



Homeless Commission

ACTION CALENDAR

March 13, 2018

*(Continued from February 13, 2018)*

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Homeless Commission

Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chair, Homeless Commission

Subject: Storage at Premier Cru

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution to provide storage for unhoused persons at the Premier Cru complex.

FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff would have to identify if site improvements would be required as well as determine the cost of a provider to handle the storage services.

CURRENT SITUATION and its EFFECTS

Homeless persons need a safe, secure location to store their property. Many unsheltered persons cart around their property all day because they do not have a location to place it where they have easy access to their property. This situation is burdensome to the homeless as well as causing difficulties with the business and residential community who stigmatize the homeless because they have personal property with them that housed persons do not need to transport around.

BACKGROUND

Staff provided a detailed report to City Council on December 13, 2016 which recommended a one-year locker storage program at Old City Hall. The report was submitted after detailed study by multiple city departments including studies of storage programs for the homeless in other municipal jurisdictions. Staff also met with multiple community organizations. A budget of \$235,000 was proposed with Public Works to expend \$50,000 on site improvements and \$185,000 for the annual operational cost by the provider under a contract with Health, Housing and Community Services. A RFP had been issued, two proposals were submitted and a provider selected, after the proposals were reviewed by staff and a representative of the Homeless Commission.

Monies for the storage program were later diverted to warming centers by Council.

The need for storage for property of homeless persons remains. Discussions have ensued as to the possibility of storing property in downtown parking garages. There has

also been discussion of a mobile truck that would store property. On December 5, 2017, Council passed a mid-year budget expenditure for \$50,000 to implement a downtown storage program for the homeless. It is unknown at this time which model will be adopted.

The Homeless Commission recommended as follows:

**Action:** M/S/C Caldeira/Marasovic that the Premier Cru wine building site be used as a location for the storage of unhoused people's belongings.

**Vote:** Ayes: Caldeira, Cohen, Gor, Hirpara, Marasovic, Orgain, Sutton.  
Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Kealoha-Blake.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no environmental effects known at this time.

#### RATIONALE for RECOMMENDATION

The Premier Cru building complex has a former wine cellar which is currently uninhabitable because of lack of heating and ventilation. With a lack of facilities available for storage, it seemed that Premier Cru could, without substantial cost, be used for this purpose.

The Premier Cru building is also easily accessible to bus lines, which go late into the evening, which would meet the needs of unhoused persons. The Homeless Commission also indicated that while there had been some earlier resistance from members of the residential community as to storage at Old City Hall, West Berkeley community neighbors did not indicate that level of resistance to other projects serving homeless persons.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Homeless Commission considered that downtown storage proposals had been earlier rejected and that nothing, as of the Commission vote, had otherwise been decided upon. It was not acceptable for unhoused persons to continue to go without storage of their property.

#### CITY MANAGER

See companion report.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Carole Marasovic, Chair, Homeless Commission  
Peter Radu, Homeless Services Coordinator and Secretary to the Homeless Commission, (510) 981-5435

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

STORAGE FOR UNHOUSED PERSONS AT THE PREMIER CRU COMPLEX

WHEREAS, large numbers of unsheltered homeless persons need a location to store their personal property that is safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, earlier proposals that have been submitted for this purpose have been discarded with the exception of the December 5, 2017 \$50,000 mid-year allocation for a downtown storage location; and

WHEREAS, the former Premier Cru building's wine cellar is currently inhabitable but would be suitable for storage; and

WHEREAS, the former Premier Cru building provides easy access to bus lines.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of Berkeley direct staff to develop and implement a plan for storage of personal property of homeless persons at the former Premier Cru building.

