

EMAIL/LETTER

Dear Supervisor <name>,

I/We request that the below letter be read into record by the Sacramento County Clerk at the upcoming budget negotiations.

I am/We are gravely concerned with the out-of-control homelessness situation in Sacramento County. Latest projections by Sacramento Steps Forward say there may be more than 16,000 unhoused individuals in the county. Our neighborhood, streets, local parks, businesses and the American River Parkway are paying the price.

I am/We are writing to urge you to use the 2022-23 Budget process to invest in a plan that not only helps get people off the streets and the Parkway, but that also provides them with the resources they need to stay housed. This plan must include suitable locations for shelters, wrap-around services and resources and a timeline so we can hold our local leaders accountable. The housing-first approach – which has largely become a housing-only approach in the county – will not work unless it has the supportive services unhoused individuals need to stay off the streets.

At the same time, the plan must consider the safety of residents and businesses. This includes good neighbor policies for sites that keep our communities clean and safe.

It's clear that Sacramento County is on the wrong track when it comes to homelessness. It's time to invest in resources that will get us back to where we should be.

A comprehensive housing plan should:

- Develop and implement a housing plan that will maximize the number of people moving from the Parkway and our local streets into housing options.
- Strengthen wrap-around treatment for unhoused individuals, including:
 - Psychiatry
 - Case Management
 - Medication
 - Outpatient Treatment
 - Crisis Care
 - Residential Care
 - Hospitalization
 - 24/7 Care Teams (Full-Service Partnership) for the sickest
 - Locked settings for those conserved
- Allocate funding to support re-entry services for people exiting the jail to prevent recidivism.
- Provide job training and life skills education for unhoused to help with reintegration into stable housing and the workforce.
- Prioritize enrolling the unhoused into state, local and federal programs they may be eligible for, including but not limited to: MediCal, Cal Fresh, CalWorks, Veterans' benefits and SSI.
- Expand Substance Use Disorder Treatment programs with individual therapy, Group therapy, Intensive Outpatient therapy, Residential treatment and Detox services, and provide funding to open at least one sobering center.

- Provide funding for temporary emergency shelter space during extreme temperatures or a public health emergency.
- Create standardized set of Good Neighbor policies surrounding all site locations and provide funding for safety patrols surround all site locations.

Sincerely,
<name>

PHONE SCRIPT

I am gravely concerned with the out-of-control homelessness situation in Sacramento County. Latest projections by Sacramento Steps Forward say there may be more than 16,000 unhoused individuals in the county. Our neighborhood, streets, local parks, businesses and the American River Parkway are paying the price. In the upcoming budget process, we must invest in not only housing services for the unhoused, but also wrap-around services that keep them off the streets. Thank you for taking my call.