

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Emergency Ordinance - Limiting COVID-19 Impacts by Continuing to Make Shelter-in-Place Hotel Rooms Available to People Experiencing Homelessness]

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 those individuals obtain a stable housing placement; to require the City to make a total of 2,200 Shelter-in-Place (“SIP”) Hotel rooms available, and to fill those rooms, as they are vacated, for people experiencing homelessness; and to require 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

The Emergency Ordinance prohibits 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 those individuals obtain a stable housing placement. This ordinance also requires the City to make a total of 2,200 Shelter-in-Place (“SIP”) Hotel rooms available to people experiencing homelessness, and to fill those rooms as they are vacated, subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, during the effective period of this emergency ordinance. The people currently housed in SIP Hotel rooms are not to 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 “COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place Hotel Program: Manual and Guidance for Site Operators.”

The SIP Hotel rooms are to be used for people experiencing homelessness at risk of contracting COVID-19, 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 and Supportive Housing (HSH) shall prepare a weekly public report that includes the following information (“Dashboard”): (1) Client Status -- the number of clients in various service categories disaggregated by race in de-identified summary form; (2) Exit Report -- the number of clients exited to various types of placements

disaggregated by month and race in de-identified summary form; (3) Available Exits -- the number of available exit resources that are currently available and planned; and (4) Intake Report -- the number of new clients entering the SIP Hotel program and the referral source.

Background Information

On December 15, 2020, the Board enacted Ordinance No. 273-20 to prohibit the City from moving people experiencing homelessness out of their Shelter in Place (SIP) Hotel rooms until FEMA provided the City with written notification that FEMA funding available for SIP Hotel rooms was terminated or modified in a way that no longer reimbursed any costs of these rooms. These individuals were to be moved into stable housing. For every ten SIP Hotel rooms that were vacated, the City was required to 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.

The Department of Homelessness Supportive Housing was 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 was to 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.

Ordinance No. 273-20 expires on February 23, 2021.

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