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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board Oks Homeless Task Force and Action Plan from Supervisor Cortese *Ideas for Initiatives Came from Participants at Community Homeless Summit*

In an urgent response to the immediate needs of thousands of residents living outside and in their cars, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a slate of community-generated initiatives that include creating a [Homeless Task Force](#) that will focus on short-term solutions to provide shelter and services.

The Board voted unanimously on Tuesday, January 28, on Supervisor Dave Cortese's plan to create the Task Force and move forward with other initiatives that came out of a daylong Community Summit on Homelessness that drew 240 participants, including 60 who were currently homeless.

"Focusing on transitional housing and temporary shelter is long overdue," said Supervisor Dave Cortese. "Today, we have called for administration to return to the Board with strategies to turn these ideas, many of which came directly from Summit discussions, into action."

Besides the Task Force, recommendations in the report on the Summit on Homelessness include:

- Create communities with granny units or tiny homes with on-site services.
- Expand the County's Behavioral Health Services' Mobile Crisis Response Team.
- Provide containers and lockers for unhoused individuals to keep their belonging safe during the day.
- Fund more portable showers and toilets, laundry services and trash cans.
- Increase funding for more mental health workers and drug and alcohol addiction counselors.
- Look at increasing homeless prevention resources.

Supervisor Cortese is also calling for the County to:

- Develop a plan to increase 2,000 shelter beds in the next 12 to 18 months countywide with at least 200 beds per Supervisorial District;
- Explore how Governor Newsom's executive order on state investments in homelessness can be used in the County, including surplus state land and state-owned trailers and tents;
- Propose options for the County to add staff to the the Office of Supportive Housing dedicated to transitional housing.
- Examine current shelters and how they operate and how the County's senior residents are uniquely and disproportionately impacted by the homelessness crisis.

“It is our responsibility as a County to put intense efforts into bringing people out of our creeks and from under freeway overpasses and move them into shelter – just as we've successfully done with Measure A and other successful efforts.”

For more information, contact the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.