

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DECLARING THE
EXISTENCE OF A SHELTER CRISIS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTIONS 8698-8698.2

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara finds that the 2017 Point in Time Count identified 427 sheltered homeless individuals and 363 persons that are homeless and living without shelter within the City; and

WHEREAS, the current number of homeless individuals in Santa Barbara far outpaces the number of existing shelter beds, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing units available; and

WHEREAS, In the City of Santa Barbara there is presently a housing shortage for low-income individuals and families, which has resulted in a significant number of such persons lacking the current ability to obtain shelter and whose health and safety are threatened from exposure to the elements; and

WHEREAS, such individuals generally camp or lodge overnight on or in City parks, along Highway 101, the railroad corridor, and other areas within public rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, unauthorized homelessness encampments are increasing across parts of Santa Barbara within the public right of way, thus exposing homeless individuals to crime, risk of death and injury, exposure to weather, lack of adequate sanitation and debris services, and other conditions that are detrimental to their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the effects and impacts of such camping and lodging activities on the physical environment resources and on the use and enjoyment of public spaces for their intended purpose have an adverse impact on the health and safety of all of the people of the City, and those effects and impacts constitute a nuisance for which abatement is warranted; and

WHEREAS, given the extent of the shelter crisis, the City Council of the City of Santa Barbara finds that more immediate efforts are needed to develop additional solutions to address the homeless and shelter crisis in the City; and

WHEREAS, California's Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and Legislature have provided funding to local governments under the Homeless Emergency Aid Program as part of SB 850 and the 2018-19 Budget Act (Chapter 48, Statutes of 2018); and

WHEREAS, The Governor and Legislature require jurisdictions seeking an allocation through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program to declare a Shelter Crisis pursuant to Government Code §8698.2; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara finds that a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara affirms the City's commitment to combatting homelessness and creating or augmenting a continuum of shelter and service options for those living without shelter in our community; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 8698, et seq., allows the governing body of a city to declare a shelter crisis when a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City hereby finds that a significant number of persons in the City of Santa Barbara are without the ability to obtain shelter, and that this situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of these persons, for the reasons set forth above. The Council therefore hereby declares a shelter crisis exists in the City of Santa Barbara under the authority set forth in Government Code Section 8698 pursuant to Government Code §8698, et seq. and authorizes the City's participation in the Homeless Emergency Aid Program.

SECTION 2. The City of Santa Barbara will continue to proceed with the effort to create permanent housing for all its residents and encourage groups within the community to provide emergency shelter and to work with such agencies or groups to provide safe and dry shelter alternatives for those without them in our community.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall remain in place until the expiration of the Homeless Emergency Aid Program on June 30, 2021.

SECTION 4. This Resolution is enacted pursuant to the City of Santa Barbara's general police powers, and Article XI of the California Constitution, as well as the other provisions of state and local law.

SECTION 5. That the activities described in this resolution are not a project as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15378 and, therefore, are not subject to CEQA pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.