



## CITY OF MILPITAS AGENDA REPORT (AR)

<b>Item Title:</b>	<b>Adopt a Resolution to Endorse the 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness</b>
<b>Category:</b>	Community Development
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	12/1/2020
<b>Staff Contacts:</b>	Sharon Goei, Director of Building Safety and Housing, 408-586-3260
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Adopt a resolution to endorse the 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness

### **Background:**

On October 6, 2020, the Milpitas City Council received presentations of the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness from City staff, Destination: Home, and Santa Clara County. The City Council directed City staff to conduct outreach to develop a local unhoused response plan. On October 15, 2020 at a special meeting, the City Council amended their direction and asked staff to return on October 20, 2020 with a proposal for a Milpitas strategy that prevents and responds to homelessness in Milpitas. On October 20, 2020, the City Council deferred this item to November 10. On November 10, 2020, the City Council approved and authorized staff to begin an agreement for homeless outreach, assessment, and street-based case management services with Santa Clara County, and directed staff to return on December 1, 2020 with any further research on other services. On November 17, 2020, the City Council requested that the endorsement of the 2020-2015 Community Plan to End Homelessness return to the Council on December 1, 2020.

Previously, in 2014, the Santa Clara County Continuum of Care (CoC), in partnership with Destination: Home, developed the 2015-2020 Community Plan to End Homelessness, creating a five-year countywide roadmap that identified innovative strategies and set goals to create new housing opportunities. To address homelessness in a comprehensive way and to access state and federal funding, the CoC is a collaborative created by a broad group of stakeholders led by the County Office of Supportive Housing to coordinate housing and services funding for homeless individuals. The Community Plan to End Homelessness, which is driven and adopted by the Santa Clara County Continuum of Care, is a prerequisite for receiving CoC funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In June 2019, and consistent with the timeframe for the 2015-2020 Community Plan, efforts began to develop the next five-year plan – the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness (“Community Plan”). Santa Clara County and Destination: Home implemented a community engagement process that involved various stakeholders, including people who have experienced homelessness, subject matter experts, community members and organizations, nonprofit service providers, and public agencies. City staff provided input into the process and disseminated Milpitas’ contributions to addressing homelessness. Community feedback was sought to identify challenges in the homeless system of care and to collect innovative ideas on how to reduce and end homelessness countywide.

As the plan was being updated, the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 further exacerbated homelessness. This highlighted the urgency to create a comprehensive response plan for unhoused individuals and families, as well as our residents who are at risk of homelessness.

The 2020-2025 Community Plan builds upon the previous plan and organizes strategies from the community engagement process into three main strategic areas:

- Strategy 1: Address the root causes of homelessness through system and policy change;
- Strategy 2: Expand homelessness prevention and housing programs to meet the need; and
- Strategy 3: Improve quality of life for unsheltered individuals and create healthy neighborhoods for all.

These strategies form the basic framework of the Community Plan. In August 2020, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors endorsed the Community Plan and supported working in partnership with stakeholders to implement the plan. The Community Plan is included here as **Attachment B**. Achieving the goals and advancing the strategies in the plan will require broad collaboration across sectors and communities.

**Analysis:**

Over the years, the City of Milpitas has taken various actions to address homeless response efforts and affordable housing initiatives. The Community Plan strategies are items that the Milpitas City Council and Housing Subcommittee have advanced, which have been included in the Building Safety and Housing Department's work plan. The City has advanced the three strategies in the Community Plan through policies, programs, and services. For example, to prevent homelessness, Milpitas strengthened tenant protections with the Rent Review and Just Cause Eviction Protection Urgency Ordinances. The City also ensures development of more affordable housing by implementing the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance and advocating for more affordable housing with developers. In addition, the Milpitas Rent Relief Program assists the most vulnerable residents with a wide range of housing needs, most notably rental assistance. Staff and the service provider also connect residents with other supportive services depending on the residents' needs. The Rent Relief Program works to prevent tenant displacement and curb short-term homelessness. Furthermore, through Community Development Block Grant funding to support low-income residents with supportive services such as fair housing, or capital projects to preserve affordable housing, a broad range of services and resources is being provided to prevent homelessness. In addition, homeless outreach, assessment, and street-based case management services are part of the strategy to improve quality of life for unsheltered individuals and create healthy neighborhoods for all.

To implement the Community Plan to End Homelessness, in September, Santa Clara County convened a 30-member Unhoused Task Force. Vice Mayor Bob Nuñez and Councilmember Karina Dominguez were appointed to serve on this Task Force. The Task Force focused on Community Plan Strategy 3 to identify immediate strategies and emergency solutions for the unhoused that can be implemented quickly. On October 22, 2020, the Task Force concluded and made its recommendations, one of which is for jurisdiction partners in Santa Clara County to endorse the 2020-2025 Community Plan.

The 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness provides a regional-level roadmap to tackle homelessness and its root causes. As described above, the City's progress and approach, as well as activities being planned or implemented, are in alignment with the three strategies to advance the goals of the Community Plan. Preventing and ending homelessness requires collaboration and coordination of resources at all levels of government, together with community institutions, nonprofit agencies, and community-based organizations.

The recommended action to endorse the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness is consistent with the City Council's goal to address homelessness and affordable housing. With homelessness being a regional issue, a countywide plan serves to unify organizations and communities on long-term strategies and collective solutions to end homelessness.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendation.

**California Environmental Quality Act:**

The action being considered has no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

**Recommendation:**

Adopt a resolution to endorse the 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness.

**Attachments:**

- A. Resolution to endorse the 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness
- B. 2020-2025 Santa Clara County Community Plan to End Homelessness