

Costa Mesa launches new webpage to illustrate how city is Confronting Homelessness

The City of Costa Mesa has created a new webpage titled "Confronting Homelessness in Costa Mesa" that will provide members of the public with pertinent information regarding the city's search for a location to create shelter beds as required by Federal Court.

The new webpage, located here, will be updated on a regular basis and contains important facts, useful links and resources for those who are homeless or may be on the verge of being homeless.

Look for videos, Frequently Asked Questions and more information in the coming days and weeks ahead.

The webpage creation is in response to a lawsuit filed against the City of Costa Mesa, Anaheim, Orange, Santa Ana and the County of Orange regarding Santa Ana River trail and the individuals who were illegally camping there and were scheduled to be moved.

As part of that lawsuit, Federal District Court Judge David Carter ordered the city to provide shelter beds equal to 60 percent of the city's last homeless count numbers. In January of 2017, the count found 103 unsheltered homeless individuals in Costa Mesa, and 60% of 103 equals 62 beds.

In response to the judge's order, the City of Costa Mesa is aggressively searching to identify appropriate locations throughout the city for potential purchase and development of a new community shelter. A number of locations throughout the

city have and continue being evaluated and inspected by city staff.

City staff is evaluating market conditions and price, zoning and city code obstacles and potential community impacts for each location. There is no perfect location. The court order has created very short timelines that require fast decisions.

In addition, Costa Mesa has already satisfied the need for 12 of its 62 required beds by approving an application to operate a critical care facility from College Hospital, a longtime and respected provider of mental health and medical treatment in the community.

The city's commitment with any location will be to design the highest quality facility that is securely operated and free of loitering or neighborhood disruptions and any impacts to the greater Costa Mesa community will be minimized.

The particular focus will be a 2,000-foot radius around where the required shelter is placed. It is vital that this center does not negatively impact the immediate surrounding neighborhood.

Additionally, by opening a 50-bed community shelter, the city will avoid further litigation and the court will allow the city to put a heightened focus and strict enforcement of the city's anti-camping laws.