



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

October 1, 2014

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager GT

SUBJECT: Discussion and consideration of Marin Organizing Committee's request for the Town to commit funds for a permanent Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) program

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss/consider the Marin Organizing Committee's (MOC) request for the Town to commit \$16,392 for a permanent Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) program and direct staff as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

At the September 3rd meeting, the Council heard a presentation from the Marin Organizing Committee (MOC) regarding the Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) program. REST is a faith-based rotating shelter program serving up to 40 homeless men and 20 homeless women per night between November 15 and April 15. The program is a cooperative effort among leaders of San Rafael's St. Vincent de Paul organization, Marin's Interfaith Chaplaincy and a group of about 15 congregations throughout the county.

Specifically, MOC presented the concept of a year round REST program and requested the Council consider committing funds for the Town's fair share of operating costs for a permanent program. After the presentation, the Council requested the item be placed on its next agenda for consideration.

At this time, MOC indicates it only has a commitment from the County of Marin. MOC estimates the total commitment from the other towns in Marin County is \$250,000 of which Fairfax's share would be \$16,392. Attached is the funding proposal. MOC indicates it would need the funding in April 2015.

If the Council determines that this is a program it wants to fund, staff would recommend that the funding be contingent on MOC being able to obtain sufficient financing to operate the program. If MOC does not raise enough funds or has a significant change in its operational model, it would need to report back to the Town Council regarding these changes and receive confirmation of the Town's commitment.

FISCAL IMPACT

A potential \$16,392 from general fund reserves or FY14-15 budget savings. Staff would identify the exact source as part of the mid-year budget review prior to when the funds would be required by MOC.

ATTACHMENTS: Funding proposal, background material

AGENDA ITEM # 9

MOC REST Assured Proposal for Marin Cities and Towns

Town	2010 population	Half (\$125K) by population	Half (\$125K) by equal share (11)	Total Ask
Belvedere	2068	\$1,397.43	\$11,363.64	\$12,761.07
Corte Madera	9253	\$6,252.64	\$11,363.64	\$17,616.27
Fairfax	7,441	\$5,028.19	\$11,363.64	\$16,391.83
Larkspur	11,926	\$8,058.89	\$11,363.64	\$19,422.53
Mill Valley	13903	\$9,394.83	\$11,363.64	\$20,758.47
Novato	51,904	\$35,073.68	\$11,363.64	\$46,437.32
Ross	2415	\$1,631.92	\$11,363.64	\$12,995.55
San Anselmo	12,336	\$8,335.95	\$11,363.64	\$19,699.58
San Rafael	57,713	\$38,999.06	\$11,363.64	\$50,362.70
Sausalito	7061	\$4,771.41	\$11,363.64	\$16,135.05
Tiburon	8962	\$6,055.99	\$11,363.64	\$17,419.63
TOTALS	184982	\$125,000	\$125,000.00	\$250,000.00

REST Year-Round Working Funding Proposal

40% County of Marin	\$500,000
20% Marin Cities & Towns	\$250,000
20% MCF and Private Funds	\$250,000
20% Congregations In-Kind	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$1,250,000

REST Year-Round Emergency Shelter Expansion

DRAFT Budget for FY2015-16

PROJECTED EXPENSES		
Employee Related <i>(includes Payroll, Benefits, Taxes, and Workers Compensation)</i>	\$560,000.00	<i>2 FTE - Director and Associate Director Part-Time Employees - 2 onsite nightly staff for men and women; shuttle drivers; janitorial.</i>
Transportation Expenses <i>(includes Vehicle registration & fees, repairs, gasoline & oil, and insurance)</i>	\$50,000.00	
Operating Supplies <i>(includes laundry, sleeping bags and related supplies, paper goods, technology, and backup food supply)</i>	\$75,000.00	
Security <i>(Contract with Barbier Security for 8 hours per day)</i>	\$65,000.00	
Rent & Utilities <i>(Estimate includes rent for 10,000 sq. ft., Gas & Electric, Water, and Garbage)</i>	\$250,000.00	
In-Kind Equivalent Expenses	\$250,000.00	
<i>Volunteer Hours</i>	<i>\$150,000.00</i>	<i>17,000+ volunteer hours</i>
<i>Meals</i>	<i>\$100,000.00</i>	<i>365 home-cooked meals</i>
TOTAL Estimated Expense	\$1,250,000.00	

FAIRFAX REST PRESENTATION

Good evening. My name is Esther Rosha-Stadler and I am with Congregation Kol Shofar. I have lived in Fairfax for ___ years.

Thank you for inviting MOC here tonight. We are going to be talking about shelter in Marin County, specifically about the rotating emergency shelter known as REST. We want to explain why we feel REST should operate year round; why it needs a single location, and how Fairfax can contribute to help make that a reality.

First a word about MOC, the Marin Organizing Committee. Founded in 2009, MOC, is an organization of institutions — congregations, non-profits, and civic associations -- representing thousands of Marin County residents. We currently have 18 dues-paying member organizations. We have had hundreds of conversations within and across our institutions in which we shared our concerns about the problems facing our families and communities.

Some of the things we have been working on are:

- increasing access to healthcare,
- creating a police sub-station in the Canal;
- supporting family and senior housing like the Christ Lutheran project here in Fairfax,
- working to get drivers licenses for immigrants in our community
- and expanding emergency services for the homeless.

When we started organizing, we heard repeatedly about the lack of an adequate number of emergency shelter beds in Marin County. Based on what we learned from talking with elected officials and key stakeholders, we created a plan for shelter. We then held a candlelight vigil and press conference and showed our supervisors that thousands of Marin residents cared deeply about shelter. Then when a group of congregations opened their doors to the homeless during a particularly cold winter, we had a plan in place, the county guaranteed the funding to MOC, and the REST program was born.

