

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

April 5, 2022

**Torrance Pallet Shelter Pre-Development Funding**

In January 2016, the City of Torrance (City or Torrance) Social Services Commission began to provide advisory recommendations to the Torrance City Council on several matters, including people experiencing homelessness. Through the work of the Commission, the City took action to address homelessness in the community, including dedicating City resources to be the deployment site and coordination of the annual homeless count, implementing an annual toiletry drive to benefit nonprofit community agencies, supporting the local school district in collecting supplies for students experiencing homelessness, and promoting resources such as Los Angeles County Homeless Outreach Portal so the community can assist those who are unhoused.

The Torrance Social Services Commission and the Torrance City Council held a joint meeting on October 29, 2019, to discuss the City’s progress towards addressing homelessness. At the conclusion of the joint meeting, City Council directed City staff to develop a homelessness plan, and to return to a future Council meeting for adoption of the plan. To carry out the direction of City Council, the Commission held five listening

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

sessions with various segments of the community and solicited community input using an online survey.

Using LA County Measure H Innovation Funds and City General Funds, the City retained a dedicated Outreach Worker/Housing Navigator to provide outreach services to people experiencing homelessness in Torrance. The primary role of the Outreach Worker/Housing Navigator is to engage people experiencing homelessness and connect them with resources to transition to permanent housing. On March 16, 2021, the Torrance City Council directed City staff to return to the City Council with a plan to address homelessness, including a proposal for temporary shelter.

On April 28, 2021, City staff met with LA County staff to discuss opportunities to leverage the City of Redondo Beach's success in addressing homelessness through a temporary housing solution using tiny homes. City and County staff noted that providing people experiencing homelessness with access to tiny homes, support services, and case management creates housing stability so that individuals can achieve permanent housing.

In May and June of 2021, City and LA County staff collaborated to develop a proposed temporary housing program in Torrance, including proposed units, operations, and funding sources, based on best practices from other communities. On June 22, 2021, the Torrance City Council adopted a citywide plan to prevent and combat homelessness. At the same meeting, the Council approved a site for a temporary housing program using tiny homes to be activated at the Torrance Civic Center Grounds for an evaluation period of twelve months. Since then, the County and City have been working to identify various funding sources to support the capital and construction costs for this project.

On August 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion requesting CEO to utilize \$450,000 for capital construction cost and identify funding for any gaps in operational funding. The County allocated \$450,000 of Emergency Services Grant (ESG-CV) funds that are administered by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), acting as the agent of the County, to support this effort. The City determined that additional funding is needed for pre-development work due to an increase in construction.

The Torrance Pallet Shelter project was determined statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by the City in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(4) and CEQA Guidelines sections 15269(c) and 15061(b)(3). The LACDA's consideration of this determination satisfies the requirements of CEQA.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors acting as the Board of Commissioners of LACDA:

1. Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute, and if necessary, amend an agreement with the City utilizing Measure H funds up to \$495,000 for the Torrance Pallet Shelter Site project.
2. Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to incorporate up to \$495,000 in Measure H Funds into the LACDA's approved Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and Fiscal Year 2022-2023, as needed. Of the total allocation, up to \$450,000 will be provided to the Torrance Pallet Shelter and \$45,000 will be retained by the LACDA for administrative costs related to the Project.
3. Acting as a responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality

Act, certify that the LACDA has considered the attached exemption determination for the Torrance Pallet Shelter project prepared by the City of Torrance as lead agency; and find that this project will not cause a significant impact on the environment.

# # #

JH: