

1/10/23

RTC 23-1316

Item #2




**Study Session on the Work of the Homelessness Taskforce**

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RTC 23-1316

**January 10, 2023**

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City of Santa Clara  
The Center of What's Possible

## Study Session on Homelessness

**Goals**

1. Provide background information
2. Summarize community input received
3. Present the City's draft plan framework
4. Review next steps and potential actions in early 2023
5. Gather City Council feedback

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**POST MEETING MATERIAL**

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# Study Session on Homelessness

## Introductions

**Andrew Crabtree**, Community Development Department

**Adam Marcus**, Community Development Department

**Eli Hamilton**, Homebase

**Joy Balinbin**, Homebase

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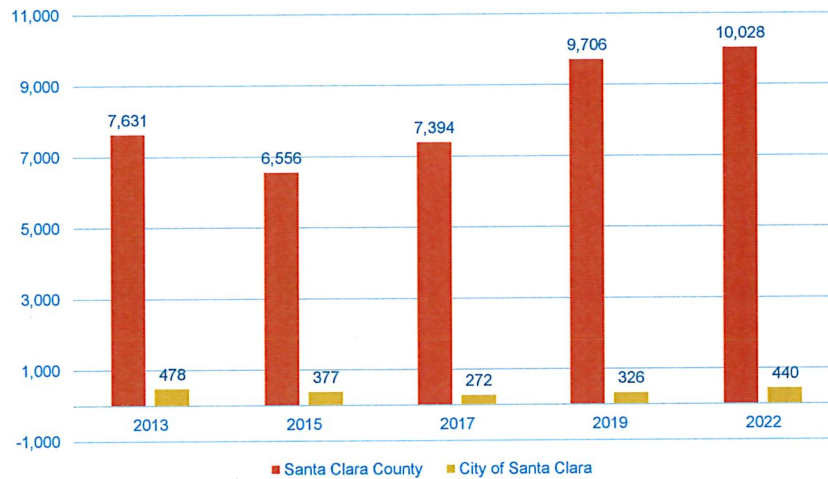
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## Background



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## Homelessness Over Time: 2022 Point in Time Count

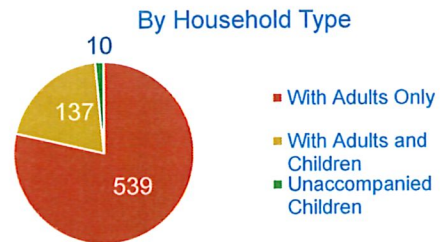
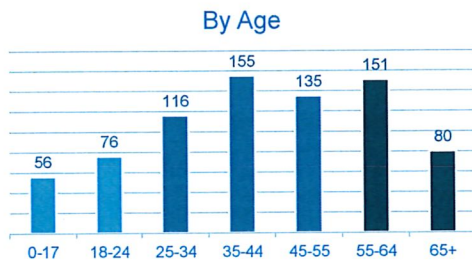


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## Homelessness in CY 2021: Countywide service database (HMIS)

769 individuals "affiliated" with the City of Santa Clara

- 57% with serious physical or mental health conditions
- 50% chronically homeless (disabled and unhoused 12+ months)
- 34% have experience of domestic violence or trafficking



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## Current City Strategies

### Affordable Housing Development

- Calabazas Community Apartments (2021); St. Anton Apartments (2022); Agrihood Senior Apartments, Monroe Apartments, Kifer Senior Apartments (2023)

### Interim Housing

- State-funded Homekey project: Bella Vista Inn (2023)

### Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) (\$1M annually)

### Case management in Permanent Supportive Housing (\$125,000 annually)

## Current City Strategies, continued

### Santa Clara Police Department Community Response Team

### Mobile shower and laundry pilot

### Encampment clean-up (\$90,000 for 2022-23)

### Homelessness Prevention System (\$50,000 annually)

### Tenant education and counseling, mediation, and fair housing

### Services for survivors of domestic violence



## Outreach and Feedback Process

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### Homelessness Taskforce

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Six meetings from April to October

13 Taskforce members

- Eight residents representing all Council Districts
- Five non-profit & County partners

Meetings announced and open to public attendance

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## Homelessness Taskforce Members

Lori Garmany  
**Council District 1**

Catherine Pham  
**Council District 6**

Andrea Urton  
**Homefirst**

VaNae N. Hamilton, Ph.D  
**Council District 2**

Michelle Ortega  
**Community Member At-Large**

Hilary Barroga  
**County Office of  
Supportive Housing**

Dontae Lartigue  
**Council District 3**

Santiago Arrendondo Jr.  
**Community Member At-Large**

Ray Bramson  
**Destination: HOME**

Daniel Huynh  
**Council District 4**

Sparky Harlan  
**Bill Wilson Center**

Vivian Wan  
**Abode Services**

Anne McMahon  
**Council District 5**



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## Community Engagement

Focus groups with providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and City staff

12 interviews with people with lived experience of homelessness

Community Forum open to the public with 70+ participants

Business Community Survey with 270+ responses

Public comment at Taskforce meetings & over email



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## Summary of Community & Taskforce Input

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| City-specific outreach  | Temporary housing and shelter           | Make public spaces safe and welcoming            | Trash removal and public health concerns   |
| Business impacts (security, property damage, customer safety) | Police presence and enforcement of laws | Mental health services (including substance use) | Resources and training for City staff      |
| Coordination between local partners                           | More services located in the city       | Clear ways to access resources                   | More information about available resources |

## Summary of Community & Taskforce Input, continued

|  |   |  |                                    |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|
| More affordable and supportive housing | Address community opposition to development | Local housing policy changes             | Legal protections for renters      |
| Center lived experience                | Education and living wage jobs              | Adequate funding for supportive services | Community education and engagement |



## City's Draft Plan Framework

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### Priority Areas

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1. Conduct **proactive street outreach** with the goal of assessing people for supportive housing.
2. Address **basic needs of people living outside**, including shelter, health, and hygiene.
3. **Build community understanding** of the causes, needs, and experience of homelessness.
4. **Reduce the impacts** of unsheltered homelessness throughout the community.
5. Fund additional **interim and permanent supportive housing** as well as **Extremely Low Income (ELI) housing** across the City.
6. **Prevent homelessness** for City residents at-risk.

