



Housing Advisory Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 12, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Housing Advisory Commission
 Submitted by: Igor Tregub, Chairperson, Housing Advisory Commission
 Subject: Measure O Oversight Committee and Measure P Homeless Services
 Panel of Experts

RECOMMENDATION

Designate or appoint the independent oversight committee and homeless services panel of experts contemplated under Measures O & P as soon as possible.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There will be costs associated with the staffing needed to create the committee and panel of experts.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Measures O and P passed in the 2018 election cycle provide substantial resources to address housing needs within the City of Berkeley. Each of these measures emphasized the importance of a well thought out and strategized allocation of resources through a committee or panel of experts. Part of the role of the Housing Advisory Commission is to make recommendations to address the housing needs within the City of Berkeley. To expedite many valuable projects' timelines for consideration, the Berkeley City Council should either appoint or designate the committee and panel of experts proposed within Measures O and P as soon as possible. At the January 3, 2018 meeting, the Housing Advisory Commission adopted the following motion:

Action: M/S/C (Johnson/Thomas) to recommend to City Council that the independent oversight committee and Homeless Services Panel of Experts as designated under Measures O & P be created as soon as possible.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Lewis, Lord, Owens, Sargent, Tregub and Wolfe. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wright (excused).

BACKGROUND

As the City works as quickly as possible to address the housing crisis in the City of Berkeley, it is important to recognize that having more voices at the table is critical to ensuring that everyone has a chance to be heard and included. It was with this idea that Measure O and Measure P were crafted with intention of having "independent oversight committees."

Measure O's ballot language specifically provided that "all expenditures will be subject to oversight by an independent oversight committee, composed of individuals appointed by the City Council, to confirm that Bond expenditures are consistent with the intent of this Measure."

Measure P had similar ballot language, providing that "there shall be established the Homeless Services Panel of Experts to make recommendations on how and to what extent the City should establish and/or fund programs to end or prevent homelessness in Berkeley and provide humane services and support."

The role of the committees is to make sure that the parts of our community with the most pressing needs and challenges are prioritized. In addition, they will help to ensure that the goals laid out in Measures O and P are achieved. The sooner that these independent bodies are brought together, the sooner that there can be a comprehensive plan for how to allocate the additional resources brought in by Measure O and Measure P. In addition, with a comprehensive plan in place this will give the City the opportunity to more clearly define its objectives and goals, and to receive proposals which better achieve those goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There is no environmental impact to creating the oversight committee or panel of experts recommended from Measures O and P.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Taking the step of appointing or designating the Homeless Services Panel of Experts and the independent oversight committee will build the required input and feedback into the funding process for housing and homelessness projects utilizing Measure O and Measure P funds.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. Staff have provided council with information about making appointments and council is in the process of making those appointments.

CONTACT PERSON

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