



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, February 10, 2022

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Special Zoom Online Meeting

<https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/84896460499>

AGENDA

DUE TO THE CONTINUED SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS WILL BE VIRTUAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. TO FIND OUT HOW YOU MAY ELECTRONICALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING AND PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT, PLEASE REFER TO AGENDA ITEM 4.

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
2. Agenda Review
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Public Statements/Comments

This is the time allotted for public statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Task Force on Homelessness. The following information is provided to help you understand, follow, and participate in the Task Force on Homelessness meeting:

NEW COMMENT PROCEDURE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Task Force on Homelessness in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items.

The following options allow for public participation:

- a. Watch the Task Force Meeting live online at Zoom:
<https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/84896460499>
Or listen by telephone: (720) 707-2699 or (253) 215-8782
Webinar ID: 848 9646 0499
- b. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please sign-on via this Zoom link <https://simivalley.zoom.us/j/84896460499> and use the raise hand function when this agenda item is called. If you wish to make a public comment, you must be signed into the meeting and available at the time this agenda item is called.

- c. Or, if you are unable to sign-on to Zoom and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the Task Force on Homelessness meeting to enviroservices@simivalley.org and include the Agenda Item topic and/or your comments. These emails will be provided to the Task Force on Homelessness board prior to the start of the meeting and made a part of the record.
5. Continued Business: None
6. Informational Presentations
 - a. Annual Snapshot Update
7. New Business
 - a. Safe Park Program Update
8. Task Force Member Comments

This is the time allotted for Task Force member statements or comments on matters within the subject matter and jurisdiction of the Task Force on Homelessness, to request a future agenda item, or to give an Ad Hoc Committee Report. This is also the time to make any announcements related to community events and other items of interest.
9. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report
10. Adjournment: Thursday, May 12, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

/s/

Mara Malch
Deputy Environmental Services Director

If any interested individual has a disability that may require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Jennifer Del Toro, Management Analyst at (805) 583-6759. Upon advance notification, reasonable arrangements will be made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
DRAFT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Council Member Judge called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Mara Malch, Deputy Environmental Services Director, noted that a quorum was present. The attendance detail is available on the last page of the minutes.

2. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by John Tolson and seconded by Susan White Wood to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes. The motion passed with a vote of nine in favor and Linda Fisher-Helton abstaining.

4. Public Statements/Comments

5. Continued Business: None

6. Informational Presentations

a. Overview of 2021 State Housing Legislation

Jennifer Del Toro, Management Analyst, provided an overview of highlights from the recently signed State housing legislation. The presentation focused on legislative bills that may be of notable interest to members of the Task Force and non-profit housing organizations.

As background, Governor Newsom signed 31 housing bills under the umbrella of his California Comeback Plan into law. The State has allocated \$22 billion to create 84,000 new affordable homes, including over 44,000 new housing units and treatment beds for people experiencing homelessness. These bills, along with the allotted budget, support the State's priority toward increasing housing stock, speeding up rate of production, enforcing fair housing practices, and holding local governments accountable for implementing the State's plan through additional enforcement and the creation of the Housing Accountability Unit.

7. New Business

a. Task Force Member Agency Updates on Programs and Services

Various Task Force members, including Heidi Marine, Many Mansions, Susan White Wood, Ventura County Health Care Agency and Dan Jaeger, the Samaritan Center, shared agency updates on programs and services. The discussion concluded without a formal recommendation.

8. Task Force Member Comments

Council Member Luevanos requested updates on the Safe Parking program and a permanent shelter be placed on a future agenda.

9. Task Force on Homelessness Coordinator's Report

Jennifer Del Toro, Management Analyst, announced that the 2022 Task Force meeting dates have been shared in the agenda packet with the Community Room of the Simi Valley Public Library being reserved for these meetings.

