Individuals experiencing homelessness are one of the special populations named. We appreciate the City’s incredible efforts to provide tents, trailers, and other forms of housing. In the interim, in addition to other measures that have already been taken, and to provide further clarification to Councilmember Hahn’s referral, the City Manager is additionally directed to implement the following recommendations to support Berkeley’s homeless population during the COVID-19 crisis.

1) Information distribution via public bulletin boards and fliers across the City.
2) Allow homeless advocates to continue to provide supplies to the unhoused.
3) Additional Porta Potties be placed at each homeless encampment and in areas where there are concentrated homeless populations.
4) Trash pick up and vector control at each location.
5) Additional handwashing stations at each encampment location and locations where homeless individuals are concentrated.
6) Drinking water.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
On Monday March 16 Alameda County and the City of Berkeley issued a shelter in place order, requiring that most people stay home in order to prevent the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) from spreading. People experiencing homelessness were exempted from the order because they do not have homes in which to stay, and because the close proximity of shelters makes shelters potentially less safe than being on the street or in a tent. However, it is still in the interest of public health and all in the City to prevent the coronavirus from spreading to the homeless, and that will require additional resources.

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION
The City must deploy public bulletin boards across the City and in encampments to provide up to date information regarding safety and services related to COVID-19. Most homeless individuals lack access to television, the Internet, and other avenues of communication. The current crisis has closed libraries and restaurants frequented by
homeless individuals. With new orders and updates every day, we must consider how to relay information to everyone.

HOMELESS ADVOCATES

Advocacy groups such as Where Do We Go and Consider The Homeless will continue to provide services and information to the unhoused. This service is important and will help keep all residents of Berkeley safe. It should not be considered a violation of the shelter in place order for housed people to bring food, supplies, medicine, or information to the unhoused. These groups are providing essential services and cover any gaps in service. Given that Where Do We Go raised over $1,000 yesterday alone for purchasing and providing supplies to encampment residents, it is unlikely that these services will stop because of the shelter in place order. The City should not criminalize charity. Below are examples of services that are currently being provided:

Consider the Homeless

- Delivering and serving hot homemade soup to over 120 unhoused residents.
- Handing out hand sanitizer, vitamin C, blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, under garments, gloves, and hats when possible.
- Emergency and regular communications with unhoused residents on the streets throughout the city of Berkeley.

Where do we go? Berkeley

- Providing tents, food, medicine and supplies to over 150 encampment residents at the four largest Berkeley encampments.
- Assessing medical needs during the COVID-19 crisis from encampment residents, communicate medical needs to Berkeley Homeless Outreach Medical Coalition, provide medical supplies, transportation to medical services and fund raise to provide needed supplies quickly.
- Communicating with encampment residents to meet needs quickly and communicate information regarding the crisis throughout encampments and city.

PORTA POTTIES

Though coronavirus is typically spread by direct contact, there are cases of it spreading through human waste\(^1\). Even without this fear, the coronavirus is especially dangerous for people with compromised immune systems, which means that waste management is necessary to prevent illness that may be compounded by the coronavirus. Encampments within the Berkeley city limits need Porta Potties to protect public health, even if they are on land owned by a different government agency.

The Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) \(\S\)1915.88(d)(2) sets forth the following minimum sanitation requirements:

Minimum number of toilets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of employees of each sex</th>
<th>Minimum number of toilets per sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 55</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 to 80</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 to 110</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111 to 150</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 150</td>
<td>1 additional toilet for each additional 40 employees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note to Table F-2 of § 1915.88: When toilets will only be used by men, urinals may be provided instead of toilets, except that the number of toilets in such cases shall not be reduced to less than two-thirds of the minimum specified.²

Based on the numbers gathered by homeless advocates, this means that large encampments still need:

Seabreeze Encampment: 4 Porta Potties  
I80/Underpass: 3 Porta Potties  
Ashby/Shellmound: 2 Porta Potties  
Gilman: 2 Porta Potties

Other Porta Potties should be deployed as needed.

TRASH PICKUP

Trash must be picked up and vector control must be deployed immediately to all encampment sites within the Berkeley city limits, even on land owned by a different government agency, to prevent illnesses that may be compounded by the coronavirus, as discussed above. The item passed on November 19, 2019 "Addressing the Trash Crisis in Berkeley" is still in place. The City must place trash receptacles and offer scheduled pickup at each encampment.

In part due to the trash crisis, rats and mice have infested encampments. The rats eat their way into tents and multiply. In addition to the potential for illness, the rat infestations prevent homeless individuals from self-isolation or social distancing.

because individuals have moved in with one another due to the high numbers of rodents. Vector control must be deployed in encampment sites.

HANDWASHING STATIONS

The Center for Disease Control recommends frequent and regular handwashing as the top way to prevent transmitting the coronavirus. This recommendation is crucial and becomes more difficult for the unhoused who do not have indoor running water. Thus far the City of Berkeley has deployed 28 wash stations across Berkeley, but there are still not enough to keep our community safe. We request that either additional handwashing stations be deployed in the following recommended locations, or existing stations that are physically close to other stations be moved. Ideally new stations will be deployed bringing the total to 30, but we have identified possible stations that can be moved if needed.

1) Ashby/Shellmound encampment. If needed, use the station currently deployed at the North Berkeley Senior Center (1 block away from the station deployed in Ohlone Park)

2) Outside of the 99 Cents Only Store on San Pablo and University, where a heavy concentration of unhoused and low income individuals shop. If needed, use the station currently deployed at the South Berkeley Senior Center (2 blocks away from the station at the South Berkeley Library)

DRINKING WATER

Residents at encampments do not have easy access to drinking water so they must venture into the City. During a shelter in place order, they are unable to remain in or near their tents because water is heavy and difficult to move. The City should provide water to facilitate people leaving their tents as little as possible.

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