



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager

DATE: (For) August 19, 2019 Council meeting

RE: Regional Resolution re: East Valley Collaboration on Solutions to Homelessness

Attached is a proposed resolution for City Council consideration as part of your consent agenda at your August 19th City Council meeting. Because a resolution for this purpose is unusual, I wanted to provide some history/background about its purpose.

Approximately one year ago and because homelessness is viewed to be a regional challenge, the Tempe City Manager brought together east valley city managers/staff as well as representatives from Maricopa County and MAG to share information about homelessness challenges in the east valley. This was also a time period when most of the east valley cities began experiencing growing numbers of unsheltered homeless in our cities. Because Mesa is experiencing the same and because members of Council have indicated interest in regional solutions, city management and staff have continued to attend and participate in these meetings and to share tools and models that have been successful in Mesa.

The next step in this collaboration is to begin considering potential regional solutions that might build on the unique capacities of each city and create economies of scale. Some of these collaborations will not result in direct cost impacts (such as data sharing and collaboration), and others may become concepts that require resources from one or more of the cities. As such, some of the cities felt that they needed their governing bodies to be informed about and to support these regional discussions.

For Mesa, the City Manager already has the authority to continue to participate in these discussions and to consider regional solutions. If there are resources requested that require City Council approvals, he would bring those forward at the appropriate time. However, in order to demonstrate good faith in this collaboration, Mesa staff agreed to bring this resolution forward for your review and approval. The resolution wording has been agreed upon by all those participating. And, the other jurisdictions are asking their governing bodies for review action this summer as well.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly at ext. 4938.