CITY OF Fremont

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February 4, 2026

The Honorable Alex Lee
Assemblymember
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 6330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: City of Fremont's 2026 State Budget Requests

Dear Assemblymember Lee:

On behalf of the City of Fremont, I want to express our deep appreciation for your ongoing dedication to local efforts that confront the homelessness crisis. Like many communities, we depend on the vital support of our County, State, and Federal partners. The City of Fremont is proud to stand united in the pursuit of impactful, long-term solutions.

The City respectfully requests your support to sustain the Fremont Housing Navigation Center (HNC) beyond its current funding and to expand our Winter Relief program, ensuring critical services are available throughout the year.

The City's Homelessness Response Plan recommends investing our limited resources in prioritizing prevention, increasing available transitional shelter beds and encouraging the production of affordable housing units. In 2025 alone, the City opened five new affordable housing developments, providing 567 new affordable housing units for low-income households. In addition, 840 more affordable units are in the early stages of pre-development to fuel our momentum in affordable housing over the next few years.

The validity of transitional shelter programs was reinforced in recent conversations with Alameda County's Housing and Homelessness Services Office expressing this is the most cost-effective way to move unsheltered individuals to permanent stable housing. The City is seeking new sources of funding to expand the Winter Relief program to operate year-round and to extend operational funding for the HNC. As the State Legislature finalizes the Budget, we respectfully request your support on these two critical, and proven programs.

The City remains appreciative of your previous funding support of the HNC, as well as other important City initiatives. Your support and advocacy make them possible.

Winter Relief – Transitioning to a Year-Round Shelter Program

Since its beginnings as a congregate Warming Center in 2013, City of Fremont's Winter Relief program has evolved into a robust non-congregate shelter model. Our program provides temporary emergency shelter using motel rooms, and participants can access supportive case management and service connections facilitated by Fremont's Human Services Department in partnership with Abode Services, Bay Area Community Services (BACS), and Bay Area Community Health (BACH), with the goal of supporting their transition into permanent housing, alternative shelter, or other stable program. Participants also receive nightly meals and essential

supplies, ensuring their dignity and stability during the winter months. The City of Fremont's Winter Relief program continues to be the largest of its kind in Alameda County. As of January 20, 2026, over the past four operational seasons, the Winter Relief program has provided 31,768 bed-nights of shelter to 286 unduplicated individuals.

Building on lessons learned from prior encampment resolutions, including the 2023 abatement of the Vallejo Mills Historical Park encampment, the City has maintained an expanded Winter Relief program with 40 motel rooms to humanely resolve the large encampment at Isherwood Park/Old Alameda Creek this season. The expansion was made possible by using one-time funding from real estate developers as a community benefit. With a 2025 budget of $907,000 for 6,000 room nights of service, this year's program will operate for approximately five months and is currently serving 71 individuals (52 adults and 19 minors) in 40 hotel rooms. Based on the results of the 2023 expansion pilot, as well as interim results from the current season, during which many unsheltered individuals at Isherwood Park/Old Alameda Creek were able to receive support in connection with the abatement, the scalability and success of the program has been demonstrated. The use of hotel rooms as emergency shelter has proven to be an effective, practical option for the City of Fremont.

A year-round transitional shelter program would extend the length of stay for existing participants, provide greater stability to support improved housing outcomes and reduce returns to homelessness, and increase capacity to serve additional individuals in urgent need of shelter due to medical necessity or displacement. Investing in the stability and continuity of a year-round transitional shelter model would strengthen pathways to care and enhance stability for Fremont's most vulnerable residents. Additional funding could support the program as follows:

- **Goal:** Raise $1.15 million to operate a 30-unit Transitional Shelter Program year-round, which is estimated to support approximately 60 families annually and triple the number of family shelter units in Fremont.
- **Alternate funding options:**
  - $100,000= 510 additional bed nights of service
  - $125,000= 638 additional bed nights of service
  - $150,000= 766 additional bed nights of service
  - $200,000= 1,021 additional bed nights of service

<u>Housing Navigation Center – Operational Funding</u>

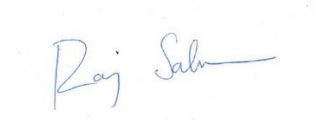
In 2019, the City invested $2.87 million to build a Housing Navigation Center (HNC) at City Hall. In June 2025, the City reached the end of its five-year agreement with BACS and a new, two-year agreement was approved by Council. The City worked tirelessly to secure funding support, including from your office, over the first five years to operate the HNC and as a result the City can afford to operate the HNC for an additional next two-years. However, it is doing so by using the last of its Housing and Homelessness Service Reserve funds. With the status of future County and Federal funding becoming increasingly uncertain, the City is concerned about its ability to identify additional funds to operate beyond FY 26/27. The annual cost of operations is approximately $2.6 million and any funding received can further the use of the City's limited reserves.

The HNC currently serves approximately 45 unsheltered community members every 6 months, resulting in at least 90 people being served annually. In its first five years of operation, the HNC served 293 individuals, all of whom were living in Fremont, Newark, or Union City prior to entering. Of the 293 individuals, 258 exited the program with 65 percent transitioning directly to stable housing or an appropriate program or facility. Upon exiting to stable housing, these residents may be eligible for additional support and some will qualify for Permanent Supporting Housing (PSH) units and/or Rapid Rehousing rental subsidies. All participants who exit to stable housing are provided with six additional months of aftercare services, critical for preventing a return to homelessness. In the first five years of operation, 95 percent of residents who exited to stable housing maintained their placements. We are very thankful to our elected Representatives and the County for helping to fund and support the HNC.

- **Goal:** Raise $2.6 million to extend the operational horizon of the HNC.

I am hopeful that our interests continue to align, setting the stage for a mutually beneficial partnership and generating an equitable future for our shared community. If you have any questions, the City's Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Geneva Bosques (gbosques@fremont.gov), would be happy to provide any additional information that you may need. Thank you for your consideration of this important funding request.

Sincerely,



Raj Salwan
Mayor