

Santa Cruz City Council Meeting
April 9, 2019 (Afternoon Session)

15. Homelessness and the Gateway Encampment

15.1 City Council Direction of March 26, 2019: Lot 24 Reconsideration and Gateway Encampment Closure Plan, and Other Homelessness-Related Agenda Items (CM)

Motion to consider and take action, as appropriate, on the following:

- 1) The disposition and closure plan for the Ross Camp.
- 2) Consider rescinding the City Council decision designating Lot 24 as a safe sleeping or camp site.

15.2 Rescind Lot 24 Approval for Safe Sleeping, Revise Ross Camp Closure Plan and Form an Expert Panel on Homelessness (CN)

- 1) Motion to rescind the City Council approval of Parking Lot 24 as a site for a safe sleeping or camping.
- 2) Motion to confirm the April 17, 2019 closure of the Ross Camp with alternate shelter needs to be met by maximizing the spaces in the 1220 River Street camp and fully utilizing other existing shelter options throughout the county including the VFW and Laurel Street Shelter, and the possibility of lodging vouchers.
- 3) Motion to form an ad hoc Expert Council on Homelessness with nine subject matter experts and community members, nominated by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council, to advise the City Council on homelessness policy and actions incorporating education and community outreach and engagement, in furtherance of City-adopted policy regarding homelessness including the All-In Plan, the Homelessness Coordinating Committee 20 Action Recommendations and the 2x2 Committee.

Action by City Council:

1) Motion to Rescind approval of Parking Lot 24 as a site for safe sleeping and camping and not pursue other campgrounds in city neighborhoods and parks at this time:

Motion Passes

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Mathews, Meyers, and Krohn

No: Glover

2) Motion to confirm the April 17, 2019 closure of the Ross Camp

Motion Fails

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Councilmembers Mathews and Meyers

No: Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Glover and Khron

3) Motion to form an ad hoc Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness with nine subject matter experts and community members, nominated by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council.

Motion Amended to Read: City Council modified the motion to include additional two members representing mental health. Behavioral health, and addictive services and one student representative. Members will be appointed through an application process with recommendations by the Mayor and ratified by the Council. No more than two members may live and/or work outside of the City.

Motion Passes:

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Mathews, Meyers, Brown, Glover and Krohn

15.3 Response to Homelessness: Update and Direction Regarding Gateway Encampment Interim Site Management (CN)

1. Receive an update on City-County Joint Action Plan for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management, including efforts to

identify location and resources for a permanent year-round shelter and Navigation/day services center.

2. Direct staff to develop and implement an interim site management plan for the Gateway Encampment consistent with the measures outlined in this report and including: cleanup; site/sleeping space layout; installation of additional hygiene and security measures; and ongoing interim operations management with the management plan to go into effect no later than the opening of the River Street campground.

3. Express the Council's intention to close the Gateway Encampment when sufficient campground or non-campground emergency shelter beds are available and to not pursue further homeless campgrounds in City neighborhoods or parks.

Action by City Council:

1) Receive an update on City-County Joint Action Plan for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management, including efforts to identify location and resources for a permanent year-round shelter and Navigation/day services center.

2) Direct staff to develop and implement an interim site management plan for the Gateway Encampment consistent with the measures outlined in this report. Motion Passes:

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Glover, Krohn, Mathews and Meyers

3. Express the Council's intention to close the Gateway Encampment when sufficient campground or non-campground emergency shelter beds are available - Motion Passes

Yes: Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Glover and Krohn

No: Mayor Watkins, Councilmembers Mathews and Meyers

4. Motion to direct the City Attorney to return to the Council with amendments to the city code to ensure City Policies are consistent with the Martin vs. Boise decision – Motion Passes.

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Glover, Krohn, Mathews and Meyers

5. Motion to direct the City Attorney to immediately engage with the ACLU and others regarding legal issues that have been raised, and report back no later than April 23rd. – Motion Passes.

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Glover, Krohn, Mathews and Meyers

15.4 Standard Operating Procedures for Vacating Homeless Encampments that Contain Significant Health and Safety or Nuisance Conditions (CA)

Resolution adopting Standard Operating Procedure for Removal of Homeless Encampments on City or Non-City Owned Public Property that Contain Significant Health and Safety or Nuisance Conditions.

Action By City Council: Direct City Attorney to contact the ACLU and other litigants who have filed suit and an injunction to not close Ross Camp and return to the City Council with an updated plan.

Motion Passes

Yes: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Councilmembers Brown, Glover, Krohn, Mathews and Meyers

Chamber's position: Chamber supports a homeless shelter at the River Street site and requests the city council work to locate a second site that is more compatible to serve the homeless population with wrap around services as necessary and in coordination with the County. The Chamber does not support temporary small 'encampments' spread across the City, at city owned lots near schools, parks, and where tourist and businesses generate tax revenues to the city. The Chamber does not believe moving

the homeless population around the city, near schools, and into neighborhoods serves the citizens of our community, nor does it address our homelessness issues.