

RESOLUTION 2022-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ANA URGING THE COUNTY OF ORANGE TO OPERATE A COLD WEATHER SHELTER OUTSIDE OF SANTA ANA FOR A TRUE COUNTY-WIDE APPROACH AND ENCOURAGING SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CITIES TO MORE EQUITABLY PARTICIPATE IN EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

WHEREAS, Homelessness in Orange County continues to be of great concern to residents across Orange County; and

WHEREAS the City of Santa Ana continues its robust response to the homelessness crisis, contributing far more than its equitable share and more than any other city in Orange County to combat the crisis by providing shelter and care to individuals experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, for example, the City of Santa Ana operates a 200-bed homeless shelter at 1815 East Carnegie Avenue, a location within the City of Santa Ana that serves the needs of men, women, and families experiencing homelessness. Sixty-four of the 200 shelter beds at this homeless shelter are vacant. Furthermore, with construction, this shelter can expand to 300 beds; and

WHEREAS additionally, the City of Santa Ana regularly collaborates with the County of Orange to increase the supply of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing as evidenced by the development and construction of several permanent supportive housing projects jointly funded by the City of Santa Ana and the County of Orange, including WISEPlace, Crossroads at Washington, FX Residences, Westview House, Legacy Square, North Harbor Village, Heroes Landing, Santa Ana Arts Collective, and Depot at Santiago; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the City of Santa Ana deploys cross-departmental and cross-jurisdictional homeless response teams to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Ana. This includes the Santa Ana Multi-Disciplinary Response Team that dispatches outreach workers, case managers, substance abuse professionals, mental health clinicians, nurse practitioners, and plain-clothes, private safety officers for non-emergency homeless-related issues; and

WHEREAS furthermore, the County of Orange operates 425 shelter beds at its Yale Navigation Center, located in the City of Santa Ana. Of these, the City of Santa Ana has access to 125 beds; and

WHEREAS, as required by Senate Bill 2 ("SB 2"), there is abundant property in South Orange County for shelter purposes. A review of the SB 2 zones identified in some of the larger South Orange County cities such as Irvine, Newport Beach, Laguna Niguel, Lake Forest, and San Clemente, reveals a multitude of potential sites for shelter; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 11, 2022, and despite the availability of potential shelter sites outside of Santa Ana, the County of Orange informed the United States District Court, Central District of California ("Court"), that the County of Orange intended to open an emergency cold weather shelter at a facility operated by The Salvation Army at 818 East Third Street in Santa Ana ; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2022, the Court conducted a status conference regarding the County of Orange's intention to open the cold weather shelter. Based on the available shelter bed capacity in Santa Ana, as cited by Santa Ana at the hearing, the Court declined the County's request to open the emergency cold weather shelter in Santa Ana; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2022, the Court held further proceedings to discuss the County's intent to operate the cold weather shelter in Santa Ana, determined that an emergency exists that justifies the activation of the Santa Ana Armory as a cold weather shelter in Santa Ana, and ordered that the Armory be activated for operation by the County; and

WHEREAS, as cited in the Orange County Grand Jury report entitled *How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?*, there are no low-threshold emergency shelters in South Orange County. Considering this, individuals in South Orange County cities who are experiencing homelessness will need to travel great distances to seek shelter at the cold weather shelter in Santa Ana; and

WHEREAS, as noted by the Court at the October 21 hearing, the need for, and ability to place, a cold weather shelter is undeniable in South Orange County but also that there needs to be an equitable, county-wide approach to these types of shelters, whereby one of each might be established in each of the County's three Service Planning Areas; and

WHEREAS, Santa Ana has always encouraged this approach and insisted upon the same at the October 21 hearing, where it also again demonstrated that the greatest need for a cold weather shelter in the Central SPA was not in Santa Ana but rather in locations outside of the City; and

WHEREAS, despite Santa Ana's advocacy, the Court ordered the activation of the Santa Ana Armory to be used as a cold weather shelter from December 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, a site for which the County currently has no operator; and

WHEREAS, going forward, a better and more organized plan is imperative for the operation of cold weather shelters whereby one is sited outside of the City of Santa Ana, which has always hosted more shelter beds than any other city and regularly has enough bed capacity to service individuals experiencing homelessness within its City limits, and moreover the impacts of a cold weather shelter on the City cannot be mitigated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Santa Ana as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Santa Ana hereby encourages the County of Orange to operate a cold weather shelter at locations in the County outside of Santa Ana for a true County-wide approach, as repeatedly advocated by the City.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Santa Ana hereby encourages South Orange County cities in particular to contribute their equitable share to combat the regional homelessness crisis by providing shelter and care to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the Clerk of the Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this Resolution

ADOPTED this ____ day of November, 2022.

Vicente Sarmiento
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Sonia R. Carvalho, City Attorney

By: _____

AYES: Councilmembers _____

NOES: Councilmembers _____

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers _____

NOT PRESENT: Councilmembers _____

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTATION AND ORIGINALITY

I, Clerk of the Council, do hereby attest to and certify the attached Resolution No. 2022-____ to be the original Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Santa Ana on _____, 2022.

Date: _____

Clerk of the Council
City of Santa Ana

DRAFT