



Jesse Arreguín
City Councilmember, District 4

ACTION CALENDAR
March 17, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Manager

From: Councilmember Jesse Arreguín

Subject: Amendment to Item 19: Berkeley’s Community Commercial Sidewalks and Public Spaces

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider and adopt the following amendment to Item 19 “Berkeley’s Community Commercial Sidewalks and Public Spaces”:

Discuss and refer the following to the FY 2016-2017 budget process and to the City Manager and Homeless Commission to report back to Council regarding the implementation of the following policies and programs to address homelessness in Berkeley: ~~for implementation, regarding our commercial areas;~~

1. Return to City Council with information on the feasibility and projected revenues generated from extending parking meter enforcement in the Downtown and Telegraph Avenue to 8 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, and return to Council with an ordinance to extend meter enforcement times to 8 p.m. so that revenue can be earmarked to fund the new homeless services proposed.
2. Consider hiring additional Homeless Outreach staff to provide direct outreach to homeless people living on Berkeley streets to help direct them to housing and services. (The City currently has only 1 full-time Homeless Outreach staff person).
3. Consider increasing the days and hours of the Mobile Crisis Unit.
4. Consider whether Berkeley Police require additional training regarding: interacting with the homeless and the street population, coordination with Mobile Crisis and service providers to promote collaboration and facilitate information sharing, and regarding how to respond to people with mental illness.
5. Implement the Homeless Commission’s September 16, 2014 recommendation to provide \$100,000 in annual rental subsidies for transition-age youth who are chronically homeless in Berkeley.

6. Consider contracting with a non-profit organization to provide specialized outreach to homeless transition-age youth.
7. Study keeping the Civic Center Park bathroom open 24 hours and providing additional public restrooms in the Telegraph and Downtown areas, and in other commercial districts in Berkeley.
8. Explore providing additional secure lockers and storage space for the homeless.
9. Study the feasibility of establishing short term shelter modeled after the SF Navigation Center which would provide short term housing for individuals who can't or don't want to access shelters because of possessions, partners, pets, or prior negative experiences. Ideally, people will stay 3-10 days to stabilize, rest, engage in intensive case management and identify a path whether it's housing, treatment etc.
10. Study the feasibility of acquiring additional SRO housing or vacant rental properties to provide transition and permanent housing for the homeless.
11. Explore increasing funding to provide more Shelter Plus Care vouchers and case workers to ensure that we maximize federal housing dollars coming to Berkeley.
12. Prioritize housing funds (federal funds and Housing Trust Fund) for transitional and permanent supportive housing, with particular emphasis for chronic homeless and transition age youth populations.
13. Increase General Fund allocations for existing homeless services to reverse years of funding cuts
14. Ensure 24-access to shelters or services that offer alternatives to living on sidewalks and in public spaces. Ensure better access to services that address basic needs of homeless persons in order to reduce visible homelessness and transition people off city streets and into housing.
15. Require the issuance of a warning first before any citation or arrest is made for violation of quality of life laws (obstruction of sidewalks, too many possessions on sidewalk, 2 or more stationary dogs etc.)
16. ~~11~~ Refer to the budget process extending transition-aged youth shelter hours beyond winter months.

~~1. Ordinance preventing panhandling within 10 feet of a parking pay station (akin to our ATM ordinance).~~

- ~~2. Review ordinances other cities use to address public urination/defecation and return with recommendations for implementation; ensure public restrooms are available and well publicized. Involve BART in exploring possible locations.~~
- ~~3. Ordinance preventing the placement of personal objects in planters, tree wells, or within 3 feet of a tree well.~~
- ~~4. Ordinance preventing lying on planter walls or inside of planters.~~
- ~~5. Ordinance preventing deployment of bedding, tenting, sleeping pads, mattresses, blankets, etc. on sidewalks and plazas from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.~~
- ~~6. Ordinance preventing personal items from being affixed to public fixtures including poles, bike racks (except bikes), planters, trees, tree guards, newspaper racks, parking meters and pay stations. Pet leashes exempt only as not prohibited in BMC 10.12.110.~~
- ~~7. Ordinance preventing unpermitted cooking on public sidewalks.~~
- ~~8. Survey business districts to determine adequacy of enforcement of current ordinances; develop an action plan for consistent enforcement as needed.~~
- ~~9. Clarify if “no trespass” signs on private property extend to sitting against buildings.~~
- ~~10. Assess adequacy of six-foot right-of-way to enable sufficient pedestrian and wheelchair passage particularly in high-traffic areas.~~

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unknown. Staff time will be involved in analyzing the costs and feasibility of implementing the proposed programs and policies. In addition the proposed programs require allocations from the General Fund or a reallocation of existing City resources. The proposal to extend parking meter enforcement times from Monday through Saturday to 8 pm in the Downtown and Telegraph areas could generate additional revenue to fund new services.

CONTACT PERSON:

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