



City of Placerville

3101 Center Street

Placerville, California 95667

(530) 642-5200, Fax: (530) 642-5538

July 1, 2021

Don Ashton, CAO
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Mr. Ashton,

On June 29, 2021, the City Council held a special meeting and reviewed information regarding the current homeless camps in Placerville. Staff had previously met with Don Semon to discuss the issues and potential solutions. In addition, staff and Vice Mayor Taylor had looked at potential solutions. As a result of the meeting with Mr. Semon, staff sent the attached letter to him outlining our concerns and recommending potential solutions. This letter was provided at the direction of the City Council.

In conjunction with the requests that are in the letter, the Council requested that we convene a Two by Two meeting to discuss the letter and our proposals to ease homelessness in the City and the Western Slope of El Dorado County. As we have not met for some time, I realize it may take some time to put a meeting together. However, we do feel there is some urgency to this as outlined in the letter, specifically fire danger and public health hazards.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me to discuss these issues if you would like or feel free to contact my Secretary, Erin Strawn to arrange for the meeting.

Sincerely,

M. Cleve Morris
City Manager
City of Placerville

Attachment: Don Semon Letter



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July 1, 2021

Don Semon
El Dorado County Health and Human Services

Dear Mr. Semon:

The City of Placerville has consistently worked cooperatively with El Dorado County to develop potential solutions to our homeless problem. To date, certain initiatives have proven helpful, but none have provided substantial relief to a growing problem. With the increase in the number of homeless in Placerville, and the substantial increase in fire danger due to draught conditions, we feel it is critical that emergency solutions be considered to not only protect our homeless community, but to protect our entire community. In addition, the current camps do not have bathroom facilities to serve the homeless. This means sewage is likely being deposited in our open spaces. This creates a severe concern due to some of these camps being located near creeks and other waterways that can become contaminated.

For these reasons, the City of Placerville is requesting that El Dorado County allocate significant funding available for homeless initiatives, to establish three or more scattered managed camps, or other emergency facilities to provide temporary protection for the homeless from the elements, protection to our public from potential wildfire, and protection to our environment from the release of hazardous waste.

The City of Placerville does not have nor do we receive the resources, funding or expertise to initiate this action. However, we feel El Dorado County, through State funding provided to the Continuum of Care for the homeless, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and other funding for homeless initiatives, has the ability to establish a facility to protect our citizens, our homeless, and our environment. It is our hope and understanding that this facility, if developed appropriately, will enable the City to close down all other illegal camps in the City and refer tenants of those camps to the new facility. This will enable us to monitor more closely the homeless and prevent illegal campfires that can potentially turn into wildfires. It will also allow us to better provide services to the homeless and develop a meaningful program to reduce the homeless problem.

The City also recognizes our responsibility to do our part. The City has approved and is in the development stage of approximately 200 units of affordable housing. Lack of housing is consistently targeted as one of the main reasons for homelessness. These units should provide additional housing to benefit the homeless population. The City would like to initiate

discussions with the County on how we can assist in developing those units to better benefit those most in need.

In addition, the City has explored several sites that could serve as a site for a facility and/ or Managed Camp. Some of these sites are City owned and the City is willing to discuss donation of this property to facilitate the process. We are open to discussing these properties further to explore the feasibility of them for a homeless facility.

Attached is the City's vision of what could become part of the County Strategic Plan to address homelessness. We look forward to working with you to develop a facility to meet this need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Cleve Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and last name "Morris" clearly legible.

M. Cleve Morris
City Manager
City of Placerville

Attachment: Vision for Addressing Homelessness

City of Placerville

Vision for Addressing Homelessness

Policy Statement: It is the goal of the City of Placerville to actively work with El Dorado County and the County Continuum of Care to develop meaningful programs to protect the Homeless from the elements and move them out of homelessness, protect the citizens of Placerville from crime and other potential results of homelessness, and protect the natural environment in Placerville.

Short-Term (6 months to 1 year) Goals:

1. Develop multiple designated camps/facilities for the homeless, to better address their needs
2. Institute a Navigation program to actively work individually with homeless individuals to develop a plan to remove them from homelessness.
3. Remove and cleanup all illegal camps in Placerville, relocating all homeless within Placerville to designated camps/facilities.
4. Identify alternatives to the Upper Room to avoid the heavy impact of the homeless in that area. This could include relocation, meal deliveries, or other options to alleviate the need for the homeless to congregate on Upper Broadway.

Long Term (2-5 years) Goals:

1. Continue to pursue and develop additional affordable housing in the City of Placerville.
2. Encourage the County to develop affordable housing outside of Placerville to meet the needs in the County.
3. Work with current affordable housing developers to allocate X number of units specifically to house those experiencing homelessness. In exchange, the City and County will work with developers to identify additional funding for the projects.

On-going (Beyond 5 years):

1. Eliminate Unnecessary Temporary Housing (ie. Camps/shelters)
2. Continue programs to remove people from homeless including drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, mental health programs, job placement programs, housing assistance programs to prevent homelessness before it happens.