



Office of the City Manager

December 15, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Subject: EOC Activation: Emergency Shelter Capacity Expanded

I want to provide you with an update from the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which was activated Wednesday to address the immediate crisis on the streets and expand shelters and warming centers in the City of Berkeley.

City staff working in the EOC on Thursday arranged to have warming centers operating both Thursday and Friday, allowing people without housing to be shielded from the elements throughout the day and night. In addition, the EOC has arranged for two winter shelter sites for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights.

Combined, the EOC staff work has doubled the bed capacity of the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter to 130 beds for six consecutive nights. Staff and community agencies in contract with the city have visited encampments throughout Berkeley to increase awareness of these shelter sites, particularly given the rain and cold weather.

The EOC activation allows the City to marshal resources in a coordinated fashion that would otherwise not be possible in the normal course of operations. Starting Friday, the EOC will also bring on board an outreach coordinator to ensure we do as much as possible to contact and offer services to homeless people.

The locations and hours of the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter through Monday Night are as follows:

	North Berkeley Senior Center	Frances Albrier Community Center	First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley
Address	1901 Hearst Ave	2800 Park Street	2407 Dana Street
Bed Capacity	65 beds	65 beds	65 beds
Thursday 12/15	7pm to 7am		10pm to 7am
Friday 12/16	7pm to 7am	7pm to 7am	
Saturday 12/17	7 pm to 7am	7pm to 7am	
Sunday- 12/18	9:30pm to 7am	7pm to 7am	
Monday- 12/19	7pm to 7am	7pm to 7am	

These beds are in addition to the 140 shelter beds the City provides through contracts with community agencies.

In addition, the EOC has contracted with community agencies to expand warming center hours so that those without housing have a place to go that is out of the elements during the daytime:

Multi-Agency Service Center

1931 Center Street (Veterans Building)
 New Hours: 8am to 4:45pm
 (Normally open 8am to 12pm)

Berkeley Food and Housing Project

1931 Center Street (Veterans Building)
 New Drop-In Hours: 4:45pm to 6:30pm
 (Normally, no drop-in hours)

Creating a second emergency shelter location was identified as a goal by the EOC Policy Group, which met Wednesday morning. In addition, we are looking to address any barriers for those seeking shelter. The Policy Group discussed 6 long-term objectives for this operation.

1. Ensure shelters and services are geographically accessible to encampments.
2. Immediate need: Ensure sufficient warming centers through January 2017.
3. Immediate need: Increase emergency storm center capacity
4. Mid- to long-term need: Longer term, higher level of service shelters such as navigation centers.
5. Thorough and direct outreach efforts to inform potential service users of new and available shelters and services.
6. Thoroughly document City efforts to provide services and outreach.

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Re: EOC Activation: Emergency Shelter Capacity Expanded

The EOC Liaisons to the City Council are:

- Rose Thomsen, rthomsen@cityofberkeley.info or 981-6915 and
- Timothy Burroughs, tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info or 981-7437.

They are available to handle any questions or concerns. The EOC will also coordinate media inquiries.

The EOC will be meeting daily to continue working on these goals. We will update you as we move forward. We are evaluating these activities daily, and we'll re-assess needs on Monday morning.

cc: Senior Executive Team
Ann Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Dave Brannigan, Deputy Fire Chief
Kristen Lee, Manager, Housing & Community Services
Leah Talley, Aging Services Manager, HHCS
Rose Thomsen, Deputy City Clerk/EOC Council Liaison
Kelly Wallace, Deputy Director, HHCS
Denise Brown, Manager, Recreation Division,