CITY OF PASADENA
HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
PASADENA CITY HALL
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER – S249
AUGUST 5, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

OPENING

Mayor Gordo called the meeting of the Housing, Homelessness and Planning Committee to order at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Victor M. Gordo, Chair
Councilmember Justin Jones (arrived at 5:13pm)
Councilmember Rick Cole
Councilmember Jason Lyon (Absent)

Staff:

Jennifer Paige, AICP, Acting Assistant City Manager
Jim Wong, Director of Housing
Jennifer O'Reilly-Jones, Program Coordinator III
Dion O'Connell, Assistant City Attorney
Julia Garzon, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Tunisia Offray, Jacob Monson, Michael Quinn, Larry Gainer, Michael Bravo, Humaria, Thomas Tai, Katrina Richardson, Eileen Lou, Michael Canavan, Julia Arnold, and Luis Bravo

Mayor Gordo encouraged those who spoke on concerns related to lack of parking in new affordable housing projects to remain engaged and to reach out to Assemblymember John Harabedian and State Senator Sasha Pérez. He emphasized that these changes are the result of state legislation and noted that additional changes are forthcoming that may have an impact on our cities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

YEAR-ROUND SHELTER: KICK-OFF DISCUSSION (CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE & HOUSING DEPARTMENT)

Jennifer Paige, Acting Assistant City Manager, provided a brief introduction to the item noting the discussion would focus on the workplan items related to the population served and timing expectations for the shelter. Jim Wong, Director of Housing, presented an overview of the item and provided additional details regarding the recommendation.

Rabbi Joshua Grater, CEO of Friends Indeed and Chair of the Human Services Commission, provided remarks regarding a report comparing emergency shelters and transitional housing.

The following individuals spoke regarding this item:

Mary Forrest, Sojna Berndt, Joanne Long, Cliff Wampler, Rev. Sharon Richter, Antonio Madrid, Erika Foy, Bert Newton, Melissa Eaves, Anthony Manousos, and Michael Canavan

Councilmember Cole noted that the Pasadena Outreach Response Team (PORT) and Homelessness Outreach Psychiatric Evaluation (HOPE) teams currently do not have access to a bad-weather shelter where they

can refer individuals experiencing homelessness. He cited successful programs in other communities, including Project Roomkey in El Monte and a comprehensive service model in Pomona. Councilmember Cole encouraged the City to broaden its collaborative approach by engaging Rabbi Grater, City commissioners, Union Station Homeless Services, and other community-based organizations.

Councilmember Jones emphasized the need for further discussion to define the population the proposed shelter is intended to serve. He requested that the Housing Department identify homelessness hot spots throughout the city and ensure that the needs of domestic violence survivors are taken into consideration when developing shelter programs.

Mayor Gordo announced that, due to time constraints, the Council would proceed with Item 1 and continue discussion of Items 3, 4, and 5. He emphasized that case management and permanent housing services should be integral components of any shelter program. He also noted that private practitioners and security should be prioritized. Mayor Gordo encouraged greater collaboration with Los Angeles County to better serve individuals who may be resistant to available services. He further recommended that supportive services be provided on-site to better meet the needs of the community.

Mayor Gordo also raised the question of whether individuals experiencing homelessness are being intentionally brought into Pasadena and, if so, suggested exploring opportunities to engage their families or coordinate with other jurisdictions to identify additional resources and support.

Councilmember Jones suggested holding the next (or a future) HHPC meeting at the Jackie Robinson Community Center to gain a better understanding of the needs of the surrounding community and inquired about satellite homeless services in areas like the JRC.

Assistant City Manager Paige informed the HHPC that staff has received inquiries about locations that could potentially be utilized as satellite offices, including Fillmore Station and Villa Park. Staff will add the study of this idea as a workplan item for the Committee,

2026 POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT RESULTS (HOUSING DEPARTMENT)

Assistant City Manager Paige informed the Committee that the item would be presented to the City Council on August 17, 2026. She introduced Jennifer O'Reilly-Jones, Program Coordinator III, who provided a presentation on the item.

Councilmember Cole requested quarterly updates to the five-year matrix tracking year-round resources that contribute to the majority of the sheltered count. While acknowledging the City's staffing limitations, he reiterated the importance of regular interdepartmental coordination to ensure accurate and comprehensive data collection that can better inform the community's needs.

Councilmember Jones shared feedback from residents in his district indicating that the survey was perceived as somewhat invasive. Jennifer

O'Reilly-Jones explained that some of the survey questions are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Councilmember Jones also noted that transportation was not available at the time of the survey; therefore, residents who indicated a need for transportation were provided with a resource flyer instead.

Councilmember Jones further recommended enhanced training for field teams to improve their ability to accurately identify individuals experiencing homelessness.

Mayor Gordo thanked staff for their efforts throughout the process.

The following individuals spoke regarding this item:

Sonja Berndt

UPDATE ON HOLLY STREET VILLAGE AFFORDABLE UNITS (HOUSING DEPARTMENT)

Continued to the next meeting.

2026 CONTINUUM OF CARE NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND LOCAL COMPETITION (HOUSING DEPARTMENT)

Continued to the next meeting.

DISCUSS FREQUENCY OF FUTURE HHPC MEETINGS (CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE)

Assistant City Manager Paige discussed the frequency of future meetings twice a month instead of only once and possible different meeting sites. Mayor Gordo said that this discussion should be held when Councilmember Lyon is present. Full discussion continued until the next meeting.

The following individuals spoke regarding this item:

Sonja Berndt

ADJOURNMENT

On the order of the Chair, the meeting of the Housing, Homelessness and Planning Committee was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Mayor Victor M. Gordo, Chair
Housing, Homelessness and Planning Committee

ATTEST:

Julia Garzon
Recording Secretary