



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2018 DEC 28 AM 11:07

CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: January 8, 2019

08

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF THE MIGRANT SHELTER CRISIS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The U.S. – Mexico border has seen a surge in Central American migrants seeking asylum from humanitarian abuse, often stemming from gang recruitment and violence from countries with some of the highest murder rates in the world. A majority of these asylum seekers are families, many who have traveled long distances with small children.

Due to this significant increase, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has seen a backlog in the number of applicants they are able to process. To make room for additional asylum seekers, ICE has been releasing asylum seeking families who have permission to stay in the U.S. legally as they await the outcome of their applications.

The San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN), comprised of more than two-dozen non-profit organizations, has established a temporary shelter to ensure families have access to food, medical care, legal services and assistance with travel arrangements to their final destination. The average local stay for migrant families is twenty-four to forty-eight hours. SDRRN is trying to coordinate with ICE to drop off these families at the temporary shelter every day; however, the current shelter has at times been over capacity, creating an urgent need to identify additional locations for the State or an applicable entity to continue providing temporary shelter. If adequate shelter space is not identified swiftly, migrant families may have no choice but to seek accommodations at homeless shelters or on our streets. This would put an undue burden on already stressed homeless providers.

To date, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has provided vaccines for this migrant population, surveillance, monitoring, training and other support for shelter staff to address public health concerns. Daily, HHSA is providing County nurses and contracted health professionals to assist in health assessments, and social workers to assist in

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health assessments, translation, and linkage to local resources. In addition, the Department of Environmental Health has provided on-site assessments at shelters to ensure food safety. However, these efforts have no federal or State funding and, coupled with unclear roles and guidelines, makes it challenging for all parties to successfully maintain support over a prolonged period of time. These are federal and State issues, and as such should come with federal and State resources. However, to-date resources are lacking. As an example, on December 18, 2018, the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) sent a letter to the County and impacted cities denying use of their National City armory to assist in the sheltering needs.

Today's action will allow the Chief Administrative Officer to continue efforts to pursue armories or other State properties with the Governor's Office for immediate assistance in sheltering this population. In addition, to ensure better coordination amongst different government agencies and local jurisdictions we ask for the formation of a regional working group made up of federal, State, County and local regional stakeholders to address both short and long-term solutions for the migrant crisis in San Diego County. Today's actions also allow the Chief Administrative Officer to identify County property for a temporary shelter; which the State, or an applicable entity could use to shelter asylum-seeking families during this crisis period. Lastly, we also seek to work with our federal and State delegations on legislative policy that would allow the County to provide on-going services to asylum seeking families and receive reimbursement during this crisis.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR GREG COX AND SUPERVISOR-ELECT NATHAN FLETCHER

- 1) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to continue to pursue armories or other State properties with the Governor's Office for assistance in sheltering this population.
- 2) Appoint Supervisor Cox and Supervisor-elect Fletcher to a Board of Supervisors sub-committee to establish a regional working group made up of federal, State, County and local regional stakeholders to address both short-term and long-term solutions for the migrant crisis in San Diego County.
- 3) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to identify County property for a potential temporary shelter that the State or applicable entity could use to shelter asylum seeking families.
- 4) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with federal and State delegations on legislative policy, including funding resources, that would allow the County to provide on-going services to asylum seeking families and receive reimbursement, since immigration regulations are not under local authority.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's actions. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years. However, in the absence of federal and State funding,

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the County is currently using existing General Purpose Revenue to proactively address health and safety concerns in order to protect the San Diego community.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

The U.S. – Mexico border has seen a surge in Central American migrants seeking asylum from humanitarian abuse, often stemming from gang recruitment and violence from countries with some of the highest murder rates in the world. A majority of these asylum seekers are families, many who have traveled long distances with small children.

Due to this significant increase, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has seen a backlog in the number of applicants they are able to process. To make room for additional asylum seekers, ICE has been releasing asylum seeking families and giving them permission to stay in the U.S. legally as they await the outcome of their applications.

The San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN), comprised of more than two-dozen non-profit organizations, has established a temporary shelter to ensure families have access to food, medical care, legal services and assistance with travel arrangement to their final destination. The average local stay for migrant families is twenty-four to forty-eight hours. SDRRN is trying to coordinate with ICE to drop off these families at the temporary shelter every day; however, the current shelter has at times been over capacity, creating an urgent need to identify additional locations for the State, or an applicable entity to continue providing temporary shelter. If adequate shelter space is not identified swiftly, migrant families may have no choice but to seek accommodations at homeless shelters or on our streets. This would put an undue burden on already stressed homeless providers. Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to identify County property for temporary shelter, which the State or an applicable entity could use to shelter asylum-seeking families during this crisis period.

Further, there is a dire need for enhanced services supporting the efforts of the SDRRN. Many of these asylum-seeking families have arrived in our community with various health issues. As a result, we would like to pursue on-going assistance to help address these health issues before they worsen and affect the public's health in our surrounding communities. To date, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) has provided vaccines for this migrant population, health assessments, surveillance and monitoring, staff training and other support for shelter staff to address public health concerns. Daily, HHS is providing County nurses and contracted health professionals to assist in health assessments, and social workers to assist in health assessments, translation, and linkage to local resources. In addition, HHS has coordinated shelter inspections with the City of San Diego Housing Authority and the County

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Department of Environmental Health has provided on-site assessments at shelters to ensure food safety. However, these efforts have no federal or State funding and, coupled with unclear roles and guidelines, makes it challenging for all parties to successfully maintain support over a prolonged period of time. These are federal and State issues, and as such should come with federal and State resources. However, to-date resources are lacking. On November 16, 2018 the Chairwoman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to Governor Brown requesting the state provide food, short- and long-term housing, travel assistance, medical care and case management for the asylum seekers. On December 06, 2018, the Chairwoman along with San Diego Mayor Faulconer, City of Chula Vista Mayor Salas, and National City Mayor Morrison sent a joint letter to the Governor requesting the State to temporarily shelter these immigrants and provide a contracted entity to oversee shelter operations to supplement the work of the local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's). On December 18, 2018, the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) sent a letter to the County and impacted cities outlining how they have supported the NGO's, but denying use of their National City armory.

While responses to the immediate crisis are underway, the need exists for long term solutions. Today's action will allow the Chief Administrative Officer to continue efforts to pursue armories or other State properties with the Governor's Office for immediate assistance in sheltering this population. In addition, to ensure better coordination amongst different government agencies and local jurisdictions we ask for the formation of a regional working group made up of federal, State, County and local regional stakeholders to address both short and long-term solutions for the migrant crisis in San Diego County. Today's actions also allow the Chief Administrative Officer to identify County property for a temporary shelter; which the State, or an applicable entity could use to shelter asylum-seeking families during this crisis period. Lastly, we also seek to work with our federal and State delegations on legislative policy that would allow the County to provide ongoing services to asylum seeking families and receive reimbursement during this crisis.

The fastest growing portion of migrants consists of parents arriving with children. While families await their application decision, it is imperative to provide safe shelter with supportive services to ensure the wellbeing of these vulnerable populations and the surrounding communities.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

Respectfully submitted,



GREG COX
Supervisor, First District



NATHAN FLETCHER
Supervisor-Elect, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION
NUMBER(S):**

N/a

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Districts 1 and 4

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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