

NEWS BRIEFS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Cheryl Golden

Communications Manager

City of Fremont

510-284-4025

cgolden@fremont.gov

June 18 City Council Work Session Discussed Update on Strategies and Priorities to Address Homelessness

On Tuesday, June 18, 2019, the Fremont City Council held a Work Session to discuss an update on strategies and priorities to address homelessness. City staff presented an overview of ongoing efforts to reduce homelessness since 2017, provide an update on homeless count data for Alameda County and Fremont, and review state funding opportunities to support homeless mitigation efforts. City staff concluded the presentation with an update on siting a navigation center and the proposed criteria to use when evaluating potential locations.



Every two years the Department of Housing and Urban Development requires counties and local jurisdictions across the country to count homeless persons within their boundaries. In the Bay Area, this year's point-in-time count took place on January 30. EveryOne Home, the non-profit agency that conducts the count and helps in developing countywide strategies to end homelessness in Alameda County, recently released the 2019 countywide point-in-time figures. In Alameda County, 8,022 individuals were counted as homeless, which represents a 43% increase from 5,629 in 2017. The 2019 count nearly doubles the number of homeless from 2015, which was 4,040. In Fremont, preliminary data counted 608 unhoused residents, a 21% increase from 2017, which was 479.

In response to the growing number of unhoused residents in Fremont and direction from the City Council at a previous Council meeting on July 17, 2018, City staff presented the framework for a temporary navigation center and recommended initial criteria for siting a center within Fremont at the June 18 Work Session meeting. A navigation center provides a clean, safe, calm and flexible environment that allows homeless persons to rebuild their lives and intensely focus on the job of finding stable permanent housing. Participants are accepted into the center after outreach and intake, and generally stay six months or less, before finding a permanent placement. This model has been proven successful in the Bay Area through the City of Berkeley STAIR Center, a housing navigation center that has been in operation for more than a year with 82% of individuals exiting the STAIR Center moving into permanent housing.

The meeting was well attended by community members and the Council heard more than 75 speakers regarding homelessness and a navigation center. After public comment, the City Council reaffirmed the decision to create a navigation center and directed staff to move forward with analyzing both City-owned and privately-owned sites based on the recommended criteria. While considering potential locations, City staff will use an objective criteria process taking into consideration:

- Minimum Qualifications
 - At least 16,000 square feet
 - A slope less than 5% area of buildable footprint
 - Not developed parkland or property that has approved and funded projects by the City Council
 - Immediate availability
 - Availability for a period up to five years
- Accessibility
 - Within 0.50 miles of food services
 - Within 0.50 miles of bus stop
 - Bus service with access to BART
- Physical Suitability
 - Utility connection points abut property
- Environmental Suitability
 - Located outside of fault trace zone
 - No known significant environmental issues exist

City staff will return to Council on July 9, 2019 with results from the analysis and present multiple locations for consideration by Council. At the July 9 City Council meeting, the Council will select a limited number of sites for further analysis and staff will conduct community outreach and a deeper analysis for each site throughout the summer. After analysis and community outreach is completed, the City Council will select a final site during a September Council Meeting (date not confirmed yet) to move forward with, and City staff will immediately proceed with procurement of contracts to implement the navigation center.

To watch the recording of the June 18 City Council Work Session visit <https://fremont.gov/AgendaCenter/City-Council-4>. Copies of the full staff report and presentation can be accessed by visiting <http://fremont.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/06182019-1728>

City of Fremont Considers Tobacco Retail License Program

On May 21, 2019, the Fremont City Council heard a proposal from the Human Relations Commission recommending the establishment of a Tobacco Retail License program. At that meeting, the Council directed City staff to conduct further outreach to stakeholders before the topic returns to Council later this summer.

The proposed Tobacco Retail License program for Fremont would require retailers, who sell tobacco products, to acquire an annual Tobacco Retail License from the



City. Policies associated with the Tobacco Retail License may include a ban on all flavored tobacco products, and a set minimum pack size and/or set minimum price per pack. The goal of these policies is to discourage young adults from buying tobacco products. As of May 2019, 158 California municipalities have implemented Tobacco Retail License programs including ordinances restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products and devices.

The City will be holding a community meeting focused on explaining the proposed Tobacco Retail License program and receiving input from the community. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Large Fire Training Room, rear entrance of Building A, Fremont City Hall, located at 3300 Capitol Ave. Feedback can also be provided online at www.Fremont.gov/OpenCityHallTobacco.

Fremont Launches a New Version of Fremont Open City Hall

The City of Fremont has launched a new and improved Fremont Open City Hall platform! This updated version allows subscribers to access a sleeker interface to learn more about each new topic the City posts and participate in online survey exercises to share feedback.

