



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS EFFORTS

(Senior Management Analyst Sara Russo)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council receive and file the report.

Executive Summary:

The City of Hermosa Beach partners with local and regional agencies to provide life-changing services to homeless individuals throughout the South Bay. As a result of a collaborative, regional effort, homeless individuals in Hermosa Beach have access to tailored services through an outreach and dispatch hotline, in-person engagement with service professionals, housing/shelter assistance, employment assistance and mental health services.

Background:

The City has taken a strategic and regional approach to address homelessness. By working with the City's regional partners at the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) and others, the City has begun to direct individuals experiencing homelessness to resources in the South Bay region. The Hermosa Beach Police Department has also been responsive to concerns and continues to actively monitor incidents while respecting the rights of homeless individuals and ensuring public safety.

Hermosa Beach has previously launched a number of ongoing initiatives to comprehensively and responsibly address the root causes of homelessness within the community. These initiatives, which are coordinated by the City Manager's Office and funded almost entirely by partnerships and grant funding with minimal impact to the City's general fund, include:

- **Housing Initiative Court:** Every month, individuals experiencing homelessness can attend Housing Initiative Court to avoid prosecution for nonviolent offenses by accepting judge-mandated services that can eventually lead to placement in housing. Through the Court, which is offered in partnership with the City of Redondo Beach, people experiencing homelessness can ask a judge to dismiss their outstanding warrants issued by Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach in

exchange for their successful participation in programs and services intended to improve their mental health, provide substance abuse counseling, assist them in seeking employment and eventually help them transition into permanent housing. The City secured funding to launch this program, which also offers onsite services for people experiencing homelessness, through a Measure H grant application.

- **Mobile Crisis Response:** The City received a \$1 million federal grant from Representative Ted Lieu, for a mobile crisis response team which handled mental health and homelessness calls with trained civilians offering compassionate support. This pilot program replaced police in non-emergency situations involving homelessness and mental health needs. The program ended September 29, 2025, due to the grant period ending.
- **Coordinated Entry System and Regular Outreach and Engagement:** The City collaborated with Los Angeles County's Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Harbor Interfaith Services to provide essential services to those in need. The CES directly connected people with a host of services based on their individual situations. Because individuals move between the beach cities, the City employed a regional approach to provide wraparound services covering the beach cities of Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, El Segundo and Hermosa Beach. Through daily communication and quarterly meetings, the partnership addressed specific needs and hotspots across the beach cities. This program was also supported with Measure H funds secured through the SBCCOG.
- **Homeless Population Census:** Hermosa Beach, in partnership with Redondo Beach and City Net, conducts a detailed census to improve data on homelessness and guide response efforts. This information, along with data collected from the annual Point-in-Time count by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, will be used to inform the City's efforts and track the impacts of its existing programs and services. This program was also secured through partnership at no cost to the City.
- **Mental Health Evaluation Team:** The Hermosa Beach Police Department works closely with local law enforcement agencies and a dedicated mental health clinician provided through the County's Mental Health Evaluation Team (MET) to jointly manage mental health crises and homelessness issues.
- **Safe Parking Program:** The City's FY2025 budget includes funding to explore partnerships to create a safe parking program, providing secure parking spots and on-site services for vehicle dwellers.
- **Functional Zero Homeless Initiative:** As part of its ongoing efforts to address local homelessness and offer comprehensive support to those in need, Hermosa

Beach’s City Council has approved a partnership with the SBCCOG to join the organization’s Functional Zero Street Homelessness program, a data-driven approach aimed at reducing homelessness in the Hermosa community and across Los Angeles County. The SBCCOG’s Functional Zero program is designed to give South Bay cities a goal based on homelessness data collected and analyzed weekly. To achieve Functional Zero, the number of individuals placed in interim or permanent housing must be greater than the number of individuals who become homeless over a six-month period, and the homeless population must have a median duration on the streets of less than 90 days.

- **Enforcing Public Camping and Loitering Regulations:** In line with the recent Supreme Court Grants Pass decision, local laws prohibit camping or sleeping in vehicles on public streets and overnight camping on the beach. Hermosa Beach also enforces laws that prevent loitering in public spaces that obstruct pedestrian movement or cause quality of life impacts.
- **Department of Mental Health, Universal Entry Referral:** Community members can submit a form to create a referral for specialty mental health services through the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH). The referral is based on information provided by the submitter. Community members who submit referrals are expected to coordinate closely with the assigned mental health team. To date, the City Manager’s office has submitted thirteen referrals. Staff will be unable to monitor these referrals due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- **Beach Cities Case Management:** Starting mid-October 2025, through the SBCCOG, a new provider, HERO Community Services, will begin to provide case management services for those individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the beach cities. This program is supported through Measure A funds.

Past Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
September 10, 2024	Councilmember Deto requested, and Mayor Pro Tem Seamann and Mayor Francois supported, a future agenda item regarding the City’s current regulations on public camping and possible regulatory options in light of the Grants Pass decision.
October 8, 2024	City Council gave direction to bring back a comprehensive Hermosa Beach Municipal Code amendment to regulate camping in public places in light of the recent Grants Pass decision.

Meeting Date	Description
February 25, 2025	The City Council introduced on first reading and waived full reading of the ordinance and directed certain changes regarding the violation section.
March 11, 2025	The City Council waived the second reading and adopted Ordinance No. 25-1486.
September 30, 2025	Councilmember Jackson requested, and Mayor Seamann supported a future informational agenda item regarding an update on the City’s homelessness programs, funding and car camping.

Discussion:

HbCares

At its December 12, 2023 City Council meeting, City Council awarded a professional services agreement to Los Angeles Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) to provide mobile mental health and crisis response services due to the City being a recipient of a federal grant. With the City, L.A CADA implemented a crisis response pilot program to complement existing outreach and engagement efforts to improve outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness in Hermosa Beach.

The original grant and contract dates were set to expire September 29, 2024, however, staff applied for and was awarded a one year no-cost extension from the granting agency.

On September 29, 2025 the HbCares program ended due to lack of continued funding. Although the HbCares program has ended, through the City’s partnership with the SBCCOG, HERO Community Services will play a vital role in ensuring momentum is maintained for those individuals experiencing homelessness in the community. This new partnership aims to provide an elaborate set of support services that will hopefully allow the City to achieve Functional Zero.

Staff will continue to apply for grant funds and will work to collaborate with other cities and the SBCCOG to seek additional Measure A funds for our homelessness initiatives for next fiscal year.

Camping Ordinance

The City Council adopted Ordinance No. ORD-25-1486 on March 11, 2025, that repealed Hermosa Beach Municipal Code (“HBMC”) sections 12.28.010(H) and 12.20.240 and added chapter 12.40 regulating camping in public areas. This Ordinance includes camping in public areas in the City (including in vehicles) and the blocking of public access by those sleeping, laying, or placing personal property in the City.

Since the adoption of the ordinance, there have been fifty-seven calls for service with the word “camping” noted in the call. Of those calls, officers issued a total of sixteen citations

and four of those calls resulted in physical arrest. The physical arrests were made to repeat offenders.

The Police Department continues responding to homelessness calls and monitoring incidents while ensuring public safety for the community. Police officers remain diligent to working with homeless individuals to provide them with outreach and check on their overall wellbeing. The police will also continue arresting or citing homelessness individuals who are repeat or egregious violators of the law or City's municipal codes.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sara Russo, Senior Management Analyst

Concur: Landon Phillips, Police Chief

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Henry Chao, Finance Manager

Concur: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Jason Baltimore, Interim City Attorney

Approved: Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager