

CITY COUNCIL

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# CITY OF LODI

2015 "Wine Region of the Year"

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May 18, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LODI, CA – The City of Lodi Community Development Department, through its Neighborhood Services Division, is prepared to engage in a citywide informational campaign, broadcasting information and gathering feedback instrumental to developing long-term solutions to homelessness in our City. A vital ingredient, and considered as the first component of a long-term solution, centers on the development of an Access Center. This Release is intended to share information on what an Access Center is and also clarify what an Access Center is not.

This is our first step in our public community engagement plan. In the next few weeks, we plan to distribute another press release to share our survey link, which will allow the community to provide feedback on the proposed Access Center. Also in the coming weeks, look for notice of community meetings, utility bill inserts, social media and website posts and other announcements to disseminate information and gather feedback from the community.

### **What is an Access Center?**

An Access Center is a low-barrier, service-enriched shelter that facilitates linkage to needed resources to help individuals and families exit the cycle of homelessness. Onsite services include intensive case management, hygiene facilities, 24/7 staffing including security, and janitorial services. An Access Center offers highly marginalized people the opportunity to regain safety and engage in supportive connections that allow them to move forward with rebuilding their lives, as well as develop pathways to permanent housing, income, healthcare, sobriety, and stability. To make sheltering more accessible, partners, pets, and possessions are allowed in a low-barrier setting. However, low-barrier does not mean low-expectations. Violence, weapons, open use of illegal substances, or disruptive behavior is prohibited within the facility.

### **What an Access Center is Not?**

It is important to note, an Access Center is not a homeless camp. It is a safe and secure option to our unsheltered community with access to needed services necessary to progress towards a path of self-sufficiency. Security is a central component of the Access Center and consists of 24/7 monitoring of the immediate neighborhood, discourages loitering by clients, and responds promptly to any neighborhood concerns. Additionally, routine patrol of the entire Access Center campus will occur to ensure the safety and security of residents and that house rules are followed. Janitorial staff would also ensure the Access Center campus remains clean and debris free on a daily basis.

Additionally, with sufficient minimal barrier shelter beds, the City can focus its enforcement efforts on reducing the occurrence of camping in public right-of-ways, parks, in front of businesses, etc., because unsheltered individuals could choose to be transported to the Access Center. As a result, the Access Center would not only provide access for unsheltered individuals or families; it will also provide greater access for the entire community to City resources.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department, Neighborhood Services Division at [NeighborhoodServices@lodi.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodServices@lodi.gov).

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