



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller

July 25, 2016

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: File 160761 – Ordinance amending the Police Code to provide process for the removal of encampments when housing or shelter is available for encampment residents (first draft)

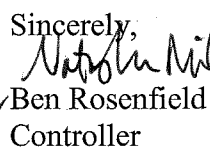
Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal to significant impact on the cost of government, depending on the practices used to implement the policies required in the ordinance.

The proposed ordinance cites existing City and State codes that prohibit encampments in public parks or on any public or private property without permission of the owner, sitting or lying on public sidewalks between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., or willfully and substantially obstructing a street, sidewalk or public place. The proposed ordinance defines an encampment as site where one or more tents, tarpaulins, or other non-permanent structures are used as temporary quarters for sleeping and shelter. There are approximately 3,500 unsheltered homeless in San Francisco, though the number of individuals who may be impacted by the proposed ordinance is unknown.

Prior to removing an encampment, the City would be required to offer in writing, 72 hours in advance, specific identified housing (transitional or permanent) or shelter to each occupant of the encampment. Although the proposed ordinance does not specify the number of days of housing that must be offered, if the City places an individual in shelter the City shall develop a plan to transition such individual to housing within 30 days, during which time shelter must be available. Further, the offer of shelter must not displace individuals currently waiting for shelter pursuant to the City's system for shelter reservation. The City would also be required to offer homeless services, defined as resources or services provided by or through the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, including case management, job training, health services, and Behavioral Health Services. Last, the affected individuals' personal property, with certain exceptions, would be stored by the City for at least 90 days.

The cost to implement the policies required in the ordinance would vary significantly depending on the practices used to implement them. Costs would be likely be minimal to the extent that the City did not seek to enforce the prohibition on encampments; costs would likely be significant to the extent that the City did seek to remove encampments, as new shelter and/or housing would have to made available.

Sincerely,

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.