



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Homeless Encampment Assistance Pilot Program to Focus on Encampments at Prince Memorial Greenway/Olive Park and Morgan St/101 Underpasses**

*Community Informational Meeting Planned for Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>*

**Santa Rosa, CA** – The City of Santa Rosa Homeless Encampment Assistance Pilot Program has initiated efforts to address encampments in the areas of the Prince Memorial Greenway/Olive Park and Morgan Street/101 Underpasses. A community meeting on plans for the area is scheduled for Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Santa Rosa City Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue. 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 July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will bring together City staff from Police, Fire, Housing and Community Services, Transportation and Public Works, Community Programs and Engagement, and Water along with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, to provide information and answer questions.

The City will continue the Pilot Program at the Prince Memorial Greenway/Olive Park and Morgan Street/101 Underpasses encampments over the next few weeks with a target resolution date of late-July 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
- On-going cleanups of the area to mitigate public health and safety concerns, enforcement to address criminal activity, and management of the area following relocation of individuals and

resolution of the encampment to discourage reoccupation. Enforcement will be coordinated with HOST to connect those returning to the area with services

Efforts at Prince Memorial Greenway/Olive Park and Morgan Street/101 Underpasses are modeled after prior Pilot Program outreach completed at encampments located at the Farmers Lane Extension, 101 underpasses, Doyle Community Park, and Corporate Center Parkway. These programs resulted in the placement of approximately 50% of occupants into services, shelter, and housing. The Pilot Program also provided support to the County of Sonoma's resolution of encampments in the Roseland area.

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 Pilot Program, the City's 'Housing First' Strategy, and updates on other City initiatives, please visit the Homelessness Solutions webpage at [srcity.org/HomelessSolutions](http://srcity.org/HomelessSolutions).

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