



**FINAL MINUTES**  
CITY OF SEASIDE  
HOMELESS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING  
Council Chamber  
Wednesday, November 5, 2025  
5:30 PM

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Strickland called the 5:30 PM Regular meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

**2. ROLL CALL - HOMELESS COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Strickland, Muga, Hughes, Freeman  
ABSENT: Cunningham, Ruffin

**3. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Please note: A PowerPoint related to Agenda Item 6B was submitted late and is not in the posted materials. It will be displayed during the discussion of Item 6B.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carol Harney and Anab Muhammad

Community Human Services established in 1969 to address drug use. Current focus homeless services.

1986: Safe Place (Monterey) - Counseling/case management for homeless youth (12-24).

2003: Youth Street Outreach (Monterey Peninsula).

2009: Safe Passage (6-bed transitional housing, 18-24).

2016: Youth Emergency Shelter (12-bed).

2019: Salinas Valley Outreach Program (Homeless youth).

2021: Casa de Noche Buena (Seaside) - Emergency shelter/navigation for women/families (Partnership with Gathering for Women).

2023: Schumann Heart House (Monterey) - 2nd emergency shelter/navigation.

2023: Salinas Shared Center (3-year contract).

2024: Safe Place (Salinas) - Drop-in/navigation for homeless transition-age youth

Services: Case management, housing navigation, assessments, referrals, Rapid Rehousing, Housing Advocacy.

Outcomes (FY 2024-25):

CHS Overall Success Rate: 55% permanent housing placement (National rate: 32%).

Casa de Noche Buena: 77 guests (22 single women, 19 families); 47% placement.

Schumann Heart House: 84 guests (46 single women, 8 families); 65% placement.

Safe Place (Youth Shelter): 40 youth; 40% placement.

Safe Passage (Transitional Housing): 8 youth; 80% placement.

Success Factors: Effective strategies, person-centered approach, community linkages, tailored case management, housing advocacy, Rapid Rehousing, Housing First.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. APPROVE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 22, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING**

*On motion by Commissioner Mugan and second by Commissioner Freeman and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to approve the minutes for the October 22, 2025, special meeting.*

*RESULT: 4-0-0-2*

*AYES: Strickland, Mugan, Hughes, Freeman*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Cunningham, Ruffin*

***ACTION: Approved***

**6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. DISCUSS PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SEASIDE HOMELESS COMMISSION CHALLENGE COINS**

The commission discussed writing a letter to the Challenge Coin recipients, which will serve as a formal thank you for their hard work. The letter will also invite them to the December 3rd meeting for public acknowledgement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

*On motion by Chair Strickland and second by Commissioner Mugan and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to have the subcommittee invite the challenge coin recipients to the Dec. 3, 2025, regular meeting.*

*RESULT: 4-0-0-2*

*AYES: Strickland, Mugan, Hughes, Freeman*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Cunningham, Ruffin*

***ACTION: Passed***

**B. FINALIZE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSAL TO CITY OF SEASIDE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF SEEKING FUNDING SUPPORT OF FUTURE SEASIDE HOMELESS COMMISSION WORK PLAN PROJECT**

The Commission discussed and reviewed a proposal for a solar-powered park bench charging station to be submitted to the Seaside Neighborhood Improvement Commission.

- Location: Steven Ross Park (near the library and staff portables).
- Cost: \$6,999 (plus tax).
- Features: 2 AC outlets and 6 USB ports.
- Next Step: The Commission agreed to include optional features (LED table lights, Wi-Fi, and a 911 phone) in the presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Sherry Hasty**

*On motion by Chair Strickland and second by Commissioner Hughes and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to amend the solar bench presentation to require pricing for several optional features: a 20-year battery, automated LED lights, a post-911 phone, and tamper-resistant screws.*

*RESULT: 4-0-0-2*

*AYES: Strickland, Muga, Hughes, Freeman*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Cunningham, Ruffin*

***ACTION: Passed***

**C. EXPLORE ADVOCACY PLAN FOR CITY OF SEASIDE HOMELESS COMMISSION TO HELP ADDRESS NEEDS FOR SUPPORT REGARDING HOMELESSNESS AND RELATED CHALLENGES ON COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SAFETY**

The commission discussed continuing their productive listening sessions, but moving forward, they propose a sharper focus. The commission would like to dedicate these sessions specifically to gathering input on areas where the team or organization needs to take immediate action. This will ensure their insights directly translate into actionable steps and tangible progress.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**D. REVIEW AND FINALIZE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS OF ALLOCATING UP TO \$15,000 OF HOMELESS COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 BUDGET TO AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING FOOD INSECURITY PROGRAMS SERVING HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN SEASIDE**

The Commission discussed opening the Request for Proposals (RFP) on Monday, December 1, 2025, and closing it on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 5:00 PM. The applications will be reviewed, and a final decision made, at the February 4th regular Commission meeting. A mandatory follow-up report on the use and impact of the awarded fund will be required from all recipients.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

*On motion by Commissioner Muga and second by Commissioner Hughes and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) as documented Opening December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and closing January 28, 2026 and reviewing at the regular meeting in February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Including a subcommittee or a member of the group to oversee a requirement for funded organization to provide an accountability report on fund usage within 90 days.*

*RESULT: 4-0-0-2*

*AYES: Strickland, Muga, Hughes, Freeman*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Cunningham, Ruffin*

***ACTION: Passed***

**7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioners provided reports.

**Commissioner Hughes:** Volunteered to adopt a family for Christmas through Salvation Army

**Commissioner Freeman:** Thinking back on the Action Plan found some interesting information on SAMHSA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, developed the "Taking Action Program." It is a self-care and recovery educational program for adults with mental health and/or substance use issues. Its goal is to promote wellness, recovery, and life transformation via educational programs and self-help skills, implemented across various behavioral health systems and support groups.

**Commissioner Strickland:** wrote a letter to the City Attorney seeking clarification on how a commissioner can ethically and properly list their volunteer commission activities when applying for outside employment.

**8. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Staff provided report.

**Derrick:** Derrick and Denise's Family Community Support Program will be joining the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers and other groups for the Point-in-Time

(PIT) Count in January (scheduled for January 29th). This event involves volunteers going out early in the morning (around 5:30 AM) to visibly count the number of unsheltered individuals across the community using a reporting app. Derrick will forward the information to Commissioners who are interested in participating or sharing the volunteer opportunity.

Still working on finalizing the distribution of donation funds for youth-focused advocacy and holiday support programs.

The process requires receiving a formal letter from each selected organization detailing the fund amount and its intended general use to support check requests.

- Received: CPY and Stepping Stone documentation is complete.
- Awaiting: Documentation is still needed from CHS (Community and Human Services), the MPUUSD Family Resource Center (point of contact pending), and the Salvation Army (acknowledged, pending document submission).

Once all documents are received, the checks will be personally delivered by Commissioners to strengthen relationships and provide photo opportunities.

Regarding the advocacy plan, the Commission should table (postpone) further action on the initiative recently presented by Project Key. This is recommended because the topic has a controversial history with the city, and there are current concerns being raised by City staff. It is suggested to pause the effort until the Commission can better understand the City's current relationship and stance on the matter.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Denise Mejia, Commission Clerk**



**Ben Strickland, Committee Chair**