

Res 31292  
#28

TRatzliff  
Leg Dept. Homeless next steps RES  
April 15, 2011  
Version # 2a

RESOLUTION 31292

A RESOLUTION regarding services for homeless people who may not currently be served by the existing shelter system; and creating a work plan and timeline for analyzing alternatives and recommending actions that meet the long term housing and immediate survival and safety needs of homeless people who do not have access to safe shelter.

WHEREAS, the City Council is dedicated to helping homeless people obtain temporary and ultimately permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, although the one night homeless count showed a 15 percent decrease over the last two years, the 2011 count found 1,753 people sleeping outdoors; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2010, the Council requested the City's Human Services Department (HSD) complete an in-depth report that examines how our current city shelter system works and whether it meets the needs of the various homeless populations including among others, working homeless, couples, and victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, HSD will provide this report to the Council on May 18, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor convened a Citizen's Review Panel to make recommendations on homeless encampments and Seattle's unsheltered homeless population; and

WHEREAS, the panel's final report dated October 18, 2010 included a list of sites to be considered for an encampment; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's proposed Sunny Jim encampment site was not on the panel's list; and

WHEREAS, the Sunny Jim site poses opportunities but also many challenges including the site is industrially-zoned property that does not permit a longer-term encampment use; and

WHEREAS, permitting a longer-term encampment use on the Sunny Jim site requires amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and land use code; and

WHEREAS, amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and land use code for the Sunny Jim site require that State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review be completed before the Council considers a longer-term encampment on this site, which review is subject to appeal and would take a number of months to complete; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes it may be possible to move forward with greater speed in addressing the needs of unsheltered homeless if alternatives to the Sunny Jim site are considered; NOW THEREFORE



1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

2 Section 1. The Council will receive the HSD report on existing City shelter services in  
3 late May. On or after July 31, 2011, the Council will review the report and develop a list of  
4 alternatives that address shortfalls in City-provided homeless services. The Council's review of  
5 each alternative will examine legal and policy constraints, feasibility, and costs. The goal of  
6 Council's review will be to recommend one or more options for action. If the recommendations  
7 have budgetary implications these will be considered either as part of the review of alternatives  
8 or during the Council's 2012 budget deliberations.

9 Section 2. The Council's review of alternatives will include but are not limited to: (1)  
10 renovating Fire Station 39 as a possible long-term shelter or housing facility; (2) working with  
11 faith-based communities to support shelter space in church buildings or parking lots, or on City  
12 land leased to churches; (3) purchasing another motel similar to the Aloha Inn to provide  
13 transitional housing; (4) providing additional rent assistance vouchers; (5) considering an  
14 encampment at a location such as those sites reviewed by the Citizen Review Panel that  
15 preferably will not require Comprehensive Plan or land use code amendments; and (6) modifying  
16 the City's existing shelter service contracts to address any shortcomings identified in the HSD  
17 and Council reviews.

18 Section 3. The Council will hold the proposed land use legislation regarding the Sunny  
19 Jim site because the Council cannot approve the legislation until SEPA has been completed. In  
20 addition, the Council will review the legislation concerning proceeds from the Sunny Jim  
21 insurance settlement and decide whether: (1) the \$300,000 required for environmental  
22 remediation at the Sunny Jim site should be appropriated in the near future; (2) to allow some of  
23 these funds to be used for other one-time homeless service needs; or (3) if all or some of these  
24 funds should be reserved for other priority purposes in light of continuing concerns about the  
25 City's financial situation in 2011.



TRatzliff  
Leg Dept. Homeless next steps RES  
April 15, 2011  
Version # 2a

1           Adopted by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, and signed  
2 by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
3 of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5           President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

6  
7           Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

8  
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10           City Clerk

11  
12 (Seal)



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Traci Ratzliff/4-8153	

**Legislation Title:**

A RESOLUTION regarding services for homeless people who may not currently be served by the existing shelter system; and creating a work plan and timeline for analyzing alternatives and recommending actions that meet the long term housing and immediate survival and safety needs of homeless people who do not have access to safe shelter.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

This legislation indicates the City Councils intent to review alternatives to the Mayor's proposed homeless encampment at Sunny Jim beginning on or after July 31, 2011. This review will begin after receipt of the Human Services Department's report to Council on the City's current shelter system that may include recommendations for improving the service to homeless people who may not be well served by our current system, working individuals, victims of domestic violence, among others. This report is due at the end of May. Alternatives to be considered, include but are not limited to: (1) renovating Fire Station 39 as a possible long-term shelter or housing facility; (2) working with faith-based communities to support shelter space in church buildings or parking lots, or on City land leased to churches; (3) purchasing another motel similar to the Aloha Inn to provide transitional housing; (4) providing additional rent assistance vouchers; (5) considering an encampment at a location such as those sites reviewed by the Citizen Review Panel that preferably will not require Comprehensive Plan or land use code amendments; and (6) modifying the City's existing shelter service contracts to address any shortcomings identified in the HSD and Council reviews. The Council will review the legal and policy constraints and feasibility and costs of each alternative.

**Background:**

Mayor McGinn has proposed establishing a homeless encampment on City owned property known as the "Sunny Jim" site. There are many legal and policy challenges related to this proposal. As a result, the Council wants to consider alternatives that can be implemented more quickly and can provide the needed services that will move people from homelessness to housing without needing to overcome the legal and policy challenges associated with the Mayor's proposal. This legislation establishes the work plan and timeline for the Council's consideration of such alternatives.

Please check one of the following:

  x   This legislation does not have any financial implications.

