

*Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California*

Resolution No.: 25-016

Resolution to address homelessness in a comprehensive,)
deliberate and compassionate manner.)

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Homelessness remains a multifaceted challenge that requires a comprehensive approach, necessitating collaboration across multiple levels of government to identify and address widespread economic and systemic inequities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey's (County's) Board of Supervisors adopted the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers "Lead Me Home Plan" in 2021, committing to a community-wide effort to address homelessness by (1) increasing participation in homelessness solutions by leaders and key stakeholders across the region, (2) improving performance of the homelessness response system, and (3) expanding service-oriented responses to unsheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the County's Board of Supervisors have demonstrated support for homelessness response efforts by supporting and partially funding the operations of the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, the local Continuum of Care lead agency, as well as the Homeless Management Information System; establishing the Homeless Services Director position in the County Administrative Office; pursuing a variety of state and federal homelessness-related funding, including Encampment Resolution Funding to comprehensively, deliberately and compassionately address the three largest encampments in unincorporated areas of the County; developing the largest low-barrier housing navigation center in the region; establishing the very first regional street outreach team; and making unprecedented investments in homelessness prevention, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, although the County has taken substantial steps to address homelessness, the region continues to suffer from a severe deficiency of affordable housing units and shelter beds to meet the needs of our local residents; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted by the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers revealed that on any given night 2,436 people are experiencing homelessness, of which 1,883 were unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Housing Inventory Count conducted by the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers revealed a severe deficiency in services with only 881 beds available to serve persons experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2024, Governor Newsom released Executive Order N-1-24, which ordered state agencies to clear homeless encampments on state rights-of-way, and encouraged local governments to adopt policies consistent with his order; and

WHEREAS, while Executive Order N-1-24 and the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson, et al.* provides jurisdictions the authority to handle health, safety, and environmental problems created by encampments, local governments have a responsibility to use this authority judiciously to balance order with compassion;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the County of Monterey's Board of Supervisors hereby:

- a. Supports and endorses the implementation of evidence-based homelessness response policies and practices, including Housing First Principles, Trauma-Informed Care, meeting people where they are at, and Harm Reduction Strategies; and
- b. Pledges to continue collaboration with local organizations, service providers, and individuals with lived experience to improve and, when necessary, generate new homelessness response policies and practices; and
- c. Commits to ensuring that all homelessness response strategies and practices, including encampment clearing practices, are designed and executed with compassion and respect centered on persons experiencing homelessness; and
- d. Pledges to advocate for and allocate necessary resources to support comprehensive evidence-based, deliberate, compassionate, and respectful homelessness response initiatives; and
- e. Encourages ongoing evaluation, review and adjustment of policies and practices to ensure effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of our community, regardless of housing status.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 28th day of January 2025, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Lopez, Askew, and Daniels

NOES: None

ABSENT: Supervisor Church

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting January 28, 2025.

Dated: January 31, 2025

File ID: RES 25-006

Agenda Item No.: 21

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California



Vicente Ramirez, Deputy