



A G E N D A

CITY OF SEASIDE
HOMELESS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
440 HARCOURT AVE (COUNCIL CHAMBER)
Wednesday, September 2, 2026
5:15 PM

Virtual Participation Guide: <https://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/129/City-Council-Committee-Agendas>
<https://ci-seaside-ca-us.zoom.us/j/89680316092> | WEBINAR ID 896 8031 6092 | (669) 900-9128

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL - HOMELESS COMMISSION

Benjamin Strickland	Chair
Stacey Fiess	Vice Chair
Leslie Mugan	Commissioner
Lynda Cunningham	Commissioner
Gwen Nash	Commissioner
Joseph Ruffin	Commissioner
Kathleen A. Hughes	Commissioner

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA

If there are any items that arose after the 72-hour posting deadline, this is the point in the meeting where a vote may be taken to add the item to the agenda. (A 2/3-majority vote is required).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public wishing to address the Commission on matters within the jurisdiction of the City of Seaside, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment period for up to three (3) minutes. Comments on specific agenda items are heard under that item. For the public record, please state your name.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. THE BRIDGE RESTORATION MINISTRY, STEVE MCSHANE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 5, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. CHALLENGE COIN SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT AND COMMISSION DIRECTION

B. HOLIDAY DONATION SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT AND COMMISSION DIRECTION

8. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

9. REPORTS FROM STAFF

This is a time specifically set aside for the Staff Liaison to provide updates on non-agendized requests from the Commission, and to provide brief information on topics under the purview of the Commission.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:
October 7, 2026
5:15 PM

The City of Seaside is committed to providing accessible facilities and accommodating people with disabilities in all of its services programs and activities. If special considerations are needed by any person to fully participate in this meeting, contact the City Clerk at 899-6707 no fewer than two business days prior to the meeting to allow reasonable arrangements. The City Council chamber is equipped with a portable microphone and assisted listening devices are available at all meetings. Live streamed meeting videos as well as videos of past meetings are available on the City's website at:

<http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/129/City-Council-Committee-Agendas>

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FINAL MINUTES
CITY OF SEASIDE
HOMELESS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
440 HARCOURT AVE (COUNCIL CHAMBER)
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
5:15 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Strickland called the 5:15PM meeting to order at 5:17PM.

2. ROLL CALL - HOMELESS COMMISSION

PRESENT: Strickland, Cunningham, Hughes, Ruffin, Freeman [5:19pm arrived]

ABSENT: Mugan

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA

None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandra Gray

5. PRESENTATIONS

None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE JULY 1, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

On motion by Commissioner Ruffin and second by Commissioner Cunningham/Freeman and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to approve the minutes for the July 1, 2026 Regular meeting.

RESULT: 5-0-0-1

AYES: Strickland, Cunningham, Hughes, Ruffin, Freeman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mugan

ACTION: Approved

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. CHALLENGE COIN SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT AND COMMISSION DIRECTION

Commissioners Freeman and Ruffin presented the proposed 2026 challenge coin design. The coin would honor Reverend Kenneth Murray and Professor Seth Pollock. The design is similar to the previous year's coin, with the honorees' names incorporated into the design. The back will identify the year as 2026 and retain the quote used previously. Commissioners discussed minor design adjustments, including centering/alignment of the lettering and logo.

*Commissioner Cunningham left 5:45PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sandra Gray, Paster Lusk

On motion by Commissioner Ruffin and second by Commissioner Strickland and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to approve the challenge coin designed featuring the seahorse and waves, contingent upon receiving approval from the family of Professor Seth Pollack.

RESULT: 4-0-0-2

AYES: Strickland, Hughes, Ruffin, Freeman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mugan, Cunningham (departed at 5:45pm)

ACTION: Approved

Next step will be the request for proposal process to obtain pricing and production options from Challenge Coin companies. Chair Strickland requested to join the Challenge Coin Subcommittee to assist with the next steps.

On motion by Commissioner Ruffin and second by Commissioner Freeman and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to appoint chair Strickland to the Challenge Coin Subcommittee to assist with outreach and coordination with the company responsible for manufacturing the challenge coins.

RESULT: 4-0-0-2

AYES: Strickland, Hughes, Ruffin, Freeman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mugan, Cunningham

ACTION: Approved

B. YOUTH FOCUS AND HOLIDAY DONATION SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT AND COMMISSION DIRECTION

The commission received a report from the Youth Focus and Holiday Donation Subcommittee regarding recommendations for community donations. For youth organizations and back to school donation, the subcommittee recommended funding the following agencies:

- **CHS Casa de Noche Buena** – \$800
- **MPUSD Family Resource Center (La Salle Avenue)** – \$900
- **Community Partnership for Youth (CPY)** – \$800

The subcommittee also presented recommendations for Holiday donations, and holiday hot meals including:

