13- Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults

Dear Supervisors Lawson-Remer and Anderson:

On behalf of Father Joe's Villages, I am writing to express our strong support for the February 8, 2022 Board of Supervisors' meeting agenda item 13 (Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults).

Father Joe's Villages is one of San Diego's largest providers of services and shelter to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. With over 70 years of service to the community, Father Joe's Villages has an in-depth and nuanced understanding of the complex root causes of homelessness and what is needed to address it. We provide comprehensive services to help families and individuals obtain stable housing and income. Further, knowing that much of the homelessness crisis is a housing crisis, we own and operate six affordable and supportive housing buildings and are in the process of an ambitious initiative, Turning the Key, to create 2,000 new units of affordable housing in San Diego. Given our role in the community, we see firsthand the impact the housing crisis has on older adults. In 2021 alone, we served nearly 1,250 people aged 62 years and older.

The proposed shallow subsidy pilot program could significantly help prevent more older adults from losing their housing and can help those currently experiencing homelessness to regain stable housing. This is a practical, research-informed and compassionate approach to help care for the most vulnerable older adults in our community. We commend this proposed action and fully support it.

Thank you for your work in this matter and please reach out if we can support these efforts.

Sincerely,

Bill Bolstad
Chief Strategy Officer

3350 E Street
San Diego, CA 92102

neighbor.org