

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-46

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA, ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR AN EMERGENCY SHELTER AT THE WHITTIER UPTOWN SENIOR CENTER AND FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15269(C) (EMERGENCY PROJECTS) OF CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES

RECITALS

- A. The City Council recognizes the urgent and immediate need to provide funding to combat homelessness.
- B. In July 2018, the Whittier City Council adopted a homeless action plan to address homelessness including milestones pertaining to an emergency homeless shelter.
- C. In October 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-70 declaring a shelter crisis pursuant to Government Code Section 8698.
- D. In November 2019, City Net performed a census specifically of homeless individuals in the City of Whittier and found 231 individuals who were experiencing homelessness and not in transitional or cold weather shelters.
- E. On March 17, 2020, the City declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, activated the City's Emergency Operations Center, and instituted operational, procedural and personnel changes, including changes to method and type of services provided to the public, in order to preserve public health and safety in compliance with the orders of the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Health Officer of the State of California, and the Health Officer of the County of Los Angeles.
- F. On March 24, 2020, City Council directed staff to identify resources to protect the health and safety of Whittier residents experiencing homelessness, including identifying the locations and methods for opening up restroom and handwashing facilities and identifying potential City facilities that could be temporarily repurposed for use as an emergency shelter.
- G. On April 22, 2020, the City Council intervened in a federal lawsuit involving the Orange County Catholic Workers and agreed to construct a navigation center to serve up to 60% of the number of persons experiencing homelessness in Whittier as identified in the November 2019 point-in-time count.

- H. On May 12, 2020, the City Council identified The Salvation Army as the preferred service provider for the Navigation Center. As the City’s designated services provider for the provision of shelter under the terms of the settlement agreement with OC Catholic Workers, staff and The Salvation Army have reached an agreement to provide emergency shelter services at a City facility until the necessary tenant improvements can be finalized at the Pickering facility.

- I. Staff has identified the Whittier Uptown Senior Center as an appropriate temporary emergency shelter and funding is necessary to facilitate the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are a substantial part of this resolution.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby finds that the activities described in this resolution is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15269(c) (Emergency Projects) of California Environmental Quality Act guidelines.

SECTION 3. The following supplemental appropriations shall be added to the City’s FY 2020-21 Budget:

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Amount</u>
100-12-999-201 749062	Emergency Shelter	\$1,501,000

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption hereof.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21th day of July 2020.

JOSEPH A. VINATIERI, Mayor

ATTEST:

RIGOBERTO GARCIA JR., City Clerk
(seal)