- **CHS Casa de Noche Buena** – \$800
- **MPUSD Family Resource Center** – \$900
- **Community Partnership for Youth (CPY)** – \$800
- **Gathering for Women (Holiday Meals)** – \$1,000
- **MPUSD (Holiday Meals)** – \$1,000
- **Bethel Baptist Church (Holiday Meals)** – \$900
- **Stepping Stone Outreach (Holiday Meals)** – \$2,100

Following discussion, the Commission agreed to **table the Holiday Donation recommendations** for future consideration and proceed only with the Youth Organizations and Back-to-School Donations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

On motion by Commissioner Ruffin and second by Commissioner Hughes and carried by the following roll call vote, the Homeless Commission moved to approve the Youth Organizations and back to school Donation recommendations as follow:
CHS Casa de Noche Buena – \$800, **MPUSD Family Resource Center** – \$900, **Community Partnership for Youth (CPY)** – \$800

RESULT: 4-0-0-2

AYES: Strickland, Hughes, Ruffin, Freeman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mugan, Cunningham

ACTION: Approved

8. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners provided reports.

Commissioner Freeman: Reported on the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers' Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. Seaside's homeless count decreased from 219 people in 2024 to 135 people in 2026, representing a 38% decrease. Seaside had the largest numerical decrease in the county, with 84 fewer people counted. Other reported changes included Monterey +7%, Salinas +3%, Marina +15%, Pacific Grove -37%, and King City +50%.

Commissioner Hughes: Asked whether research had been completed regarding the California Homeless Hiring Tax Credit.

Commissioner Ruffin: Announced the Our Lady of Fatima Celebration in Pacific Grove on Sunday, August 9. The celebration included a 12:00 p.m. Mass followed by a procession through Pacific Grove. The event was open to the public.

Commissioner Strickland: Reported that two Challenge Coins from the previous year still need to be presented: one to David and Christa Balch and one to former Fire Chief Gutierrez. Reported receiving Challenge Coin nominations from John Holt of Stepping Stone Outreach; nominations are not currently being accepted. Shared a letter regarding his humanitarian award and stated that the recognition belongs to the entire Homeless Commission, City staff, Mayor and City Council, Police and Fire Departments, community organizations, and volunteers who support people experiencing homelessness. Shared a letter thanking former staff liaison Derrek Elder for his service and contributions to the Commission. Arrangements were discussed to mail the letter and a time capsule keepsake to him. Discussed distributing remaining time-capsule keepsakes to City officials and staff.

9. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff provided report.

Apologized for recent issues involving email attachments and discussed improving communication regarding materials sent for Commission business asked commissioners to CC Denise in emails. Provided a follow-up on the **California Homeless Hiring Tax Credit** requested at the previous meeting. Reported that the program was approved in 2021 for a five-year period and included statewide funding. Available reporting indicated that utilization of the program had been low, resulting in limited statewide data being available. Discussed the possibility of purchasing **Commission jackets**. Commissioners interested in jackets may provide their sizes, and staff can obtain a final quote for consideration based on available Commission funding. Will follow up regarding whether the **General Assistance Program** remains active and available to individuals in Seaside who need financial assistance.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21PM

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Mejia, Commission Clerk

Ben Strickland, Commission Chair



Seaside Homeless Commission

July 2026

Recommendations for Youth Organizations and Back to School

CH Services Casa de Noche Buena \$ 800

Casa de Noche Buena has 20-35 beds for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

MPUSD Family Resource Center on La Salle Ave \$ 900

The Family Resource Center provides support for homeless children and families including food, clothing, and supplies and referral to other agencies. They allow parking of vehicles that house children.

CPY Community Partnership for Youth on Kimball Ave \$ 800

CPY supports kids in schools in Seaside.

Recommendations for Youth Organizations during the Holidays

CH Services Casa de Noche Buena \$ 800

Casa de Noche Buena has 20-35 beds for women and children experiencing domestic abuse

MPUSD Family Resource Center on La Salle Ave \$ 900

The Family Resource Center provides support for homeless children and families including food, clothing, and supplies and referral to other agencies. They provided gift cards for some in need.

CPY Community Partnership for Youth on Kimball Ave \$ 800

CPY has Angel Tree Giving Program and Kohl's shopping trip.

Total Youth Focused Donations \$5,000

Seaside Homeless Commission

July 2026

Recommendations for Holiday Meals

<u>Gathering for Women</u>	\$1,000
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They provide a safe walk-in place where homeless women can access resources.

<u>MPUSD Family Resource Center on La Salle Ave</u>	\$1,000
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The Family Resource Center provides support for homeless children and families.

<u>Bethel Baptist Church - Gifts for Holidays</u>	\$ 900
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They spend about \$1,000.00 on turkeys and hams during the holidays.

<u>Stepping Stone Outreach Inc.</u>	\$2,100
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John Holt harvests food from local Safeway.

Total Holiday Focused Donations	\$5,000
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