

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Darrell Steinberg  
Mayor



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CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

July 3, 2023

Dear Howard,

I'm writing to follow up on the City Council workshop on homelessness.

As you know, we have significant new emergency shelter capacity coming in the form of manufactured homes from the State of California. Siting and construction of all these units is still a way out.

I know you agree with me and the council that we cannot wait. We must do everything now to have a cleaner and safer city and allow people a safe place to live, even if that means temporary organized safe grounds in appropriate designated parts of the city.

We are already starting with the reopening of Miller Park for 60 tents before the middle of July.

Today, I'm requesting that staff move quickly to identify and set up additional emergency safe camping or motel shelters on as many sites available dispersed geographically throughout the city. Please work over the summer recess with the city council members to identify preferred sites.

After the recess, I will recommend giving you unilateral authority to choose sites that meet the need.

I will therefore ask the council when we return on July 25th to authorize you to choose any available sites under your authority and to expend the resources necessary to bring more unsheltered people to safe ground.

These temporary emergency facilities will enable us to get people into a safer space immediately rather than requiring them to wait for a vacancy in one of our 1,100 existing shelter beds. Sacramento County mental health and social workers can come to these spaces to assess people and enroll them in behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, and other needed services.

This temporary strategy can end when the city and county implement their current commitments for hundreds of additional indoor beds.

This request is in addition to the city continuing to fully participate in the outreach strategies under the city county partnership agreement.

This request does not preclude the city from enforcing existing city ordinances such as the Sidewalk, Critical Infrastructure, and Private Property ordinances.

Having the ability to offer a safe ground in organized sites immediately will provide a legal, moral, and effective way for us to move large tent encampments from the many parts of the city where it is clearly unsafe and unhealthy for people to camp and live.

Given the magnitude of the problem, we obviously need either many smaller sites or several large sites that can accommodate greater numbers of people.

Thank you for all you are doing to work with the city council and the community on the most important challenge facing our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darrell Steinberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "S" at the end.

Darrell Steinberg,  
Mayor, City of Sacramento

CC: City Clerk Mindy Cuppy  
CC: City Attorney Susana Alcala Wood