

Responses to Questions and Comments
Regarding 5th Impact Tiny Shelters Pilot Project

- 1. The 5th Impact tiny shelters project is a homeless encampment in a residential neighborhood.*

The tiny shelters will include ONLY 5 Tuff sheds that will be converted into tiny shelters housing up to 10 participants temporarily. There is a residential neighborhood near the site, but this site is adjacent and across from commercial and public services buildings. There will be a supervisor, with no excess clutter, nor tent structures allowed on the property. There will be privacy fencing and landscaping around the property.

- 2. The tiny shelter project is only being put on Brown Street because people of low socioeconomic status and people of color live in the area.*

The tiny shelters are being placed on Brown Street for 4 primary reasons: 1) The County owns the two parcels of property where the proposed project is on Brown Street; (2) the participants in the 5th Impact program receive services at the William J. Carroll Health & Social Services Building, which is directly next to the property where participants in the 5th impact program will be receiving services; (3) The project is to support and assist people experiencing homelessness in Vacaville, not other cities in the County; (4) There is direct access to transportation, food, and other nonprofit support services that are needed for participants.

- 3. The 14Forward tiny shelters project in Marysville/Yuba County has created more crime and trash in the surrounding neighborhood.*

No correlation exists between the incidences and the 14Forward project. The Marysville Police Department reports no increase in crime since 14Forward started its tiny shelters project. There was one incident of a neighbor in Marysville complaining about trash. The participants at 14Forward organized a neighborhood clean-up and resolved the issue. There continues to be a large homeless encampment that existed prior to the area where 14Forward was created. The participants that have entered 14Forward tiny shelters are not the only individuals experiencing homelessness in the area.

- 4. The participants going through the 5th Impact program will be brought in from all over (the County/State).*

Participants go through an application process and are scored for various attributes, such as if they are a Vacaville citizen, are they employed, have they previously engaged in services, and their vulnerability. Twenty-eight (28) Vacaville citizens experiencing homelessness have applied to be in the program and have priority ahead of 2 applicants from another Solano County city. Solano County cannot restrict people outside of Vacaville from applying but has committed to giving priority to Vacaville citizens experiencing homelessness. It is anticipated that more Vacaville citizens experiencing homelessness may apply once they see some of their peers having success and trust is built with the program. The likelihood that non-Vacaville citizens are in the program, within the pilot period of 5 years, is very low.

- 5. There is no transition plan for participants going through the 5th Impact Project.*

There are several transition plans being developed with various nonprofits and County Health & Social Services Staff. All are applying for permanent supportive housing funds to secure permanent units for participants transitioning out of the tiny shelters program. There will be no formal announcement made on any of the transition plans until funding awards are announced later in 2019.

- 6. The County could move the project to land they own by the Nut Tree Airport.*

FAA rules prevent the County from putting any residential project on the land controlled by the Nut Tree Airport, including the County-owned land near the airport.

- 7. The County could move the project to land they own on Beck Ave. in Fairfield.*

The 5th Impact Tiny shelters seeks to address residents experiencing homelessness in Vacaville. Sending Vacaville residents to Fairfield does not address homelessness in Vacaville. Some applicants work, have family, or have only lived in the City of Vacaville. 5th Impact is not the only homeless relief project currently

underway in the Cities and County. Fairfield is doing its part in addressing homelessness by having the only operational emergency shelter in Solano County.

- 8. The 5th Impact tiny shelters do not follow CEQA regulations or building, planning, and safety codes.*

Both Solano County and the City of Vacaville have declared a homeless emergency and have adopted an Emergency Shelter resolution/ordinance to assist in addressing homelessness. The Emergency Shelter resolution/ordinance allows the County and City to respond to the Emergency Shelter Crisis on an urgency basis and exempts this project from certain requirements of CEQA and building and safety codes.

- 9. Two showers a week for participants in the 5th Impact program is not enough.*

A local nonprofit has partnered with the 5th Impact tiny shelters program to offer two shower days a week, for participants in the program. Currently, citizens experiencing homelessness typically do not have access to showers and in some instances, can only take one shower a week through available programs. This program is an important start and a big improvement over what is currently available. It is up to program applicants to decide if the resources available are meeting their needs.

- 10. Housing people in Tuff Sheds is inhumane.*

An enclosed shelter will be an improvement to many who are exposed to the elements on a daily basis. The 5th Impact tiny shelters program will be installing insulation and weather-resistant materials in the sheds. There will be a heating and cooling center located on the property for extreme weather. Currently, these individuals have no shelter at all. It is, in fact, more humane to offer shelter from the elements instead of no shelter at all. Again, it is up to program applicants to decide if the resources available are meeting their needs.

11. There is not enough parking on Brown Street, if anyone in the program has a car.

Arrangements will be made to park vehicles from 5th Impact participants and program facilitators on County property. It is anticipated that there will be no parking on Brown Street related to the 5th Impact project. This change has been made, but has not yet been reflected in a final draft of the participant guidelines.

12. There will be people experiencing homelessness interacting with children on their way to and from school at Markham Elementary.

After hearing from the neighborhood at two community meetings, the County has revised its site plan to move the entrance and exit to the 5th Impact project. The entrance/exit will no longer be located on Brown Street and will not be in view from Brown Street. The goal is to eliminate interaction between program participants and school children going to and from school.

13. On October 29th, 2018, the School Board and/or County purposely held community meetings on the same evening to deter residents from attending either meeting.

The School Board and County did not coordinate in any way about meeting dates and times. Markham Elementary and the School Board were outside of our area of notification and thus, did not receive the mailer informing them of the community meeting that was hosted by Supervisors Vasquez and Thomson. As the project continues, we will work to provide more communication regarding this project.

