LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Rapid Rehousing Policy]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to declare that it is City policy to provide up to five years of rapid rehousing assistance to an eligible household where the City has assessed the household's circumstances and concluded that a shorter-term subsidy will create a risk of returning to homelessness; and requiring the Homelessness Oversight Commission to hold an annual hearing and issue an annual report analyzing the City's implementation of this rapid rehousing policy.

Existing Law

The City and County of San Francisco ("City") operates a number of time-limited rent subsidy programs that offer families rental subsidies that last for between three months and three years. These programs include the CalWORKs Housing Support Program ("HSP"), operated by the Human Services Agency (HSA") using state funding, and Rapid Rehousing programs, operated by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing ("HSH") using money appropriated from the General Fund and/or from the Our City, Our Home Fund. Currently, there is no legal requirement that the City assess families at the end of their time-limited subsidy, or prioritize them through Coordinated Entry, to determine whether they may need continued support through the City's homelessness response system.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would declare that it is the policy of the City to: 1) assess and prioritize families through Coordinated Entry at the end of their receipt of a time-limited subsidy to determine whether termination of the time-limited rent subsidy would put the family at risk of returning to homelessness; 2) subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, use General Funds to provide the family with an extended rent subsidy, for a total subsidy period not to exceed five years; 3) assess and prioritize families through Coordinated Entry at the end of their extended subsidy to determine whether the family is at risk of returning to homelessness; and 4) and where the assessment concludes that the family is likely to return to homelessness, refer the family to vacancies in other City housing programs.

The ordinance would require the Homeless Oversight Commission to issue a report every year on the number of families served and program outcomes, and to make recommendations on changes to rapid rehousing program.

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