



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Date: December 4, 2024

Agenda Item: #3

Agenda Item:

Discussion and possible action regarding ECHO's State of the Homelessness Response System report and recommendations, and additional investments to fill comprehensive gaps and needs to improve the Homelessness Response System.

Vote

3-0 [Committee members present are Council Member Vanessa Fuentes (chair) Council Member Jose Velasquez (vice-chair), Council Member Ryan Alter

Sponsors/Department:

Sponsors: Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, Chair, Jose Velasquez and Ryan Alter

Summary of Discussion

Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, Chair, presented a committee recommendation to prioritize investments in homelessness response system. This recommendation adopts ECHO's report as a model to inform investments in the homelessness response system and make adjustments in response to the updated data. It directs the City Manager to explore additional funding opportunities for us and to prioritize those ongoing investments in the homelessness response system, starting with Fiscal Year 25-26 to ensure that we make our homelessness response system one of our top budget priorities going into next fiscal year. The recommendation also directs the City Manager to identify policy and administrative changes necessary to complete our Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units and this includes a report back date.

Council Member Fuentes' made a motion to move her recommendation to Council and it was seconded by Council Member Velasquez.

Council Member Ryan Alter made a motion to amend the recommendation to include identifying the ARPA cliff that is coming and understand:

- What programs have we been operating via ARPA dollars?
- Do we think we should continue to operate?
- How are we going to fund those in the upcoming budget, as well as one of the big cost drivers in the ECHO report, is the need for over 4,000 units of Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Is this something that we are going to provide as a community, as a City and hopefully with partners?
- We are going to need a large amount of capital and a large amount of ongoing funding for those services.

The Homeless Strategy Office and the Housing Department will create a plan on how we would accomplish that goal showing the capital dollars we would need, the timeline, the operational dollars we would need; and this is how we would do it if that is the goal. The plan should include how we figure out ways to increase turnover, increase moves to housing that has the effect of adding capacity but doesn't require that additional capital expense.

There was no objection to incorporating Council Member Ryan Alter's amendment to the motion.

Direction

The Committee recommends the full Council to prioritize investments in homelessness response system. This recommendation adopts ECHO's report as a model to inform investments in the homelessness response system and make adjustments in response to the updated data. Council Member Ryan Alter's amendment to the recommendation includes identifying the ARPA cliff that is coming and really understanding:

- What programs that we have been operating via ARPA dollars?
- Do we think we should continue to operate?
- How are we going to fund those in the upcoming budget, as well as one of the big cost drivers in the ECHO report, is the need for over 4,000 units of Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Are we going to provide this as a community, as a City and with partners?
- We are going to need a large amount of capital and a large amount of ongoing funding for those services.

Recommendation:

On a 3-0 vote, the Committee recommends sending the item as amended to the full Council.

[Public Health Committee Homelessness Response Recommendation](#)