

DECEMBER
2019



A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER TO
INFORM, EDUCATE, AND
PROVIDE UPDATES ON
HOMELESSNESS IN
FULLERTON

The Helping Hand

Homeless Services Update

this issue



Success Stories

11/12/19: A homeless client, his partner, and newborn son had been homeless for about a week when City Net case managers engaged them. The client's mother kicked the client and his family out due to suspected drug abuse. The client had already used a motel voucher and was running out of options. As it was the first night of Fullerton's Safe Parking Program, case managers suggested that the family participate in the program while City Net worked on finding other solutions. The case managers called the following day, and the client confirmed that the family had been sheltered at La Mesa as a result of the case manager's collaboration with Fullerton PD and Illumination Foundation.

November 2019, St. Philips Benizi Encampment: After seven months of building rapport with clients, and after many refusals of services by clients, case managers were able to enroll eight individuals into services. Clients were provided bridge housing through Illumination Foundation and case managers will be able to engage with clients in order to help the transition when the Fullerton shelter is built. Clients also agreed to receive case management from City Net.



City Net Success Stories **P.1**

Safe Parking Pilot Program **P.1**

Limited Enforcement **P.2**

Recuperative and Navigation Center **P.2**

The City Partners With Illumination Foundation to Open a Safe Parking Pilot Program

Throughout Orange County and the State, local governments are struggling with how to best address reducing homelessness. According to the 2019 Point in Time Count, the City of Fullerton has an estimated 308 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night. On July 2, 2019, the City Council declared a "shelter crisis" due to the lack of emergency shelters and has embarked upon a series of efforts to best address the issue.



On July 2nd the City Council authorized a pilot "Safe Parking" program as many homeless in Fullerton are currently living in their vehicles, which provide a sense of security for some. The Safe Parking Pilot Program's primary goal is to provide families or individuals dwelling in their vehicle who currently have strong ties to Fullerton, a safe and legal place to park, sleep at night, and ensure participant linkage and access to supportive services such as the Coordinated Entry System.

The City is partnering with the Illumination Foundation to run this Safe Parking Program which will run for 6 months as a pilot program. After 6 months, the City will terminate the program at its current location and use the data from the program to best determine how and where it should continue. The program opened November 12th and since its opening has served 9 clients. When a client enters the program they are given permission to park their car from 6:30pm-6:30am at a disclosed parking lot. Bathrooms and wash stations are provided at the lot. During the day the clients are working with a case manager towards housing. The City's Homeless Resources Coordinator and Illumination Foundation case managers have done several outreaches in the community to inform those living in their cars about the program.

For more information on the program visit cityoffullerton.com/homelessness. For more information on the Illumination Foundation please visit ifhomeless.org.

The City Granted Limited Enforcement of the Anti-Camping Ordinance Action Allows City to Clear Gilbert Street Encampment

The City Council and community have provided clear direction to take action to address homeless issues in Fullerton. Nowhere was this action more needed than around Gilbert and Valencia Street where an encampment had formed over the last year. On December 4, 2019 the City of Fullerton was granted the limited ability to enforce the “anti-camping” ordinance on the streets of Gilbert and Valencia. The encampment in front of St. Philip Benizi had an estimated twenty people residing on the streets. The City, County, and non-profits provided consistent outreach to the encampment in addition to weekly sidewalk cleanings.

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 at 3535 W. Commonwealth, the Federal Judge authorized the City to begin the limited enforcement of the encampment based on the availability of 20 shelter beds. 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.

On the day of enforcement Judge Carter was present to settle any disputes and provided immediate direction on how to respond to any issues that may arise. During the dates of December 2-4, thirteen people from the encampment accepted services from Illumination Foundation with the support of City Net. No incidences were reported. The City is incredibly thankful to all of our community partners who have helped direct those at the encampment towards receiving the help and support they need to thrive.



Gilbert Street Sidewalk after Enforcement

Proposed Illumination Foundation Recuperative Care/Navigation Center at 3535 W. Commonwealth Passed by Planning Commission

The Planning Commission, on Wednesday, December 11th, passed on a 4-1 vote, the submission by the Illumination Foundation to operate a 60 bed recuperative care and 90 bed navigation center facility at a current industrial building in the commercial-manufacturing zone. The proposed facility was brought to the attention of the Illumination Foundation by a Fullerton based real estate broker after hearing from former Mayor Jesus Silva that the City was desirous of assisting the Illumination Foundation with a locating a facility. The application was for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Human Services Agency, which as defined by the Fullerton Municipal Code, means “any office or facility on privately held property operated and/or funded by a governmental, quasi-government or nonprofit entity other than the City which provides human services such as counseling, training, rehabilitation, shelter, medication and/or food assistance.” The building, which will require tenant improvements, is 21,000 square feet including approximately 8,000 square feet of office space on the top floor.

What is a recuperative care facility? A recuperative care facility provides care for homeless persons after hospital or emergency room care. As such, the facility provides greater health services to persons and allows them to recuperate from an ailment versus being returned to the street where they will either get worse and return multiple times to the hospital or, at worst, die from preventable illnesses. At the same time, the person is receiving other social services and housing assistance to move them to the next housing opportunity. Recuperative care is a cost-effective provision of care. A navigation center is a facility for homeless to get off the street, obtain needed medical and social services, and to begin the process of gaining meaningful housing options. Ultimately, both these needed services are required in Fullerton in order for us to be compliant with Federal law and the Martin v. Boise court case so that we can enforce our anti-camping ordinances.

For more information on the proposed facility, please review the [Planning Commission Staff Report](#). The facility is not a walk-up facility. Clients will only be admitted by referral only, shuttled in, and the intake office is in the rear, behind an automatic gate and shielded from public view.