

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF EUGENE'S COMMITMENT TO THE HOUSING FIRST MODEL AS A KEY STRATEGY TO ADDRESSING THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds that:

A. The nation generally, and the City of Eugene and surrounding metro area specifically, are facing a housing crisis. According to a recent one night homeless census, Lane County's homeless population exceeds 1,450 people on any given night.

B. Housing and homelessness is not an isolated issue facing Eugene. With the recent passage of Resolution No. 5142, the City of Eugene asserts that we are indeed in a statewide crisis that requires immediate attention and action by the state.

C. The Poverty and Homelessness Board, of which the City of Eugene is a member, are working to create an interagency Housing First strategy for Lane County to address the growing crisis of homelessness in our community.

D. Many of the most effective outcomes of permanent supported housing studied utilize the Housing First approach which is generally distinguished by its emphasis on moving people into stable housing first and then working to provide robust wrap-around services that address the medical, mental, or behavioral conditions and other needs of residents.

E. Permanent supportive housing models that use a Housing First approach have been proven to be highly effective for people experiencing chronic homelessness who have higher service needs. Studies have shown that Housing First models result in long-term housing stability, improved physical and behavioral health outcomes, and achieve the greatest cost avoidance to taxpayers by reducing use of crisis services such as emergency departments, hospitals, and jails.

F. On June 22, 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness released the nation's first comprehensive strategy for ending chronic homelessness entitled *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, which endorsed Housing First as a best practice.

G. On December 9, 2015, the City Council and the Human Rights Commission held a joint work session on homelessness that produced a motion directing that the City Manager prepare for Council consideration a resolution declaring the City of Eugene's commitment to a Housing First model.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Eugene is committed to addressing the long term, low-cost housing crisis in Lane County. To that end, the City of Eugene is committed to a Housing First approach as the primary strategy to address the need for adequate low-cost housing. A Housing First approach features a supported housing model where chronically homeless persons and families, and the people who are homeless who face barriers to conventional housing programs, have access to permanent housing without preconditions, and that they have access to a menu of supportive services that meet individual needs. The Housing First approach is HUD supported, widely recognized, and an effective means to reduce chronic homelessness.

Section 2. The City Council has supported a number of innovative, short-term, pilot strategies that have made positive contributions to address the need for legal, safe places to sleep for the homeless (Rest Stop Program, Dusk to Dawn Program, car camping, etc.). The Housing First approach is not intended to be a substitute for the current programs of the City that address those emergency shelter needs.

Section 3. Implementation of the Housing First approach requires a multi-governmental strategy that includes investing in new and existing housing units and also funding ongoing supportive services and case management.

Section 4. The City of Eugene is committed to working in partnership with other jurisdictions to identify the resources needed to implement the Housing First approach. Supporting innovations, inviting new participants, and continuing current partnerships will be necessary to secure resources from federal, state and local agencies as called for in City Council Resolution No. 5142 on the urgency of the housing and homelessness crisis.

Section 5. The City Council directs the City Manager to use this Resolution as guidance in administering future work.

Section 6. This Resolution is effective immediately upon its passage by the City Council.

The foregoing Resolution adopted the ____ day of April, 2016.

City Recorder