

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



MEMORANDUM

Don Semon
Director

DATE: October 22, 2021

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Cc: Don Ashton, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Don Semon, Director of Health & Human Services Agency *DS*

SUBJECT: Sheriff's Proposed Homeless Encampment Project

The purpose of this memo is to provide your Board with additional information for consideration regarding the Sheriff's proposed Homeless Encampment project.

On September 17, 2021, I received an e-mail from Don Ashton, CAO, referencing two recent e-mails: one from the Board of Directors of the Upper Room Dining Hall and Housing El Dorado; and one from Dr. Marissa Muscat and the El Dorado Opportunity Knocks Continuum of Care (EDOK). Within both emails, concerns were raised about the Sheriff's proposed Homeless Encampment Project, suggesting that implementing the effort could jeopardize federal and state grant funding that comes into El Dorado County to support local non-profit and government programs that impact homelessness. Additionally, concerns were raised around *Martin v. Boise*, and the potential for this project to violate legal rights of homeless residents. In response to the letters, the CAO asked if I could verify with the State if the referenced concerns were valid.

On October 11, 2021, as a follow up to the CAO's request, our Chief Assistant Director, Daniel Del Monte, was able to have a discussion with representatives of the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC). During the discussion, HCFC referenced their legal team's review of HOSTESS, the Board of Supervisor's meeting video on the Sheriff's proposed Homeless Encampment Project, and some additional inquiries, and affirmed that implementing this project would risk the County losing its State homeless funding. Additionally, HCFC stated that we should confirm with our legal counsel, however they stated that HOSTESS and any project based on HOSTESS may very likely violate *Martin v. Boise*. Daniel was reminded that the County (HSA) signed 'Housing First' check lists and attestation forms which were required to access HEAP, HHAP, CESH, and other funding grants, as a component of SB1380. Referring the County to their communication with EDOK, they stated that the County is required to follow the checklist in developing new projects in order to ensure that HCFC funding can continue to be granted to El Dorado County.