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**Priority Area 1: Conduct proactive street outreach with the goal of assessing people for supportive housing**

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1.1: Street outreach team to serve the City of Santa Clara

1.2: Support peer outreach

1.3: Work with County to provide more timely crisis response

1.4: Work with County to ensure access to mental health & substance use services

**Priority Area 2: Address basic needs of people living outside, including shelter, health, and hygiene.**

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2.1: Determine optimal locations and times for hygiene, shower, biowaste, and laundry service

2.2: Partner to expand basic needs services

2.3: Establish safe and welcoming places for people to go

2.4: Create storage options

### **Priority Area 3: Build community understanding of the causes, needs, and experience of homelessness**

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3.1: Engage people with lived experience of homelessness in decision-making and community education

3.2: Provide education opportunities for members of the public

3.3: Work with local service providers to coordinate volunteering or fundraising opportunities

### **Priority Area 4: Reduce the impacts of unsheltered homelessness throughout the community**

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4.1: Develop City protocol to triage crises and concerns

4.2: Provide training and support to City staff

4.3: Increase shelter and interim housing options

4.4: Explore innovative models for safe parking

4.5: Partner to manage impacts of encampments

4.6: Supplement sanitation and safety efforts at encampments and parks

4.7: Target the highest utilizers of crisis resources for housing



**Priority Area 5: Fund additional interim and permanent supportive housing as well as Extremely Low Income (ELI) housing across the City**

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- 5.1: Continue support of 2016 Measure A Affordable Housing Bond
- 5.2: Prioritize City resources to fund ELI and supportive housing
- 5.3: Explore policy changes to facilitate affordable housing development
- 5.4: Engage housing developers to leverage new state funding
- 5.5: Engage with Destination: Home's Housing Ready Communities program
- 5.6: Develop a protocol to integrate new housing developments into the community

**Priority Area 6: Prevent homelessness for City residents at risk**

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- 6.1: Increase investment in the Countywide Homelessness Prevention System
- 6.2: Implement stronger protections against eviction, rent increases, or other forms of displacement

## Summary of Public Comment & Taskforce Feedback

|  |                                      |   |                                     |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Accessible language/readability            | Specificity (targets, time frame)    | Estimate costs & funding                  | Research what works in other cities |
| Emphasize affordable housing               | Remove affordable housing strategies | Emphasize mental health and substance use | Emphasize prevention                |
| Specific populations (youth, older adults) | Safe parking                         | Restrict where people can live outside    | Increase police & enforcement       |



## Study Session on Homelessness

### Next Steps and Potential Actions in early 2023

#### A. City of Santa Clara Homelessness Response Plan

#### B. Actions:

1. American Rescue Act Program Allocation Plan (HOME ARP)
2. California Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PHLA) Allocation
3. California Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF)
4. Homekey application for interim housing at Lawrence/Benton St.





## Study Session on Homelessness

### Interim Housing Proposal (2023)

- Study Session in July 2021: Direction to identify potential sites for interim housing
- Homelessness Task Force findings: Santa Clara lacks sufficient emergency shelter and non-congregate interim housing
- Planning Commission: Suggest protocols for engaging stakeholders to ensure successful integration of new interim and supportive housing into the community

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## Study Session on Homelessness

### Interim Housing Proposal (2023)

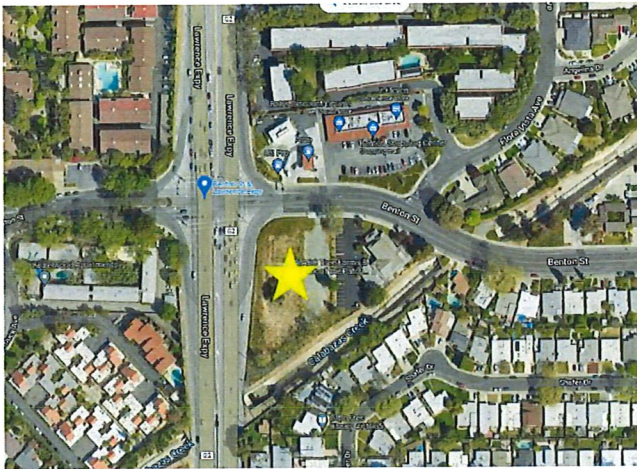
- County Community Plan to End Homelessness Strategy 3 calls for doubling the number of shelter beds across the County.
- County Challenge Grant: Eligible for a \$4M grant for operating or capital expenses to establish and operate a new emergency shelter using modular construction.
- County Owned site at Lawrence/Benton Street
- Sobrato/LifeMoves is proposing 80-120 interim housing units + services
- Homekey Round 3 applications are due March 2023; government cosponsor required

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## County-Owned Site @ Lawrence/Benton St.



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## Study Session on Homelessness

- Thoughts on the proposed interim housing site?
- Are there any needs and gaps that we missed?
- Should we add, delete, or edit any strategies?
- Are there key priorities that should be emphasized?

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The seal of the City of Santa Clara, California, is circular. It features a central illustration of a mission building with a red roof and a bell tower, set against a blue sky with clouds and a green field. The year "1852" is written below the illustration. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "CITY OF SANTA CLARA CALIFORNIA" at the top and "THE MISSION CITY" at the bottom, separated by a dotted line.

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