10. Adjournment: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Organization	Representative	Attendance
Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura	Linda Fisher-Helton	P
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce	John Tolson	P
City Council	Council Member Mike Judge	P
City Council	Council Member Ruth Luevanos	P
Ventura County Health Care Agency	Susan White Wood	P
Ventura County Ventura Human Services Agency	Jillian Fleming	P
Ventura County Supervisor Bob Huber Office	Joel Angeles	A
State Senator or Assembly Member	Nicholas Gaines	A
Simi Valley Unified School District	Trustee Sofya Bagdasaryan	P
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Theresa Pennington	P
Resource Coordination Representative	Heidi Marine Many Mansions	P
Resource Coordination Representative	Dan Jaeger The Samaritan Center	P
Resource Coordination Representative	Gustavo Almarosa Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation	A
Attendance Key: P = Present A = Absent * = Arrived after Approval of the Minutes		

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY • MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2022

TO: Task Force on Homelessness

FROM: Samantha Argabrite, Deputy City Manager
Dan Jaeger, Executive Director, Samaritan Center

SUBJECT: Safe Park Program Update

Background

Council Member Luevanos requested an update on the Safe Park Program during the November 18, 2021 Task Force on Homelessness meeting. In review, the City partnered with the Samaritan Center from December 23, 2020 to March 31, 2021 to manage a Safe Park Program and provide case management services. The Program operated from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily and the Program Director and security were on-site for the duration and was located in the parking lot at the United Methodist Church. Adjacent neighbors initially expressed concerns about the location of the Program however; there were no incidents while the Program was in operation. The final Program cost was \$60,038 for the restroom trailer, program management, and security services provided by the Samaritan Center or over \$30,019 per participant and over \$2,858 per day of participation.

Outreach

To ensure eligible individuals were aware of the Program, outreach was conducted by the Samaritan Center and the Simi Valley Police Department. As part of the outreach, the Samaritan Center advised eligible, existing clients, the United Way of Ventura County, the organization that makes referrals through the 2-1-1 line to ensure that Simi Valley residents who call in for referrals and support could be advised of the Program, and the Area Housing Authority. Additionally, Dan Jaeger, the Executive Director of the Samaritan Center, and City staff, presented the Program to the Task Force on Homelessness on February 11, 2021 to ensure the participating service providers present were aware of the Program.

The Simi Valley Police Department Homeless Liaison Officers, who are familiar with where individuals often sleep in their vehicles, conducted outreach on January 7 and January 14, 2021, providing flyers about the Program to those contacted. On January 7, individuals in eight vehicles were contacted and on January 14, individuals in an additional 13 vehicles were contacted however, one vehicle was contacted on both occasions. On a third occasion, on January 22, Officers contacted the management of 14 properties throughout the community to provide them with flyers about the Program. This outreach was conducted to ensure that the private security of these properties were aware of the Program and could provide flyers to those sleeping in their vehicles in the private parking lots.

Participation

Although outreach was extensive, the Safe Park Pilot Program served only two individuals during its operating period. One client participated for two weeks from January 26th through February 9th and a second client participated for one week from February 11th through February 18th. Participation in the Safe Park Pilot Program required clients to sign an agreement to comply with a Code of Conduct; individuals contacted largely were not interested in doing so.

COVID-19 Implications

In consultation with the Police Department and the Samaritan Center, staff maintains that the COVID-19 Pandemic shaped participation in the Program. Homeless individuals who may have normally participated may instead have participated in the Project Roomkey and Homekey programs. While many individuals were financially impacted by the Pandemic, the eviction protections and rental assistance programs kept many people in their housing. Had these programs expired, it is possible that some of these individuals would have been rendered homeless, making them candidates for the Safe Park Pilot Program. At this time, the Project Homekey program continues to be available.

Prior to terminating the Program on March 31, 2021, staff consulted with the Samaritan Center and United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. Based on the limited participation and the cost of the Program, the City Council agreed to end the pilot program as scheduled.

Conclusion

Following the conclusion of the Program, Samaritan Center staff continued to query clients regarding their interest in participating in a Safe Park Program, however, there has not been a significant level of interest from clients.

The model used in the pilot program placed a number of requirements on participants, including entering at a certain time and leaving at a certain time. This model is not recommended by homeless services providers, instead the model that is encouraged is one where participants may stay all day in tents or pop up housing, come and go, and receive meals, case management services and have a safe place to sleep. As a result of the executed model, City staff and Samaritan Center staff believe that Program participation was decreased. For example, of the individuals that regularly sleep in their vehicles at various sites throughout the City, while it is not permitted, unless the property owner requires them to leave, individuals are not subject to the same regulations of the Program.

With the lack of participation cost in mind, City staff nor the Samaritan Center recommends that the Program be relaunched. The Samaritan Center is currently operating the PADS program through March 31 at the Samaritan Center site. Individuals who participate in PADS program sleep inside, there is nothing that prevents an individual who is sleeping in their vehicle from co-locating at the PADS site overnight.