



City of Rohnert Park PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

City Council to Review the Status of Homelessness in Rohnert Park

Rohnert Park, CA (April 7, 2023) – The Rohnert Park City Council will review the status of homelessness and the city’s response at its April 11 meeting.

Homelessness is one of the most challenging issues facing Rohnert Park, Sonoma County and the state of California. It is a long-term challenge that requires considerable time and money to address.

Insufficient income, lack of mental health services - and high housing costs in particular - contribute to homelessness. Staff noted that significantly increasing the supply of market rate or affordable housing, or a combination of both, is the key to solving homelessness. While building housing, the city is taking numerous other steps as well.

"Addressing homelessness continues to be a top priority for us. We are working to maintain a multidimensional approach to this complex issue," said Mayor Samantha Rodriguez. "With the implementation of shelter programs, encampment ordinances and homeless outreach services, we are building a well-rounded effort and taking action where we can."

The City Council has made addressing homelessness a high priority. The city has provided outreach to connect homeless individuals with social services. Rohnert Park has opened and continues to operate the 60-unit Labath Landing interim housing. The city has also funded permanent supportive housing programs. These efforts and more have been successful, though not sufficient to solve the problem. Since 2021, the city has:

- Placed 129 individuals into permanent housing
- Engaged 569 individuals through outreach efforts
- Moved 146 individuals into interim housing/shelter

To supplement this effort, the city also amended its camping ordinance to prohibit camping near sensitive areas such as schools and daycare centers.

Although interim housing at Labath Landing has been implemented, there are not enough beds to accommodate all. Rohnert Park is working with the Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC), a county-wide body that funds and sets policies to address homelessness. The city currently has two seats on the CoC Board, more than any other city in Sonoma County. Thus, Rohnert Park is adding housing, working at the city level and working regionally to address this most challenging issue.

Read more about Rohnert Park's plan to address homelessness on the [April 11 City Council agenda](#).

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