



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
H2

For the meeting of: January 9, 2018

Date: December 21, 2017
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Mike Wilson
Subject: Discussion and possible action of issues related to the Board of Supervisors declaring a shelter crisis in Humboldt County.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Discuss the need for adequate shelter resources in the County to serve the needs of homeless individuals in the unincorporated areas of the County; and
2. Direct the CAO's office to coordinate necessary staff from affected departments to report to the Board whether there is statistical documentation indicating that the volume of individuals is greater than the shelter resources currently available in the unincorporated areas of the County; and
3. Direct staff to make recommendations to the Board, based on the statistical data, whether or not to declare a shelter crisis pursuant to Government Code section 8698 et seq.; or
4. Amend, modify, or reject the above options; or
5. Take no action.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature Mike Wilson

REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
____ Consent
____ Departmental
____ Public Hearing
XX Other Board Initiated (15 minutes)
PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor _____
Seconded by Supervisor _____
Ayes _____
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

SEE ACTION SUMMARY

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: _____

By: _____
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

DISCUSSION:

California Government Code Sections 8698 et seq. allows local governments to declare a shelter crisis if a significant number of people are not able to obtain shelter and their health and safety may be threatened as a result. Such a declaration allows a jurisdiction to make government owned buildings available to use as a Warming Center or shelter. Additionally, it provides for immunity from liability for “ordinary negligence in the provision of emergency housing” provided that the jurisdiction has declared a shelter crisis under this code and made a finding “that a significant number of persons within the jurisdiction of the governing body are without the ability to obtain shelter, and that the situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.”

There is anecdotal information before the Board that the volume of homeless individuals in the unincorporated areas of the County is greater than the shelter resources currently available. If true, in the event of prolonged or unusually inclement weather, the unmet need for temporary shelter to a large number of individuals will become a critical health and safety need. Nevertheless, a declaration of a Homeless Shelter Crisis is premature at this time because there is no statistical data before the Board to support a finding that a “significant number of persons” within the County are without ability to obtain shelter, and that the situation has resulted in “a threat to the health and safety of those persons.” Therefore, it is necessary to refer this matter to staff so that they can provide the information needed in order for this Board to make a factual determination whether a shelter crisis exists.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Unknown

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: None