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Sylmar Crisis Housing

In 2016, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) conducted a study to identify gaps in homeless housing and shelter and concluded that there was a need for 2,279 additional emergency shelter beds countywide. Various activities are under way in the County to address this gap, one of which is to identify existing facilities that can be used to create additional shelter beds.

The Sylmar Armory, which is owned by the State of California National Guard, was identified as a potential site that could be purchased and utilized as a shelter site in the Third Supervisorial District. The National Guard recently informed the Third Supervisorial District that the Armory cannot be sold for at least two years, but is available under a year-to-year lease option. LAHSA, via an appraisal conducted by a local service provider, identified a preliminary list of facility items that would require attention prior to the County potentially entering into a year-to-year lease; however, the cost for repair of the identified items is not known at this time.

There are no other shelters in the immediate area. According to the data

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collected during the 2016 Homeless Count, Sylmar had 221 unsheltered homeless individuals. Service Planning Area 2, which includes both the Third and Fifth Supervisorial Districts and where Sylmar is located, had 5,663 unsheltered individuals.

Transportation to shelter is a key component to successfully sheltering homeless individuals living on the streets. For the Sylmar Armory to be used as a year-round shelter site, transportation from designated pick up sites would be required.

Additionally, under strategy E8 of the County's Homeless Initiative, the County is committed to enhancing the emergency shelter system to serve as an effective point-of-access to, and component of, an integrated homeless services system. To achieve this goal the County needs additional crisis housing that operates 24-hours a day/7 days a week. This crisis housing should have "low threshold" criteria as defined in the County's Homeless Initiative. Intensive case management and housing location services should be provided onsite. These services assist individuals to quickly move into permanent housing as well as access the full range of treatment and services they require. Crisis housing should also provide storage for belongings, parking for individuals with vehicles, and accommodations for individuals with pets. The Sylmar Armory is an ideal facility for such crisis housing.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with LAHSA:

- 1) determine the costs of one-time repairs needed in order that the Sylmar Armory may be used as year-round 24/7 crisis housing;
- 2) initiate exploratory discussions with the National Guard regarding the potential cost of entering into a year-to-year lease for the Sylmar Armory; and

- 3) report back to the board in 45 days with the estimated costs to make the needed one-time repairs, lease the site, operate a 24/7 crisis housing program (including transportation), and potential funding sources for this project.

S:MR/Sylmar Crisis Housing