

# Homelessness in West Berkeley Town Hall Meeting

---

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

PREPARED & PRESENTED BY BERKELEY COUNCILMEMBER RASHI KESARWANI

# Agenda

---

- ❖ Welcome 4-4:10 p.m.
- ❖ Presentation 4:10-4:30 p.m.
  - 2019 Homelessness Point-in-Time Count
  - Homelessness Spending in Berkeley
  - Encampment & Sidewalk Policies
  - Update on Managing RV Parking
  - Options for CalTrans Parcels & Illegal Dumping
  - Mid-Range & Long-Term Goals
- ❖ Public Comment and Q&A 4:30-5:30 p.m.

# 2019 Homelessness Point-in-Time Count

The 2019 Homelessness Count confirms what we see on our streets: homelessness is on the rise in the Bay Area. Alameda County reported one of the highest Bay Area increases at 43% over the 2017 Count.

In Berkeley, the 2019 count of 1,108 people is a 14% increase over the 2017 count of 972 homeless individuals.

## Disproportionately African American

- 57% of all homeless individuals are black, while only 9% of the city's general population is black
- Of the total 1,108 individuals:
  - 387 are chronically homeless
  - 82 are unaccompanied youth/young adults
  - 81 are veterans
  - 51 individuals in families with kids

## Vast Majority Are Unsheltered

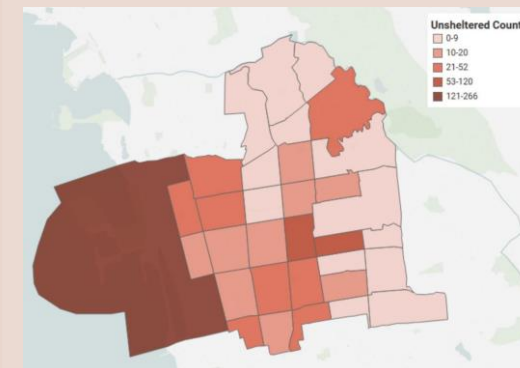
- Of the total 1,108 homeless individuals, 73% (813 people) are unsheltered:
  - 251 in tents
  - 231 on street/outdoors
  - 161 in RVs
  - 157 in cars/vans
  - 13 in abandoned bldgs

## Vast Majority from Alameda County

- 73% of Berkeley survey respondents reported being from Alameda County:
  - 48% reported living in Alameda Co. for 10+ yrs
  - 16% reported living in Alameda Co. for 5-9 yrs
  - 18% reported living in Alameda Co. for 1-4 yrs
  - 14% reported living in Alameda Co. for less than 1 yr

## Highest Concentration in West Berkeley

- Among unsheltered:
  - 34% said this is home
  - 15% said they feel safe here
  - 13% said family/friends are here

