

RESOLUTION NO. ____

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ACQUISITION OF THE GOVERNOR'S BOWL PARK IN RENO, NEVADA FOR AN EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER SITE.

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- On a single night in 2019, an estimated 567,715 people – about 17 of every 10,000 people – were experiencing homelessness across the United States;
- An estimated 37 percent of individuals accounted for were reported in unsheltered locations;
- Homelessness increased by 3 percent in the United States between 2018 and 2019, driven primarily by increases in western states;
- The State of Nevada is among the five states with the highest percentages of individuals experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered at a reported 53 percent; and

WHEREAS, the annual Point in Time (PIT) count collects data on individuals who are unsheltered, in emergency shelters, and transitional housing; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Nevada Continuum of Care conducted its PIT data collection on January 30, 2020 and reported that 1,231 individuals experience a degree of homelessness in Washoe County; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 PIT reported a significant rise among the unsheltered population at 459 individuals, accounting for a 76% increase in a one-year period, the highest growth in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the reported 459 individuals generally stay overnight in parks, open spaces, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, and other locations, and are at higher risk of injury and possible exposure to and propagation of negative public health illnesses; and

WHEREAS, compounded with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the region finds itself in an unprecedented shelter crisis and is seeking to meet the essential shelter needs of this vulnerable population and compliance with current public health regulations; and

WHEREAS, the number of unsheltered individuals in the region exceeds the number of beds available and an improved, adequately-sized, centralized shelter location is urgently needed to for population to sensibly mitigate elements related to a pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County are pursuing the acquisition of the Governor’s Bowl Park, located at 1498 East 7th Street, Reno, Nevada, as an emergency regional shelter site; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Bowl Park is an ideal site due to its vicinity to essential social services, meal providers, accessibility to homeless individuals, and compatibility with zoning requirements; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Bowl Park presents opportunities for an on-site collaborative system of care with local providers to arrange access to healthcare, nutrition, transitional housing opportunities, and promote the general well-being and security of this population;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPARKS, NEVADA:

Section 1. Severity of Homelessness Issue.

The Sparks City Council understands the severity of regional homelessness, the shortage of shelter space, public health complications, and the consequences of inaction; and,

Section 2. Regional Collaboration.

The City of Sparks and its regional partners are committed to continue working collectively through joint efforts, such as the Community Homelessness Advisory Board and the Built for Zero initiative, to address homelessness; and,

Section 3. Suitability of Governor’s Bowl Site.

The utilization of the Governor’s Bowl Park would provide ample space to increase bed capacity and vital social service outreach, while complying with federal, state and local COVID-19 social distancing regulations; and,

Section 4. Support for Acquisition of Governor’s Bowl Site.

The Sparks City Council asserts its support of this shelter location for the common welfare, safety, and use of sanitary public spaces for all residents and hereby supports the acquisition of the Governor's Bowl Park as supported by the determinations listed above.

Section 5. Repealer and General Provisions.

Any resolution which conflicts with this Resolution is hereby repealed. The officers of the CITY are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary to effectuate the provisions of this resolution. The City Clerk is authorized to make editorial changes hereto consistent with the intentions of this Resolution. The provisions of this Resolution shall be

liberally construed to effectively carry out its purposes. In the event any provision in this Resolution is deemed void, invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such offending provision shall be severed from this Resolution and all the remaining provisions (including the repealer provision) shall remain in full force and effect.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2020 by the following vote of the Sparks City Council:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2020 by:

Ed Lawson, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Lisa Hunderman
City Clerk

Chester H. Adams
City Attorney