

CITY OF CONCORD
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April 16, 2020

Dear Fellow Concord Resident:

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well during the current crisis. These are indeed challenging times. As the COVID-19 public health emergency continues to impact people throughout Concord, the nation, and around the world, it is more important than ever for the City to provide critically-needed services to the most vulnerable in our communities.

It's impossible to live in our City without witnessing the pain of homelessness on our streets. In Concord and throughout Contra Costa County, homeless services are provided by the County's Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3) division. H3 is responsible for oversight of the Concord Adult Shelter and the CORE outreach team, as well as other programs that respond to the issue of homelessness. While the City does not manage these programs, we work closely with H3 to address issues and to keep our unhoused residents safe.

During the current crisis, Concord continues to work closely with local community partners to meet the needs of those who are most at risk and most in need. For our unhoused residents, there is no option for sheltering-in-place as required by the County Health Officer. To help address this issue, the Concord City Council and City staff have developed a program to provide hotel rooms for the most vulnerable of those who are currently on the streets. This includes the frail elderly, those with significant and life-threatening health issues and families with children. As of the date of this letter, the City has secured temporary shelter for 29 people in 13 households, with the help of the Concord Police Department's Community Impact Team and the CORE homeless outreach team.

In addition, in partnership with the City Council, Meals on Wheels is providing a hot meal daily to those Concord families who have been temporarily sheltered in motels and hotels, as well as expanding their delivery to homebound seniors. Through a weekly meal program, seniors can also pick up a weeks' worth of meals every Thursday.

Social distancing and hand washing are among the most effective means of controlling the spread of COVID-19. To help meet the hygiene needs of our unhoused residents, four portable bathrooms and hand washing stations have been installed throughout the City. The facilities are located at the Civic Center and at Baldwin, Hillcrest and Meadow Homes parks.

The need for assistance far outpaces the current resources, and many of you have stepped forward to ask how you can help. Procan Labs, a Concord based small business, learned of the need for microwaves for some of the hotel rooms. Procan staff immediately stepped forward and purchased nine microwaves, allowing those sheltered to heat the meals received through the Meals on Wheels program.

The City remains focused on maintaining essential services while responding to the growing need for additional resources, and has no additional funds available for the hotel/motel sheltering program or to further expand the Meals on Wheels program. However, the need for additional support for these programs continues to grow.

The current shelter-in-place order is effective through May 3, but it is fully expected to be extended to May 31 or possibly longer. The City's funding currently allows for sheltering residents through May 3 but the need will likely extend well beyond that date.

Funds are needed to provide additional room nights, meals and support services to keep the most vulnerable Concord citizens safe. Concord motels and hotels have graciously reduced their regular room rates to allow the City to stretch the available funds to shelter as many people as possible during this public health emergency. The cost per day for a room with a hot meal and ongoing support services is \$125/single and \$140/family.

In response to the generous offers of help the City has received, the City has partnered with the Todos Santos Business Association Arts Foundation (TSBAAF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, to accept donations on behalf of the City to be used to expand the hotel shelter program and community supportive services throughout Concord. Checks payable to TSBAAF can be dropped through the mail slot at Wing A, City Hall, 1950 Parkside Drive, Concord, CA; by mail to the TSBA Arts Foundation, C/O Concord Community Foundation, PO Box 921, Concord, CA 94522; or online at ConcordCF.org. Your tax-deductible donation will be used 100% to support these vital programs.

I'm proud of the way the citizens of Concord have adapted to this situation and have continued to focus on the needs of our community. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation for your help in seeing that our most vulnerable residents are well and protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim McGallian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Tim McGallian
Mayor
City of Concord