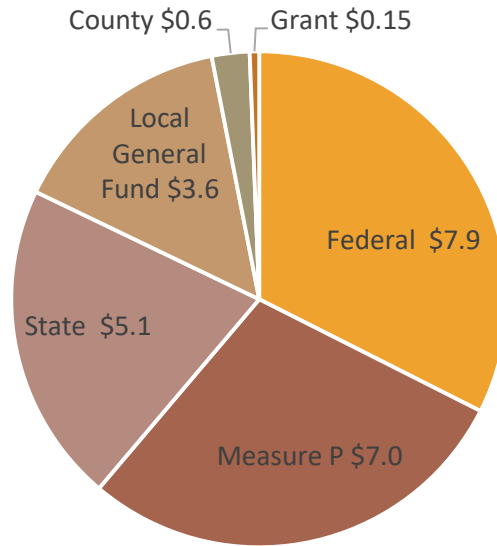


# Homelessness Spending in Berkeley

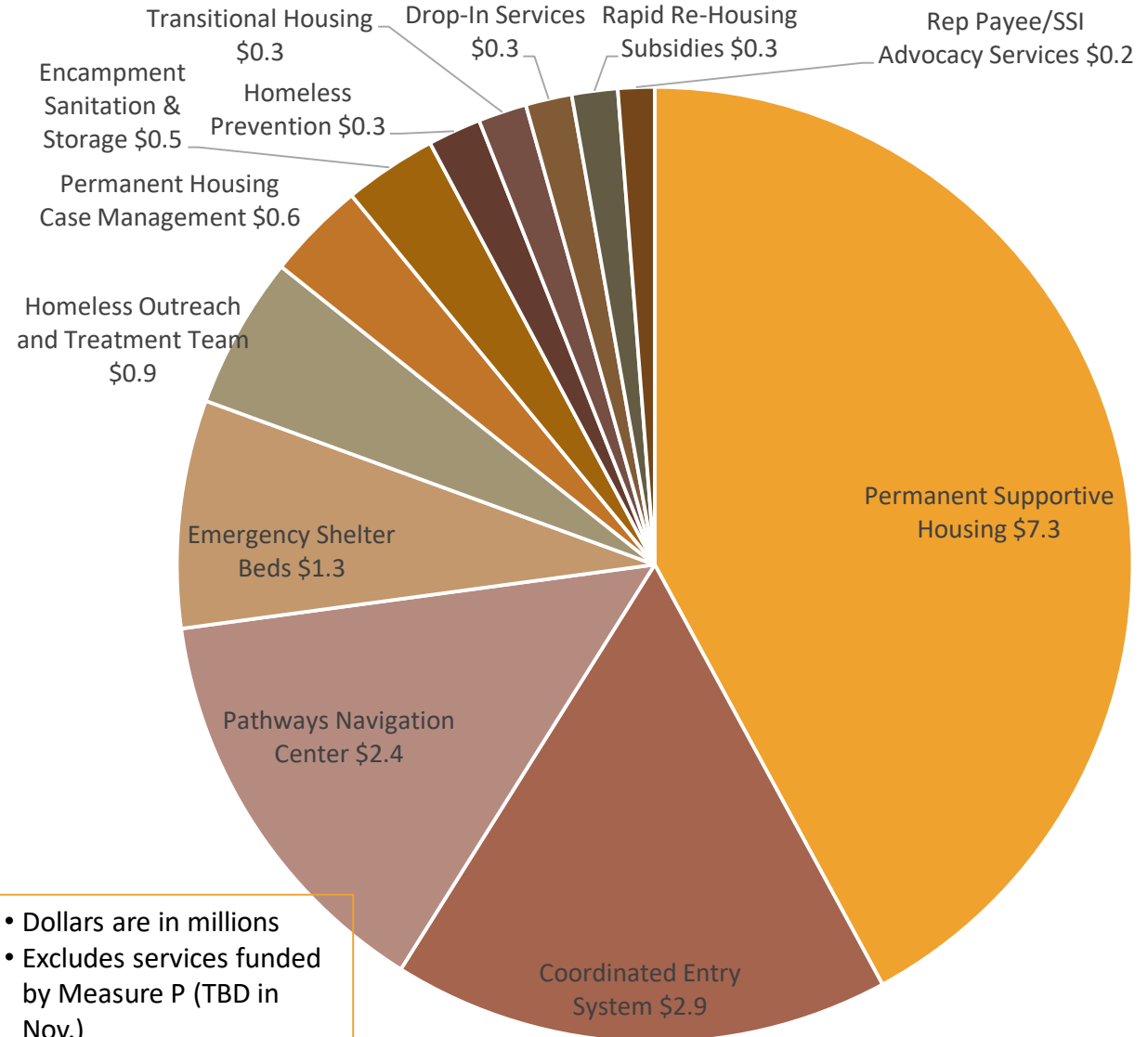
Berkeley has budgeted about \$24 million for homelessness services in FY19-20.

## Homelessness Budget by Fund Source

- An estimated \$24 million is budgeted for homeless services in FY19-20.
- About \$10.6 million is from local funds (General Fund & Measure P)
- Dollars at right are in millions



## Homelessness Budget by Service



- Dollars are in millions
- Excludes services funded by Measure P (TBD in Nov.)

