



Office of the Mayor

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May 13, 2019

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to amend AB 143: Shelter crisis: homeless shelters: County of Orange.

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

Thank you for your continued leadership in advocating for legislation that directly benefits the constituents of the City of Fremont. With this letter, we are requesting your support in making a motion to amend **AB 143: Shelter crisis: homeless shelters: County of Orange**, to include the City of Fremont as an additional jurisdiction to be added to the bill's provisions. AB 143 was passed through committee and is scheduled for hearing on the Assembly floor.

Under current law, upon a declaration of a shelter crisis, the City of Berkeley, Emeryville, Los Angeles, Oakland, or San Diego, the County of Santa Clara, or the City and County of San Francisco, would be exempted from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) specified actions by a state agency or a city, county, or city and county relating to land owned by a local government to be used for, or to provide financial assistance to, a homeless shelter constructed pursuant to these provisions. AB 143 aims to apply these additional provisions to a shelter crisis declared by the County of Alameda, the County of Orange, any city located within the County of Orange, and the City of San Jose.

The City of Fremont would like to be added to the additional jurisdictions that would receive additional provisions to a shelter crisis under AB 143. As the homeless population rapidly continues to grow in Fremont, the City has been actively engaged in finding solutions to help some of our city's most vulnerable homeless residents find safe housing options. In the past year, a few highlights include: an expansion of the Warming Center model to a seasonal Winter Shelter, operating daily from November 21, 2018 until March 21, 2019 and offering a warm place to sleep while providing showers and meals; Partnership with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) to open a Drop-in Day/Wellness Center for the Homeless; secured 20+ units at the Islander Motel on Mowry Avenue to temporarily house homeless individuals; utilized an Alameda County grant to fund a Mobile Hygiene Unit in partnership with the City of Newark.

Last year, the City also began to explore building a future temporary Housing Navigation Center, which is a facility that transitions those experiencing homelessness into permanent housing, stabilization, and self-sufficiency through coordinated services. Multiple sites in Fremont are being considered. As the City pursues this effort and possible other developments to assist in housing of the homeless, the provisions of AB 143 would greatly help the City to streamline and expedite the process in which homeless shelters or supportive housing is



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created. AB 143 specifically addresses suspension of land use requirements, the Mobile home Parks Act, and CEQA. An addition to this bill would provide more emergency shelter for the City's unsheltered homeless population and take steps to find permanent housing through the implementation of the required shelter plan.

For these reasons, the City of Fremont is requesting your assistance to be added under the provisions of **AB 143: Shelter crisis: homeless shelters: County of Orange**. We look forward to collaborating on future solutions to create long-term housing options for all.

Sincerely,



Lily Mei

Mayor

City of Fremont