

**Comments from the Human Rights Commission**

After drafting a resolution based on Council direction in December, staff worked with the HRC in order to obtain their feedback on the proposed resolution. The HRC discussed the Housing First originally proposed by staff at three different meetings as a specific agenda item each time. The suggestions below emerged from those discussions and many of them were incorporated in the resolution as presented to Council.

***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 one 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 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 by providing a sufficient amount of permanent supported housing to meet the need for such housing. The Housing First approach is not, however, a substitute strategy for addressing emergency shelter needs. Reducing barriers to the unhoused going about their daily life while unsheltered also remains crucial to addressing the crisis of homelessness. Sufficient emergency shelter will continue to be an ongoing need while an adequate amount of permanent housing is created to house the people who are homeless;*

***Section 2:*** *Long term solutions such as those offered by a Housing First approach must be vigorously pursued so that those who are homeless, both sheltered and unsheltered, are able to gain access to permanent housing. This resolution recognizes also that while long term solutions are being pursued, implementation of short term strategies and services such as providing for emergency and transitional shelter (including innovative shelter options such as rest stops and car camping) will need to be sustained and further expanded to fulfill the pressing immediate shelter needs of people who are homeless;*

***Section 3:*** *Implementation of the Housing First approach requires a 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; and,*