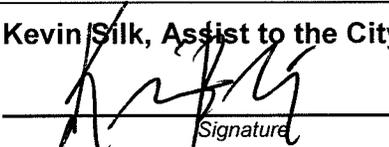


STAFF REPORT
COUNCIL MEETING DATE:
June 25, 2012

ITEM FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:
Informational report regarding warming centers on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County.

Report prepared by: Kevin Silk, Assist to the City Manager
Department: City Manager 
Reviewed by:  City Manager  Admin. Services Dir.
Signature *Signature*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Action Item ___; Non-Action Item X
Receive an informational report regarding warming centers on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County and direct staff as determined by the City Council.

I. BACKGROUND:

Warming centers provide shelter for homeless individuals and families during times of inclement weather. The typical activation timeframe for warming centers on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County is from November 15th through April 1st. The centers are typically activated when temperatures reach 35 degrees or lower or when rain is forecast at 50 percent; they are also occasionally activated at the discretion of the Warming Center Director.

On the South Coast, there are currently warming centers (Freedom Warming Centers) that operate in the City of Santa Barbara and the community of Isla Vista. The centers are insured and under the direction of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, which is also the fiscal agent for the centers. The specific warming center locations in each area currently rotate to various sites and typically include churches. The main site in Isla Vista is the University Co-op. In Santa Barbara, the centers typically serve about 80 guests per night and in Isla Vista about 11 to 20 per night.

Area warming centers are funded by various sources including Santa Barbara County, the City of Santa Barbara, City of Goleta, private donors, private fund raising grants, etc. Costs related to operating a warming center include warming center staff, administration costs, utilities and supplies. The estimated cost to operate a warming center in Carpinteria (excluding utilities) is approximately \$22,000 annually, based on 40 nights of operation¹.

¹ Various warming center information included in this report has been provided by Maria Long, Program Coordinator, Freedom Warming Centers and Nancy Edmonson, Director of Administration, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

Recent County and city contributions to the cost to operate the centers are as follows:

JURISDICTION	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
Santa Barbara County	\$65,000 (additional funds provided to assist Lompoc for emergency sheltering)	\$25,000
Santa Barbara County / Human Service Grants	\$8,350	\$8,350
City of Santa Barbara—Human Service Grants	\$6,000	\$7,500
City of Goleta	\$10,000	

Additionally, warming center guests are provided with hospitality—donated by the facility which is typically a church—and have access to medical treatment as Doctors Without Walls are available at the various sites.

The process to establish a Freedom Warming Center in Carpinteria would include:

- The warming center facility entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
- Determining Carpinteria’s capacity regarding the number of guests that could be served
- Determining warming center locations
- Posting locations for information (e.g., library, Veterans Memorial Building, etc.)

II. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

To open a warming center in Carpinteria the Unitarian Society would have to identify \$22,000 in funding, per staff’s discussion with Nancy Edmonson, Director of Administration, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

Possible City funding programs include the Community Services program and the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

III. PRINCIPAL PARTIES EXPECTED AT MEETING:

Maria Long, Program Coordinator, Freedom Warming Centers