14. Residents were not notified of the proposed 5th Impact project.

The 5th Impact project proposal was agendaized for the August 28th, 2018, Solano County Board of Supervisors meeting. The agenda, staff report, draft guidelines and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were publicly noticed and in compliance with the Brown Act. Supervisor Thomson spoke to surrounding businesses prior to the Board meeting and has since apologized for not knocking on residents' doors as a courtesy.

15. The community meetings for the proposed tiny shelter project violated the Brown Act.

The community meetings hosted by Supervisors Vasquez and Thomson were not subject to the Brown Act. These meeting were not required per any law or regulation.

16. There is no budget available to the public.

There has not been a budget made available to the public because no proposed budgets have been put forth for the Board of Supervisors to approve. Currently, all program elements have been purchased or supplied by private donations, including all 5 Tuff Sheds. Additionally, grants have been applied for by a partnering nonprofit to fund more project needs.

17. The County has \$4.9 million dollars to address homelessness.

The County does not have \$4.9 million dollars to address homelessness. An entity named Community Action Partnership Solano, Joint Powers Authority, or CAP Solano JPA, has applied for \$4.9 million, in housing funds, to address homelessness in Solano County. This entity is staffed by a nonprofit called Homebase and has Board members comprised from each Solano County city and the County of Solano that sit on it. CAP Solano JPA will distribute the \$4.9 million to local nonprofits to address homelessness throughout Solano.

18. People expelled from the program will remain in the vicinity.

People asked to leave the 5th Impact program for any reason that is listed in the program rules and guidelines will be sent to an appropriate location. This could mean: the crisis stabilization unit, the emergency room, jail, or where they stayed before entering the program. Either an ambulance, Sheriff's deputy, or volunteer will transport the removed participant to the appropriate location. Information regarding removal of participants will be added to the draft program rules and guidelines.

19. The County has not responded to requests for information or concerns.

Supervisors Vasquez and Thomson have held two community meetings in response to requests and concerns for more information. In both instances, the proposed site plan has been altered and some alterations have been made to

reflect the community's concerns such as: the entrance and exit location, parking, security from the William J. Carroll Center walking the site perimeter, and a plan for removed participants. Furthermore, Supervisors Vasquez and Thomson continue to offer to meet with concerned community members to discuss all aspects of this project. Lastly, the District 5 Office continues to respond to all emails or phone calls with questions or concerns from community members.

20. The 5th Impact process will place a burden on the City of Vacaville's Police and Fire.

This project does not anticipate an increase in the number of people that the City of Vacaville is currently serving and therefore, does not anticipate to increase the use of resources in any way. The Solano County Sheriff's Department is responsible for responding to the property where the 5th Impact tiny shelters are located on Brown Street. There continues to be coordination between Vacaville Police Department, County staff, and the Sheriff's Department to gain input on the project proposal. The project will implement many fire and safety elements that are currently not in place at the participants unregulated encampments. Each Tuff Shed will have a smoke detector, fire extinguisher, and evacuation plan. A 20-foot gate will be installed in the fence line to allow access to fire and emergency response personnel and there are strict fire prevention rules.

21. The 5th Impact tiny shelters will make property values drop in the area.

There is no data to support the claim that property values will be impacted by a tiny shelters community moving into an area. Property values in Vacaville have increased adjacent to soup kitchens regardless of individuals experiencing homelessness congregating in the area. The new fencing and landscaping will improve the area visually which is currently a broken-down chain link fence enclosing a dirt field from which County staff removes trash and shopping carts out of once a week.

22. The project will not solve homelessness in Solano County.

No one project or effort will solve homelessness in Solano County. However, this project will assist the individuals experiencing homelessness in Vacaville with a hand up to permanent housing, and the receipt of much needed social service programs and treatment, which are the goals of the program.

23. Vacaville doesn't have a homeless problem.

Vacaville Police Department, local pastors, and nonprofits all agree that Vacaville currently has around 50 to 60 homeless residents. The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a bi-annual counting of those experiencing homelessness in Solano County. PIT counts vary. A reason for the variation is that federal law requires the count to take place one day in January, when it is usually very cold and raining. The weather makes it more difficult to truly count homeless residents that are moving their usual camps to other locations to avoid the bad weather. Hopefully, the January 23, 2019 count will have clear weather and show a more accurate count.

24. There will be sex offenders or violent felons in the tiny shelters.

Sex offenders and violent offenders are not allowed in the program. This has been the position of the County from the start and is included in public documents.

25. There will be drug paraphernalia all over the streets (needles, pipes, bottles, etc.).

The resident coordinator who will live on site and who will oversee program participants will enforce all rules and guidelines. Part of this job is making sure the site and area around the site is kept clean. If there is a complaint from the neighborhood, it will be addressed by the resident coordinator and 5th Impact Screening Committee members.

26. What will happen to the property once the pilot project ends?

The temporary buildings will be removed from the site and the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors will discuss what to utilize the site for in the future.

27. There will be people having sex in cars parked on Brown Street.

There will be monitoring on the site to prevent this situation from happening. The roaming security guards by day and the resident coordinator by night will assist in addressing this fear. Also, as stated above, 5th Impact participants will not be parking on Brown Street.

28. The tiny shelters project is only a band-aid.

Exactly! The 5th Impact tiny shelters are a temporary fix in every sense. They serve as a stop gap until affordable housing projects are built or are purchased in Solano County. They are a temporary emergency response until permanent housing can be secured.