

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Emergency Ordinance - Limiting COVID-19 Impacts through Safe Shelter Options]

Emergency ordinance to require the City to secure 8,250 private rooms by April 26, 2020, through service agreements with hotels and motels for use as temporary quarantine facilities for people currently experiencing homelessness, people released from local hospitals with COVID-19 exposure or infection, and front-line workers in the COVID-19 crisis; waive the requirement under Charter, Section 9.118, that the Board of Supervisors approve the service agreements for private rooms; require daily reporting to the Board of Supervisors on the City's progress in procuring and providing the needed rooms; require congregate care facilities for the homeless to comply with social distancing practices and implement COVID-19 screening protocols; and direct the City to use best efforts to enable people leaving congregate care facilities for temporary rooms provided by the City to subsequently return to congregate care facilities.

Existing Law

This ordinance does not amend existing law.

Background Information

This emergency ordinance addresses the present high risk of COVID-19 spread through homeless encampments and congregate living facilities by directing the City to procure hotel rooms for the temporary use of people experiencing homelessness, as well as people leaving hospitals and front-line workers in the COVID-19 crisis with a need for quarantine facilities, and by requiring congregate care facilities for the homeless to comply with social distancing practices and implement COVID-19 screening protocols.

By April 26, 2020, the City is required to procure and provide hotel or motel rooms as follows:

- 7000 rooms to people experiencing homelessness;
- 500 rooms to recently discharged or diverted hospital patients with a need for quarantine based on known or likely COVID-19 infection; and
- 750 rooms to front-line workers in the COVID-19 crisis.

The Department of Emergency Management must report daily to the Board of Supervisors on their progress in providing sufficient numbers of private rooms to meet the needs of these vulnerable groups.

FILE NO. 200363

The Department of Public Health (“DPH”) and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“DHS”) must develop a COVID-19 screening plan for use in congregate care facilities for the homeless, and such facilities must implement the prescribed plan, together with social distancing protocols.

The City must exercise best efforts to ensure that individuals who move from congregate care facilities for the homeless to temporary private rooms are able to return to congregate care facilities after they are required to vacate the private rooms.

The Mayor is authorized to designate one or more City agencies to administer the ordinance.

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