BLUE FOLDER ITEM

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING August 4, 2020

N.4 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE NEXT PHASE OF THE ENHANCED RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS PILOT PROGRAM

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PUBLIC COMMUNICATION



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August 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) is a joint powers authority of 16 cities and the County of Los Angeles that share the goal of maximizing the quality of life and productivity of the South Bay region. Since the passage of Measure H, we have administered County funding to improve homelessness strategies for outreach, services and ultimately housing. Our bi-monthly Homeless Services Task Force, chaired by Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath, has become a resource to all of our members in discussing issues, sharing best practices and finding new solutions for those in crisis.

In November 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion that subsequently provided the SBCCOG with an additional funding allocation to administer Innovation Funds for Homeless Services. This past February, the SBCCOG Board awarded the City of Redondo Beach \$245,287 to continue its truly innovative Enhanced Response Pilot Program. It should be noted that this was the only jurisdiction awarded any monies for being "innovative."

An important part of this pilot program is Homeless Court. Homeless Court gives additional attention to those individuals who have impacted the community through criminal behavior. The goal is to address the underlying causes of their behavior, get them "housing ready," and ultimately place them in permanent housing. Recently, one of the SBCCOG Analysts had the opportunity to attend a Homeless Court day in person. She found the process very interesting and commented on the positive energy between Redondo Beach Prosecutors, the presiding judge, defense attorneys, Redondo's housing navigator and the homeless individuals.

We hope to see Redondo's pilot program become a model not only for our other 15 cities but also for the entire county. We strongly support their continued efforts especially important now during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sincerely,

Jacki Bacharach

SBCCOG Executive Director