Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

From: Brooke Buckingham, Planning and Community Development

Date: January 22, 2020

Subject: Local and Regional Homelessness – Redmond’s Response and Approach

Purpose:
Staff will provide a brief overview of local and regional efforts to address homelessness.

Background:
The challenge of homelessness is complex and evolving. Redmond has taken a proactive approach to this issue through various planning efforts, funding, and implementation of a coordinated outreach response.

- Planning and collaboration – Homelessness is a regional challenge requiring a collaborative approach. Human Services staff participates in numerous sub-regional and regional committees including All Home and the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC). Staff also coordinates funding and explores solutions for improved service delivery with other East King County cities.
- Shelter options – The shelter capacity in East King County has grown from a weather activated model with limited staffing and operations to three shelters that will now have year-round availability with enhanced services.
- Redmond’s Homeless Outreach Program – Through recommendations from the Redmond Task Force on Homelessness Report, the City was able to hire an outreach coordinator, Kent Hay, who coordinates access to services addressing the specific needs of those experiencing homelessness in Redmond. Kent initiated the development of the weekly community resource center which is now part of the Redmond Community Court.
- Human Services Funding - The City’s is committed to investing in prevention (e.g. rental assistance), shelter, and other services that will result in increased housing stability for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and/or at risk of becoming homeless.

Attachment A: Homelessness