



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Homeless Encampment Assistance Pilot Program to Focus on Encampment at
Santa Rosa's Corporate Center Parkway**

Community Informational Meeting Planned for Tuesday, August 28th

Santa Rosa, CA (August 22, 2018) – The City of Santa Rosa's Homeless Encampment Assistance Pilot Program has begun efforts to address an encampment at Corporate Center Parkway, located in southwest Santa Rosa. A community meeting on plans for the area is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28th at 5:30pm at North Coast Builders Exchange, 1030 Apollo Way. Residents and business owners from neighborhoods surrounding the encampment are encouraged to attend, and all community members with an interest are welcome.

The Pilot Program employs a multi-disciplinary team focused on a compassionate approach to address the health, safety and shelter needs of persons living in encampments and to ease impacts to surrounding communities. The August 28th meeting will bring together City staff from Police, Fire, Housing and Community Services, Transportation and Public Works, Recreation and Parks and Community Engagement, along with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, to provide information and answer questions.

The Pilot Program, which will continue at the Corporate Center Parkway encampment over the next few weeks, has a target resolution date of mid-September and is as follows:

- Intensive, proactive, and coordinated outreach and engagement with occupants by the Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST), including continued engagement following resolution of the encampment
- Relocation of occupants through a comprehensive services plan to include shelter options at the housing-focused Samuel L. Jones Homeless Shelter, enrollment in Coordinated Entry for access to community-wide programs, and resources to reconnect individuals with family and other support networks or for placement into permanent or temporary housing, including at RV parks or campgrounds
- Weekly cleanups of the area to mitigate public health and safety concerns
- On-going enforcement to address criminal activity, removal of unregistered vehicles and RVs, illegal dumping, and tent camping in the roadway
- On-going management of the area following relocation of individuals and resolution of the encampment to discourage reoccupation. Enforcement will be coordinated with outreach to connect those returning to the area in need of services

Ongoing efforts at Corporate Center Parkway are modeled after prior Pilot Program outreach completed at encampments located at the Farmers Lane Extension, 101 underpasses and Doyle Community Park. These programs resulted in the placement of approximately 55% - 70% of occupants into services, shelter and housing. The Pilot Program also provided advisory assistance to the County of Sonoma's resolution of encampments at Roseland Village and Joe Rodota Trail.

The Homeless Encampment Assistance Pilot Program is one of many City-sponsored efforts to solve the challenging, community-wide issue of homelessness. Other steps include realigning all homeless services with Federal, State and local 'Housing First' protocols in partnership with the County of Sonoma, service providers, and community partners. The City is continuing to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot Program and finetuning efforts to assist individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Rosa.

For information on the program and the City's 'Housing First Strategy', and updates on other City efforts, please visit the Homelessness Solutions webpage at www.srcity.org/HomelessSolutions.

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