



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3797, **Agenda Item #:** 5.

12/9/2019

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Office of Real Estate Services Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) to increase appropriations by \$7,800,000 to acquire and renovate a building to provide shelter and support services to those experiencing homelessness.

Lead Department

Office of Real Estate Services

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

January 31, 2019 - Council approved Resolution 20190131-078 relating to a pilot project to provide immediate shelter and support services for those experiencing homelessness on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Flannigan was off the dais.

June 6, 2019 - Council approved Resolution 20190606-049 relating to implementing the responses directed in Council Resolution No. 20190131-078, including taking all actions necessary to implement the provision of immediate shelter structure(s) and services on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Harper-Madison was off the dais.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

According to Strategic Direction 2023, the issue of homelessness has been identified as the Council's top priority. The number of people experiencing homelessness in Austin continues to rise, with the Point-In-Time Count reflecting an increase from 2,147 in 2018 to 2,255 in 2019. As a subset, the number of unsheltered individuals increased from 1,014 to 1,086 within this period. Over the past five years this same population grew by 638 individuals, an increase of nearly 63%.

The Office of Real Estate Services has identified the building at 7705 Metro Center Drive as a property that would be able to provide shelter and support services to those experiencing homelessness. The property is an ideal location given the proximity to areas where individuals who are experiencing homelessness live, accessible by public transportation, close to major arterials, and within reasonable distance of health care facilities. \$7,800,000 includes \$6,800,000 for the acquisition and an additional \$1,000,000 for potential renovations. Operating and maintenance costs for this facility are unknown at this time but are anticipated to be fully funded through fundraising efforts. These costs will vary significantly depending on the amount and level of services provided at this facility.