

MEMORANDUM

Building Safety and Housing Department



DATE: March 2, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Steve McHarris, City Manager *Steve McHarris*

FROM: Sharon Goei, Building Safety and Housing Director

SUBJECT: **Pilot Mobile Shower and Laundry Program Update**

Background:

On December 2020, the City Council directed staff to proceed with a pilot program to provide weekly hot shower and laundry services to the unhoused residents of Milpitas. The City will be using a nonprofit service provider, WeHOPE, to operate the Dignity on Wheels program, which includes mobile shower, mobile laundry, and connecting unhoused residents with resources. The City's program will be a six-month pilot at a cost of \$21,372. The program is being funded by the California Board of State and Community Corrections grant funding from the Police Department.

Update:

City and WeHope have entered into a contract that identifies detailed logistics for launching a centralized mobile shower and laundry service for the unhoused residents. Public spaces that are centralized and accessible, convenient for unhoused residents, meet the technical and infrastructure requirements for the shower and laundry trailer, and have minimal impact on surrounding land uses, were evaluated, and a site was selected on Winsor Street, immediately south of the Milpitas Library. Staff is beginning outreach to nearby businesses within 300 feet radius of the site, while WeHOPE will conduct outreach to unhoused residents. Staff will also collaborate with the newly formed Homelessness Task Force, City departments, the County, and other nonprofits to conduct additional outreach to unhoused residents. An [outreach flyer to unhoused residents](#) and an [outreach flyer to nearby businesses](#) have also been developed.

The pilot program is scheduled to begin on March 21, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and will continue every Sunday for up to six months. Sundays were selected both, as a convenient day for unhoused residents to prepare for the week, and to minimize parking impacts on nearby businesses. In addition, the County's Homeless Engagement and Access Team will be on-site for the first several sessions, then monthly, to provide outreach, assessment, and case management services. After the first three months of mobile shower and laundry service operations, staff will evaluate the demand for the service and present a status report for City Council review, including considerations and recommendations for an ongoing program.