## Detailed Homelessness Budget for FY19-20 (\$s are in Millions / Excludes Measure P)

Service	Federal	State	Local GF	County	Grant	GRAND TOTAL
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$ 7.0	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.1			\$ 7.3
Coordinated Entry System	\$ 0.5	\$ 1.0	\$ 0.8	\$ 0.6		\$ 2.9
Pathways Navigation Center	\$ 0.2	\$ 2.1			\$ 0.15	\$ 2.4
Emergency Shelter Beds	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.6	\$ 0.6			\$ 1.3
HOTT		\$ 0.8	\$ 0.09			\$ 0.9
Permanent Housing Case Mgmt			\$ 0.6			\$ 0.6
Encampment Sanitation & Storage		\$ 0.5	\$ 0.02			\$ 0.5
Homeless Prevention			\$ 0.3			\$ 0.3
Transitional Housing			\$ 0.3			\$ 0.3
Drop-In Services			\$ 0.3			\$ 0.3
Rapid Re-Housing Subsidies			\$ 0.3			\$ 0.3
Rep Payee/SSI Advocacy Services		\$ 0.02	\$ 0.2			\$ 0.2
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7.9</b>	<b>\$ 5.1</b>	<b>\$ 3.6</b>	<b>\$ 0.6</b>	<b>\$ 0.15</b>	<b>\$ 17.3</b>

# Encampment & Sidewalk Policies

A federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision known as *Martin v. Boise* governs the City's approach to addressing encampments. The court decision bases its reasoning on the Eighth Amendment banning cruel & unusual punishment.

<b>FOR PUBLICATION</b>	
<b>UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT</b>	
ROBERT MARTIN; LAWRENCE LEE SMITH; ROBERT ANDERSON; JANET F. BELL; PAMELA S. HAWKES; and BASIL E. HUMPHREY, <i>Plaintiffs-Appellants,</i>	No. 15-35845
v.	D.C. No. 1:09-cv-00540- REB
CITY OF BOISE, <i>Defendant-Appellee.</i>	OPINION
Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of Idaho Ronald E. Bush, Chief Magistrate Judge, Presiding	
Argued and Submitted July 13, 2017 Portland, Oregon	
Filed September 4, 2018	
Before: Marsha S. Berzon, Paul J. Watford, and John B. Owens, Circuit Judges.	
Opinion by Judge Berzon; Partial Concurrence and Partial Dissent by Judge Owens	

**"...as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter."**

"Nor do we suggest that a jurisdiction with insufficient shelter can never criminalize the act of sleeping outside. Even where shelter is unavailable, an ordinance **prohibiting sitting, lying, or sleeping outside at particular times or in particular locations might well be constitutionally permissible.**"



- Berkeley currently has a total of **289 shelter beds**
- City staff prioritize clearing an encampment & offering individuals shelter beds based on **health & safety** concerns, such as fire risk, obstructed access, public health, etc.

## Sidewalk Policy

**What?** Regulates objects—*not people*—on sidewalks by requiring unsheltered individuals to consolidate their belongings into a 9 sq ft space.

**Why?** To ensure everyone has equal access to our sidewalks, esp individuals using assisted mobility devices such as wheelchairs.

**How?** City staff seek voluntary compliance by educating unsheltered individuals about the 9 sq ft requirement, assisting in disposal of unwanted items & storing valuables. A citation may be issued as a last resort.

# Update on Managing RV Parking

The City Council has sought to balance two competing concerns: (1) the valid health & safety complaints of residents, workers & small business owners and (2) the challenges facing low-income members of our community sheltering in RVs.

## Health & Safety Complaints

- Human waste on streets & in storm drains
- Trespassing on private property for water & electricity
- Impassable sidewalks at times
- Blocked sightlines on streets
- Limited parking for workers & visitors in affected areas
- Concerns related to personal safety

Add RVs to list of oversized vehicles not allowed to park overnight from 2-5 a.m.

