



Office of the City Manager

December 14, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Subject: EOC Activation: Emergency Shelter Capacity Expanded

Following Council direction on Tuesday night, I activated the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Wednesday morning to address the immediate crisis on the streets and expand shelters and warming centers in the City of Berkeley. The need is particularly important in the cold and rain of winter. The EOC activation allows the City to marshal resources in a coordinated fashion that would otherwise not be possible in the normal course of operations.

There is an immediate need to help those without housing as a large storm is expected to hit the region tonight, Wednesday, December 14, and Thursday, December 15. City staff working in the EOC doubled the bed capacity in the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter to 130 beds for those two nights.

Early this afternoon, City staff and contracted organizations began doing outreach throughout the City. They visited encampments and other sites while notifying others of the two locations.

The locations and hours of the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter for these two nights are as follows:

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley

2407 Dana Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
10 pm to 7 am
65-bed maximum capacity

North Berkeley Senior Center

1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709
7 pm to 7 am
65-bed capacity

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These beds are in addition to the 140 shelter beds the City provides through contracts with community agencies. City staff have also contacted the three existing warming centers to increase their hours on Thursday and Friday to ensure available locations to keep people out of the rain.

Creating a second emergency shelter location was identified as a goal by the EOC Policy Group, which met Wednesday morning. The Policy Group discussed 6 long-term objectives for this operation.

1. Ensure shelters and services are geographically accessible to encampments.
2. Immediate need: Ensure sufficient warming centers through January 2017.
3. Immediate need: Increase emergency storm center capacity
4. Mid- to long-term need: Longer term, higher level of service shelters such as navigation centers.
5. Thorough and direct outreach efforts to inform potential service users of new and available shelters and services.
6. Thoroughly document City efforts to provide services and outreach.

The EOC Liaison to the City Council is Rose Thomsen, who can be reached at rthomsen@cityofberkeley.info or (510) 981-6915. She is available to handle any questions or concerns. The EOC will also coordinate media inquiries.

The EOC will be meeting daily to continue working on these goals. We will update you as we move forward.

cc: Senior Executive Team
Ann Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Dave Brannigan, Deputy Fire Chief
Leah Talley, Aging Services Manager, HHCS
Rose Thomsen, Deputy City Clerk/EOC Council Liaison
Kelly Wallace, Deputy Director, HHCS