

Illumination Foundation Recuperative Care/Navigation Center at 3535 West Commonwealth Avenue Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the application before the Planning Commission for a Human Service Agency?

A Human Service Agency is a facility operated by a nonprofit entity which provides a variety of services to people experiencing homelessness and is an allowed use, through a Conditional Use Permit at this location. The proposed facility will provide 60-beds for recuperative care, a 90-bed navigation center and other wrap-around services including counseling (mental health / substance abuse), medical care, food assistance, job training and coordinated entry into a county-wide system to place people in permanent housing.

Why is the City supporting this?

The City Council and community have provided clear direction to take action to address homeless issues in Fullerton. Nowhere is this action more needed than around Gilbert and Valencia Street where an encampment has formed over the last year. Due to Federal Court cases (Martin v. Boise) and the North Orange County Settlement Agreement, the City has been legally prohibited from enforcing restrictions on camping on public property. However, as a direct result of recent actions by the City including the safe parking program and support of the Illumination Foundation proposed facility, the Federal Judge has authorized the City to begin a limited enforcement of the encampment at Gilbert and Valencia. Without these actions by the City and Illumination Foundation to provide alternative options for people experiencing homelessness, the City would not be able to take action on the encampment.

What is the difference between Recuperative Care and Navigation Center?

People who are experiencing homelessness are frequently admitted to the Emergency Room as their only option for medical attention. Unfortunately, once they are stabilized or treated, they are then released back onto the streets. Recuperative Care provides a location for these folks to go after they are no longer able to stay in the hospital but can continue to receive medical care.

The navigation center portion of the facility will provide a clean, safe and stable environment that allows selected homeless persons to rebuild their lives and intensely focus on finding stable permanent housing. Those individuals or families that are admitted to the navigation center, know they have a limited stay at the site and therefore are committed to focusing their energies on seeking and preparing for permanent, sustainable housing.

Won't a facility like this in my area attract more homeless people?

The facility is by referral only which means that no one is allowed to walk-up and gain access. There will be no signage or identification of the building as a navigation center / recuperative care and the primary entry to the facility will be from the rear of the building, not visible from Commonwealth Avenue. These steps are taken to protect not only the people working and staying at this location but also to minimize any impacts to the surrounding businesses / properties.

How is this facility different than the Armory on Brookhurst?

The Armory is intended to provide cold-weather temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness during the winter months. While the armory also does not allow walk-ups, people who stay at the armory are required to leave each morning and are not permitted to return until the following evening. The proposed facility will provide 24-hour services, and participants are not required to leave each morning. While many of the services needed will be provided on-site, should a participant need to leave for an appointment, a shuttle service will be provided to take them to obtain these services.

Who is the service provider operating the facility?

Illumination Foundation is the organization running the program. You can visit their website at www.ifhomeless.org.