As before, the forum will continue to provide information on a variety of City of Fremont initiatives. The City believes that regularly soliciting community feedback is essential to the decision making process and development of programs and policies that will enable Fremont to thrive.

Open City Hall is run by OpenGov, a non-partisan company whose mission is to broaden civic engagement and build public trust in government.

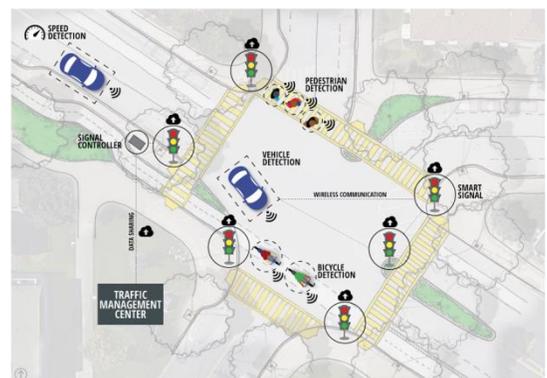
To start sharing feedback visit www.Fremont.gov/OpenCityHall.



Attend Community Meeting about Fremont Boulevard Safe and Smart Corridor Project

The City of Fremont is working to employ cutting-edge technology along Fremont Boulevard between Paseo Padre Parkway and Cushing Parkway that will alleviate congestion and improve safety for all modes of travelers. Improvements include traffic signal modernization, smart sensors to ensure adequate crossing times at intersections, and signal priority for transit and emergency vehicles.

To learn more about the Fremont Boulevard Smart and Safe Corridor project, please attend the community meeting on Thursday, July 18 at 6 p.m. at the Centerville Community Center Centerville Room, 3355 Country Drive in Fremont. The meeting is hosted by the City of Fremont Public Works Department.



For more information, visit www.FremontSmartCorridor.org.

Workforce Training Guide is Now Online

The Tri-City Workforce Training Resource is an informational website for adults who need to obtain their GED, as well as those beginning or already established in their career. Visit www.Fremont.gov/WorkForceTraining to explore the many options for short-term, low-cost educational and training opportunities located right here in the Tri-City Area.



Since Post-Secondary Education is not just a four-year degree, a variety of training opportunities for adults at different points in their careers are included. The site provides information on GED, English as a Second Language, and Basic Skills classes available through local Adult Schools. Entry-level trainings with opportunities for career growth are available at Fremont Adult School for Medical Assistants, Mission Valley ROP for Pharmacy Technician training, or participate in the Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Program through Cypress Mandela, to name just a few. Adults with advanced degrees and professional experience can increase their skills with Cal State East Bay's Certificate and Continuing Education program. The new workforce training site also includes information on ways to pay for classes, starting a small business, growth industries, and labor market information.

The Tri-City Workforce Training Resource is a product of the Southern Alameda County Workforce Development Project, a research project for the City of Fremont Human Services Department, the Fremont Family Resource Center, and the SparkPoint Fremont program. The data from this project suggest more can be done to increase awareness and access to local training and educational opportunities in our community. To address the data, the Tri-City Workforce Training Resource was created to connect community members to short-term training and educational opportunities leading to livable wage jobs. The Tri-City Workforce Training Resource is a navigational tool to access training and educational options in the local area, while also providing links and other resources available in the Greater Bay Area.

The Southern Alameda County Workforce Development Project is supported through the generous funding from the Y&H Soda Foundation and the Walter & Elise Haas Fund. For more information on the Southern Alameda County Workforce Development Project or the Tri-City Workforce Training Resource website, please contact Tamara Dehnert at TDehnert@Fremont.gov or 510-574-2009.

Fireworks are banned in Fremont

Fremont's public safety departments would like to remind Fremont residents, businesses and visitors that the sale, possession, and use of all fireworks are banned within the City of Fremont. This ban includes the "safe and sane" variety of fireworks that are legal in some other cities. The ban, in effect since December 1986, has helped reduce the number of



injuries, wildland fires, and structure fires caused by fireworks in the city of Fremont.

Fire and Police resources will be on patrol in Fremont during the peak times of concern to maintain an active vigilance against fireworks use.

In California, possession of illegal fireworks is considered a misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year. If you are found to be in possession of a sufficient amount of illegal fireworks, you may be guilty of a felony and punished by a fine up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment in a state prison or county jail. Parents may be held liable for any damages or injuries caused by their children's use of illegal fireworks.

Fremont Police and Fire are anticipating a high call volume during the Fourth of July holiday season. We ask that community members help due their part to keep our City safe and dial 9-1-1 in case of a true emergency. To report illegal firework use, call the Fremont Police Department Dispatch Center at 510-790-6800 x3.

Please be extremely careful during the Fourth of July holiday season and throughout the summer months with all outdoor activities. The abundance of dry grass and brush coupled with wind and high temperatures creates extremely dangerous fire conditions.

Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July!

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