## City Council Policy

## Concern for Vulnerable People

- Low-income populations, such as seniors & people with disabilities
- Families with children
- Members of our community, such as individuals who previously had permanent housing in Berkeley or who work in Berkeley

Conduct questionnaire to identify low-income members of our community & provide a safe parking location that includes a portapotty, handwashing station, 24-7 security & possibly social services

## Preliminary Questionnaire Results After Initial Two Weeks of Outreach

- ✓ 63 RV doors knocked
- ✓ 13 RV occupants reached
- ✓ 2 of 13 RV households reported having minor children
- ✓ 4 of 13 RV households reporting having permanent housing in Berkeley over the last 10 years



# Options for CalTrans Parcels & Illegal Dumping

It is not safe or healthy for people to be sheltering at our freeway on-ramps and off-ramps at University and Gilman. We need to partner with CalTrans to address the gateways to our city.

## Immediate (1 Yr.)

- Better coordination between City & CalTrans before CalTrans clean-ups; need for more frequent outreach to unsheltered individuals
- Add'l city resources to clean-up trash & debris
- Council approved security cameras, signage & increased fines to reduce illegal dumping near CalTrans parcels (funding allocation needed in Nov.)
- CalTrans infrastructure upgrade on the east side of Eastshore Hwy before Hearst to deter camping in unsafe corner



## Mid-Term (3-5 Yrs.)

- Develop & execute plan for using Measure P resources to provide service options designed for high-needs populations, such as those at CalTrans parcels
- Design & construct Gilman Interchange project to deter camping in unsafe areas (construction scheduled for 2020-2023)

## Long-Term (+10 Yrs.)

- Design & construct University overpass project to deter camping in unsafe areas
- Build permanently affordable housing using Measure O affordable housing bond (Berkeley Way project)
- Implementation of Assembly Bill 1487, creating a Bay Area regional housing entity to fund affordable housing
- Alameda County leading coordination across cities so there is a regional approach to provision of services
- More federal resources for permanent supportive housing

- Plan underway
- No plan underway

# Mid-Range and Long-Term Goals

I believe that everyone has a right to a safe permanent home. Achieving this long-term vision requires the support & alignment of our federal, state, and county governments. Berkeley's "1000 Person Plan to Address Homelessness" presents strategies to help more people more effectively.

## Transform Shelters into Navigation Centers

- Shelter users are getting stuck in shelter beds & not exiting to permanent housing
- Transform shelters into navigation centers with housing navigator staff & flexible subsidies
- Cost: an add'l \$4.8M in total new funding

## Reduce Chronic Homelessness by 50% by 2023

- 27% of Berkeley's homeless population is chronically homeless
- Provide "deep" and "shallow" permanent housing subsidies
- Cost: an add'l \$1.3M in funding in year 1, growing to \$5.1M annually by 2023

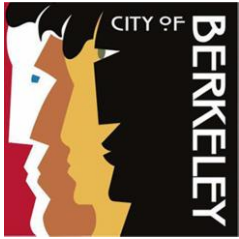
## Targeted Homelessness Prevention

- Target prevention funds to those who were previously homeless or at risk of returning to homelessness from rapid re-housing/permanent supportive housing
- Pilot a new targeted approach that prioritizes high-need populations at risk of imminent homelessness & reduces barriers to services
- Cost: \$1.5M annually through 2023

## Revise Land Use, Zoning & Development Review

- Zoning to allow Missing Middle housing (duplexes, triplexes, 4plexes, ADUs) in single-family home 'hoods
- Zoning to create homes at N. Berkeley & Ashby BART stations
- Taller apartment bldgs along transit corridors like University Ave. in exchange for more affordable units (local density bonus)
- Streamlined rvw when developments meet certain reqs (SB 35, SB 330)





# Thank you!

---

## **Contact the Office of Councilwoman Rashi:**

- [rkesarwani@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:rkesarwani@cityofberkeley.info) (e-mail)
- 510-981-7110 (office phone)
- 510-982-6128 (Councilwoman Rashi's Google Voice cell phone number)
- Sign up to receive monthly e-newsletter: [www.rashikesarwani.com/newsletter](http://www.rashikesarwani.com/newsletter)

## **For a City service request:**

- Call 311
- To schedule a free bulky waste pick-up (one per year), call 311 or 510-981-7270