News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County to Explore Sites in Milpitas for Temporary Housing for Homeless
Supervisor Cortese’s Request Approved Unanimously by the Board

Today, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Dave Cortese’s request for the County to explore sites in the City of Milpitas to be used as temporary housing for homeless individuals and families.

Administrators are to return to the Board at a meeting in August with a list of potential sites and a proposal for a specific site near the Elmwood Correctional Facility just east of Interstate 880 and adjacent to Piercey Honda. This 6-acre property has been considered by the Board in the past for temporary housing. The need for temporary housing has been especially urgent with the spread of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County.

“The 8,000 unsheltered and unhoused residents in our County are especially vulnerable to a rapid-spreading virus such as COVID-19,” said Supervisor Cortese. “I’m proposing that this site be considered along with other available parcels so we can set up temporary shelters that will protect them and the community at large.”

The plan could include using mobile homes, recreational vehicles, pallet shelters or other kinds of moveable tiny homes to provide housing. Temporary amenities within the site should include showers, hygiene kits, medical supplies, garbage dispensers and washers and dryers. Public transit, including buses and light rail, are
easily accessible by foot or bicycle and the nearest VTA station is approximately 1.5 miles away. Milpitas Civic Center is 1.7 miles away.

The County has been stepping up efforts to house and care for homeless individuals, many who live in camps throughout the County, where they live in close proximity to each other. The Office of Supportive Housing has identified 602 spaces that can be used for temporary shelter and housing, including motel and hotel rooms, the County Fairgrounds, San Jose’s Parkside Hall and South Hall. In addition, the City of San Jose received form the State 105 trailers that will be refurbished for temporary housing.

The County has reported that all unhoused individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 have been quarantined in housing. This includes 13 individuals with confirmed COVID-19 and four of their family members who are quarantined with them. As testing continues to identify unhoused individuals who have the virus, they will also be quarantined in shelter or hospitalized, if necessary.

Also, on Tuesday, the Board approve:

- Supervisor Cortese’s call for heightened measures to protect frontline healthcare workers from being exposed and later transmitting COVID-19 to other vulnerable patients.
- A request to consider Vote by Mail only option and other safe voting methods for the November elections to reduce the risk of contagion if the COVID-19, if necessary.
- A Resolution denouncing xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and affirming the County of Santa Clara’s support of and commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian American communities.

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