



# CITY OF MILPITAS HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

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## MINUTES

5:00 PM – 6:20 PM

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting/Teleconference

1. **Welcome/Call to Order** – Chair William Lam called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair William Lam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call**

**Task Force Members Present:** Chair William Lam, Jeremy Bevington, Ferdie Centeno, Norma Morales, Barbara Jo Navarro, Tingna Xu

**Task Force Members Absent:** Sanae Alexander, Ricky Davis, Martha Lamdin, Lisa Moreno

**Staff Present:** Building Safety and Housing: Building Safety and Housing Director Sharon Goei, Housing Manager Adam Marcus, Housing Planner Sara Court

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve August 12, 2021 agenda

Motion/Second: Tingna Xu/Ferdie Centino

Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 6 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve June 10, 2021 minutes

Motion/Second: Ferdie Centino/Norma Morales

Motion carried by a vote of Ayes: 6 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

6. **Public Forum**

No comments.

7. **Business Items**

a. **Staff update**

Housing Planner Sara Court commented on Assembly Bill 832, which extends existing law prohibiting residential tenants from being evicted for failure to pay rent due to a COVID-19-related hardship. Information was provided about the State/County/City rental assistance programs and how to access these resources.

Housing Planner Sara Court provided an update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation for FY 21-22.

Housing Manager Adam Marcus provided information on upcoming workshops, including the Destination Home homelessness and supportive housing workshop on August 26th at 6:30pm and The County of Santa Clara “Let’s talk Housing SCC” discussion on August 30th at 6pm.

**b. Report out from subcommittees:**

Task Force subcommittees presented and provided feedback on the following topics:

**Work Program** - Encourage self-reliance with gift cards, food vouchers, cash, etc. for cleaning-up outdoor living areas, parks, creeks, graffiti. Partner with local business and the County programs to provide job training, internships, and jobs in exchange for tax-credit or awards (Chair Lam and members Bevington and Xu).

- **Member Morales** – Consider reaching out to the Goodwill to get information about a similar voucher program
- **Staff** – The City of Milpitas has partnered with NovaWorks to provide workforce development resources to Milpitas residents. Consider reaching out to the Downtown Streets Team to gather information about their training and outreach model.

**Temporary Housing** - Warehouse conversion, prefab units, tiny homes, safe parking for mobile homes, etc. (Vice Chair Alexander and members Davis and Navarro).

- **Member Navarro** - Housing first is important in addressing homelessness. A sanctioned encampment would be safer and easier to monitor, may address the public perception and concern of homelessness. This program would be a joint effort between multiple stakeholders.
- **Member Navarro** – Hope for the Unhoused, a local advocacy group, is offering an opportunity to participate in a ride along to better understand the needs of the unhoused population in Milpitas.
- **Member Centeno** – Consider tiny homes and safe parking for the unhoused community in Milpitas. There should also be a citizen oversight committee of County vendors to ensure they are doing what they are supposed to do.

**Prevention Program** - Identify and assist at-risk residents, at-risk youth, MUSD McKinney-Vento households. (Members Centeno and Morales).

- **Member Morales** – Need to do more outreach in Spanish and other languages and go where people already gather (neighborhoods, religious institutions, etc). City staff needs to network with more nonprofit organizations. Childcare is an issue in the Milpitas community as a result of the pandemic.

**c. Discuss format of Task Force report to City Council (Chair Lam)**

No action was taken.

**d. Business items for next meeting on September 9, 2021 @ 5 PM. (Chair Lam)**

Task Force members expressed interest in discussing the following items at the next meeting:

- Additional ideas that stemmed from the Subcommittee discussions
- An overview of the task force’s goals and mission
- Format of the task force report to City Council

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM.