



THANKSGIVING MARKS FIRST WINTER THAT CITY'S PERMANENT YEAR-ROUND FACILITY IS AVAILABLE FOR HOMELESS ADULTS INSTEAD OF CITY'S TENT PROGRAM

City's year-round Interim Housing Program on track, administered by San Diego Housing Commission

SAN DIEGO, CA— For the first Thanksgiving in almost three decades, homeless San Diegans are not spending the winter in City-provided tents, but are instead finding year-round indoor shelter in the City's permanent facility administered by the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC).

“With this permanent shelter, the City of San Diego and its partners are helping more homeless individuals than we ever could have with just the winter tents,” Mayor Kevin Faulconer said at a news conference three days before Thanksgiving.

SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling praised the Mayor and the San Diego City Council “for doing the right thing (and) helping us to get this shelter in operation.” The City Council approved \$1.47 million in general funds to create the 350-bed facility, known as the City's Interim Housing Program for Homeless Adults ([watch the video](#)).

The City's Interim Housing Program, operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village at the Paul Mirabile Center at its Downtown San Diego campus, is on track to serve 2,700 homeless San Diegans during the current fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

This is compared to approximately 1,300 homeless San Diegans who were previously served at the City's Emergency Winter Shelter tents, which operated for five months. The City's Single Adult Emergency Shelter in Barrio Logan opened on November 1, 2014, and the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter in the Midway District opened on November 8, 2014. Both closed on April 1, 2015.

In addition, 52 percent of the homeless individuals in the City's Interim Housing Program have transitioned to longer-term housing in its first five months, compared to 26 percent who made similar transitions during the five months the shelter tents were available. The City's Interim Housing Program provides training and counseling services to aid with the transition, with the goal of having each resident stay no longer than 45 days.

“We're not working with people just for a night, just for a season. We're moving them into permanent housing and off the streets permanently and changing their lives,” said Jimmy “Deacon Jim” Vargas, CEO of St. Vincent de Paul Village.

City Councilmember Todd Gloria added that during times of extreme winter weather, up to 200 homeless San Diegans will be sheltered at St. Vincent de Paul Village's dining room. An additional 50 homeless individuals will be sheltered at the City's Neil Good Day Center.

Councilmember Gloria said these plans are especially important as San Diego faces “what we expect to be one of the stormiest winters on record.”

SDHC is spearheading a committee of 21 partners and service providers to create a Regional Inclement Weather Homeless Shelter Response Plan, establishing protocols for providing emergency housing for homeless San Diegans during severe weather.

TIMELINE

1986: The City of San Diego begins a tent shelter program for homeless San Diegans during the winter months.

OCTOBER 7, 2014: The San Diego City Council directs SDHC to conduct a site study to identify potential locations for a permanent indoor shelter to be completed and presented to the City Council prior to April 1, 2015.

DECEMBER 2, 2014: Mayor Kevin Faulconer, then-City Council President Todd Gloria, City Councilmember David Alvarez and SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry announce a joint Request for Proposals for a year-round permanent indoor facility to provide interim housing for homeless adults.

MARCH 24, 2015: The San Diego City Council unanimously approves the SDHC's recommendation for year-round interim housing in a permanent facility for homeless San Diegans to replace the seasonal shelters the City had provided during the winter months for nearly 30 years. The City's 350-bed Interim Housing Program will be operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village at the Paul Mirabile Center at its Downtown San Diego campus, with 140 designated for homeless Veterans and 50 for triage and housing placement from the San Diego Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team.

APRIL 1, 2015: The City's Emergency Winter Shelter tents close. The City's year-round Interim Housing Program at St. Vincent de Paul Village's Paul Mirabile Center is phased in, with 102 residents from the City's Emergency Winter Shelter tents:

- 49 referred from the City's Single Adult shelter
- 53 referred from the City's Veterans shelter

JULY 1, 2015: The City's 350-bed, year-round Interim Housing Program officially opens at St. Vincent de Paul Village's Paul Mirabile Center.

For more information about the interim housing program, read the [SDHC News Release](#) about the proposal, issued March 13, 2015, and the proposal [Report to the City Council](#).

###

Media Contact:

Maria Velasquez, Sr. Vice President Communications & Legislative Affairs

619-578-7560

mariav@sdhc.org