

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Cloverdale Responds to County Consideration of Potential Homeless Shelter

County Board to Consider Indoor-Outdoor Shelter Sites and Services for Homeless Individuals at Board Meeting on March 10

City of Cloverdale – On Tuesday, March 10th, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisor is going to review a list of potential indoor-outdoor shelter sites and identify 2 or 3 sites Countywide for staff to further evaluate, including conducting community engagement. The Board of Supervisors will return to the Board on April 7, 2020 for the Board to select a site or sites.

Information on the March 10th Board Item:

On March 10th the Board will weigh in on Sonoma County’s bold shelter initiatives:

- On March 10th the Board will review six locations for two pilot indoor/outdoor shelter sites and select two or three sites for further evaluation.
- Following the March 10th meeting, the County will:
 - Further evaluate the sites
 - Provide information to the neighbors near the potential sites
 - Answer questions from the community (we’ll evaluate if town halls are appropriate as we monitor and respond to the Coronavirus)
- Then, on April 7th, the Board will determine the final two locations for the pilot indoor-outdoor sites.

According to Sonoma County, “**Indoor/outdoor shelters help people take their first step towards permanent housing:**

The indoor/outdoor shelters may include a combination of on-site structures, RV hook-ups, and safe parking. The shelters will have a navigation center to help connect people to permanent supportive housing.”

There is one (1) potential site for consideration within the Cloverdale area:

Cloverdale Rail Depot located at 501 Asti Road

The County used the following specific criteria to determine potential shelter sites:

- Size
- Walkable site
- Accessible for those with mobility limitations
- Site configuration
- Entrance access
- Perimeter security
- Parking on site
- Potential environmental hazards
- Proximity to public transportation
- Proximity to services
- Available utilities
- Duration of property availability

On March 10th the Board will take additional actions to strengthen their homeless network of care, including:

1. Decide how staff should assess the properties recently made available by the State.
2. Consider approving an Interim Homeless Encampment Policy to facilitate outreach and care for homeless individuals residing in encampments on County property, and necessary positions to support the effort.
3. Consider adding a permanent Intensive Care Team to respond to homeless encampments and connect individuals to housing and services.

According to the Fourth District Supervisor James Gore, “I do not foresee any Cloverdale sites being selected to serve as Countywide facilities. I do, however, see the further investigation of these areas as a good potential to manage the existing and growing homeless population in the Cloverdale area.”

Further Supervisor Gore states, “The laudable efforts from the City and its partners to serve the homeless community with St. Pete’s church every Tuesday, but more must be done to turn the trend-line towards the positive and County resources must be brought to bear. I have shared this message with the Mayor, the City Manager, and many of the Councilmembers.”

Mayor Wolter encourages concerned citizens to contact Supervisor Gore with your concerns and comments about a potential shelter in the Cloverdale area. Supervisor Gore can be contacted by e-mail at: District4@sonoma-county.org.

Mayor Wolter also encourages concerned citizens to attend the Board of Supervisors Meeting at the County Center located at 575 Administrative Drive in Santa Rosa on Tuesday March 10th at 9:30 am. Mayor Wolter and the City Manager and will attend the Board of Supervisors meeting to ensure that Cloverdale community interests are addressed.

“While we understand that no final decisions will be made at the County Board meeting, our goal is to monitor this issue closely and ensure that the Board of Supervisor is aware of City concerns about the potential location of a homeless shelter in Cloverdale,” said Mayor Wolter.

RESOURCES

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Agenda Report: <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=733969&GUID=5236486F-C613-4B8E-BDEA-0285974FCD64>

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