

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Amended in Board, 12/15/2020)

[Emergency Ordinance - Limiting COVID-19 Impacts by Not Moving People Experiencing Homelessness Currently Placed in Shelter-in-Place Hotel Rooms]

Emergency ordinance to prohibit the City from requiring people experiencing homelessness currently housed in approximately 2,000 Shelter-in-Place (“SIP”) Hotel rooms to move from those rooms until the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) provides written notification that FEMA funding available for SIP Hotel rooms is terminated or not extended or modified in a way that no longer reimburses any costs of these rooms, or people experiencing homelessness housed in SIP Hotel rooms obtain a stable housing placement; for every ten SIP Hotel rooms vacated, six SIP Hotel rooms shall be available to shelter people experiencing homelessness at risk of COVID-19 infection, until the County Health Officer’s Stay Safer At Home Order is rescinded or expires; and requiring the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to prepare publicly available reports on the progress of placements from SIP Hotels into stable housing.

Existing Law

This is a new emergency ordinance.

Amendments to Current Law

This emergency ordinance will prohibit the City from moving people experiencing homelessness out of their Shelter in Place (SIP) Hotel rooms until FEMA provides the City with written notification that FEMA funding available for SIP Hotel rooms is terminated, or modified in a way that no longer reimburses any costs of these rooms or FEMA fails to provide written notice extending funding for the upcoming month. The people experiencing homelessness currently housed in SIP Hotel rooms shall not be moved until the individual or household: 1) obtains, and moves into, a stable permanent housing placement; or 2) obtains, and moves into, an appropriate stable housing placement; or 3) chooses to move; or 4) is placed in an alternative SIP Hotel room due to health needs or habitability conditions; or 5) after the conclusion of the appeal process for violation of a rule covered in the San Francisco Shelter Grievance Policy.

Subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, during the effective period of this emergency ordinance or until FEMA provides the City with written notification that FEMA funding available for SIP Hotel rooms is terminated, or is modified in a way that no longer reimburses any costs of these rooms, or FEMA fails to provide written notice extending funding for the upcoming month, for every ten SIP Hotel rooms that are vacated, the City shall make six hotel rooms available as temporary shelter to meet the needs of people in San

Francisco presently experiencing homelessness at risk of COVID-19 infection, including: (1) people currently residing in a City shelter or navigation center; (2) people who are currently unsheltered; (3) unhoused people released from jails; and (4) unhoused people released from hospitals or isolation and quarantine rooms.

The Department of Homelessness Supportive Housing will be required to post a weekly report (Dashboard) with information including: (1) client status, and (2) type of placement, disaggregated by month and race in de-identified summary form. Within 30 days of the effective date of this emergency ordinance, the Department shall submit to the Board of Supervisors a report designed to inform planning for a possible expansion of the SIP Hotel Program consistent with the City's COVID-19 public health response and FEMA guidelines for non-congregate sheltering.

Background Information

On December 15, 2020, the Board approved the following amendments:

- Clarifying that the failure of FEMA to provide written notice extending funding for the SIP Hotel program for the upcoming month by the last day of the current month shall constitute notification of termination.
- Deleting the requirement that the City keep approximately 2000 SIP Hotel rooms available as they are vacated for temporary shelter for people in San Francisco experiencing homelessness at risk of COVID-19.
- Requiring the City to make six rooms available for every ten rooms vacated to temporarily shelter people in San Francisco experiencing homelessness at risk of COVID-19 infection.
- Requiring the Department of Homelessness Supportive Housing to submit a report designed to inform planning for a possible expansion of the SIP Program consistent with the City's COVID-19 public health response and FEMA guidelines for non-congregate sheltering to the Board of Supervisors.

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