

Work Plan
Albany Homeless Task Force
Revised: May 11, 2012

Purpose

In line with the Federal Mandate to end Homelessness by 2020, develop policy options and strategies to end homelessness in Albany. Homeless individuals with needs and disabilities deserve a safe, supportive and permanent place to live and access to resources that will support health and wellness.

Description

Due to the complexity of the issue and the comprehensive approach required to end homelessness, the task force will tap into existing resources and models currently in place in Alameda County.

EveryOne Home is Alameda County's road map for ending homelessness by the year 2020. The EveryOne Home Plan was published in 2006. An organization by the same name was launched in 2007 to lead the implementation of the plan. EveryOne Home envisions a housing and service system that partners with consumers, families and advocates; provides appropriate services in a timely fashion to all who need them; and ensures that individuals and families are safely, supportively and permanently housed. To achieve those objectives, the plan is structured around five major goals that outline multi-faceted solutions for a multi-dimensional problem:

- Prevent homelessness and other housing crisis.
- Increase housing opportunities for the plan's target populations.
- Deliver flexible services to support stability and independence.
- Measure success and report outcomes.
- Develop long-term leadership and build political will.

The Homeless encampment at the Albany Bulb is composed of homeless people between the ages of approximately 15 to 70, all races and ethnicity. Although there is no water, food, shelters or infrastructure; people have opted to live in this environment by creating temporary structures out of found materials and other supplies.

The Bulb is the area of land, owned by the City, located a half a mile into the Bay at the end of Buchanan Street. It is connected to the rest of the waterfront by a narrow spit of land called the Neck. The Bulb was created gradually from 1963 to 1983 by a landfill operation that placed construction debris progressively further out into the Bay. Its terrain has been configured by the vegetation growing over the fill. The vegetation on the Plateau and Bulb is designated as "ruderal scrub" (mostly non-native shrubs and grasses), and is dominated by coyote-brush. French broom and cotoneaster are also common, as are native grasses and wildflowers in varying densities.

The Eastshore State Park was formally established in 2002, extends 8.5 miles from the foot of the Bay Bridge in Oakland to the Marina Bay neighborhood in Richmond, and contains 260 acres of dry land and 2,002 acres of tidelands. Eastshore State Park is the result of decades of citizen efforts, starting in the 1960s, to stop garbage dumping in the Bay; to oppose commercial development on the shoreline and to preserve it for public use; and to create environmental benefit on the shoreline. The publicly owned portion of the Albany waterfront, including the Bulb, has been designated to be part of the Eastshore State Park, but has not been accepted as part of a state park because uneven ground, protruding metal,

off-leash dog walking, unregulated art projects, construction debris, and homeless encampments do not meet state park standards, as well as State and Regional park funding shortages.

The scope of the Task Force shall be City-wide, but consideration should be given to the unique issues associated with homeless on the Albany waterfront.

Task Force Selection Timeline (Pending Council Approval)

May 21, 2012: Council Approval of Homeless Task Force

May 22-June 22: Application process for task force member selection

June 25-29, 2012: Review of applications by the Council

July 2, 2012: Announce selection/appointment of Task Force Members at Council Meeting.

Task Force start date, July 2012: First meeting of the task force/half day educational workshop

Task force timeline: Will meet once a month for 18 months

Updates presented to Council every four months beginning in January 2013

Task Force Composition

- Up to two active members from Waterfront Committee
- Up to two active members from Social and Economic Justice Committee
- 5 members selected by the Council after application process

Task Force Deliverables:

Recommend to the Council options for policies and strategies to end Homelessness in Albany that support the five objectives outlined in Alameda County EveryOne Plan. As listed above, the five objectives are:

- Prevent homelessness and other housing crisis.
- Increase housing opportunities for the plan's target populations.
- Deliver flexible services to support stability and independence.
- Measure success and report outcomes.
- Develop long-term leadership and build political will.

Create a survey tool to gather community input