Run by the St. Vincent De Paul Society, REST operates on a behavioral model. Each night, from mid-November to mid-April, intake counselors assess the guests' ability to

cooperate and live in community for the night. The host congregations then offer room for 40 men and 20 women to sleep in a safe and warm place. In addition, each night volunteers bring home-cooked meals to share for a communal dinner – guests and volunteers sit down and eat with each other, sharing stories, building relationships and creating networks of community support.

Over the course of the winter, people start to connect and engage with one another. Last season **over 2000 volunteers from more than 40 institutions** participated in this program, and, as a result of these relationships, 19 guests secured permanent housing last winter.

To expand REST to 365 days per year will require a site and increased funding. Although the congregations have been and remain committed to the program, none can commit their facility 52 weeks of the year.

Accordingly, MOC has been working with county health and human services staff, service providers, and allies to find a site.

This group, the REST Advisory Council, has formulated the basic site criteria needed to replicate the success of REST: adequate ADA-compliant sleeping space and restrooms, a kitchen for cooking and/or serving dinner, and adequate parking for volunteers.

With help from a commercial broker, this Advisory Council has been looking throughout the county, focusing primarily on SB-2 zoned areas in each city or town, on County-owned buildings on County-owned land, and on available sites within the faith community.

We believe strongly that homelessness is a countywide issue, an obligation that each jurisdiction in Marin needs to address. In Fairfax, St. Rita's Church and Christ Lutheran Church have been very active in the REST program. And many more Fairfax residents have volunteered their time with REST in congregations throughout the County.

REST has gone from a program aimed at saving lives to a program that **transforms** lives. That's why REST needs to be a year-round program. **If you have participated in REST as a volunteer, a client, or a supporter, please stand up now. Thank you, please be seated.**

I am Patti Breitman with Gan haLev, and I have lived in Fairfax for 23 years. Before I discuss exactly what we are asking for from Fairfax, two members of the clergy whose congregants live in Fairfax, will tell you about why it is vital for Fairfax to support a year round REST shelter:

The Reverend Bev Brewster from Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian

Father Ken Weare from St. Rita's Catholic Church

Thank you.

It is clear to us that in order to find a year-round home for REST in one location, every city and town will need to contribute to its funding.

We have launched a town-by-town campaign to engage with elected officials to garner support for REST. We are also meeting with each county supervisor.

The current REST operating budget is \$350,000 for five and a half months. This budget includes a \$250,000 grant from the Marin Community Foundation, as well as approximately \$100,000 of in-kind donations such as housing, volunteer hours and food provided by congregations, organizations and individual volunteers.

We estimate that the annual operating budget for a year-round shelter in a single location will be \$1.25 million. This increase is largely due to increases in rent and staffing expenses.

In order to reach that goal, we are proposing that the costs be shared among the County, private funds, individual jurisdictions and continued in-kind contributions from congregations, using the following formula:

- 40% of the funds would come from the county, which has allocated \$500,000 as a one-time line item in its 2014-2015 budget;
- 20% from the Marin cities & towns;
- 20% from the Marin Community Foundation and private funds; and
- 20% from the REST congregations as in-kind donations.

This budget represents a strategy of funding from public and private sources that reflects a fair share, equitable contribution. Specifically, the allocation of funds from the various cities in the County takes into account their population for half of the funding and then an equal share by number of jurisdictions for the balance.

With respect to Fairfax, we are asking that you allocate \$16,391.83 as Fairfax's annual share of funding for a permanent year-round REST program. Again, this number is based on two factors: Fairfax's population as a pro rata share and an equal share based on the number of jurisdictions in the county.

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Good evening. My name is Jack Hayes. My wife and I have lived in Fairfax since 1968, and raised 6 children here. All of them attended Manor and Drake and I was a teacher and principal at Drake decades ago, a little league coach and league president as well as a member of many local and countywide boards and committees over the years.

Since retiring in 2001, I have been involved with the St Vincent de Paul society and currently am part of the St Rita Conference here in Fairfax. Through the conference, we visit the homes of, and help, close to 400 people in need each year right here in Fairfax. We also help homeless people with temporary access to shelter, food, clothes, and even dental care.

St Rita parish has been a host to the REST program since it began. Members of the parish and community, including students, cook a meal and join our guests for dinner each week.

I know that the REST program has influenced lives of the homeless in a positive manner. I also have been witness to what happens to some when the program is not in operation.

Karen, a young mom with two children, was one of our guests. Overwhelmed with life, she gave up her two children and became homeless. As a result of support she received while part of the REST program, she not only got out of the cold but also credits the program for giving her the will and incentive to change her life. She entered a counseling and rehab program and has recently gotten a full time job and is reunited with her children.

For Dottie, a longtime Fairfax resident and senior citizen, the REST program provided shelter, briefly, following her eviction when her apartment complex was sold and rents were raised. When the REST program ceased, she was back on the street and sleeping near the bocce ball courts in San Rafael. Of late, she has slept on the couches of

friends, in a car, occasionally in a hotel and now in a garden shed. No water, no electricity. no regular meals.

REST has been a great asset to the community and a major comfort for those who need the shelter, care and the support REST can give.

Almost 180 years ago, the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society stated, in a show of frustration: "Let us not TALK of helping the poor, let us go do it!"

Fairfax is a community that cares. Here is an opportunity to show that care by joining other Marin communities to make this happen. Through your leadership, Fairfax can make the year-round REST program possible.

We look forward to working with you in this effort and would be happy to answer any of your questions.