



## HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS TASK FORCE

### Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

Zoom: <https://victorvilleca.gov.zoom.us/j/88650257880>

Meeting ID: 886 5025 7880

Join by Phone: 1 669 900 9128

The Homelessness Solutions Task Force (HSTF) holds its business meetings in public in accordance with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, its established policies and procedures, and its adopted parliamentary authority. The HSTF strives to carry out its meetings in an atmosphere of professionalism with full participation by members of the body and the public. As such, the Presiding Officer is empowered to govern meetings to foster the efficient and fair administration of City business. Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting will be conducted utilizing teleconference and electronic means. Members of the public can observe the meeting using Zoom.

To provide public comment via Zoom, click "Raise Hand" to request to speak when Public Comment is being taken. When it is your turn, you will be removed from mute and allowed to make public comments for an allotted time. If you would like your comments to be read during the meeting, please email your comments to [hstf@victorvilleca.gov](mailto:hstf@victorvilleca.gov) before 2 p.m. the day of the meeting. If your comment does not apply to a specific Agenda Item, write General Public Comment in the subject line.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Recording Secretary at (760) 955-5135 no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Written Communications**, *Homelessness Solutions Coordinator, Cassandra Searcy*
2. **City's ARPA Recovery Program Homelessness Solutions Coordinator**, *Cassandra Searcy*
3. **Project Homekey Update**, *Homelessness Solutions Coordinator, Cassandra Searcy*
4. **Presentations**
  - *Desert Haven (Operated by Housing Partners I Inc), Anthony Perez, Executive Director*
5. **Round Table Discussion/Updates** – HSTF Members

### Public Comment

### Adjournment

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Next Regular Homelessness Solutions Task Force Meeting – November 9, 2021.



## **Homelessness Solutions Task Force**

### **Written Communications**

**Meeting of: October 12, 2021**

**Submitted By:**

Jenele Davidson, Deputy City Manager

**Subject:**

Conduct of Homelessness Solutions Task Force Meetings Pursuant to AB 361

**Recommendation:**

That the Homelessness Solutions Task Force make the following findings:

1. A state of emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 still exists and continues to impact the ability of members of the public, the Homelessness Solutions Task Force members, City staff and consultants/presenters to meet safely in person; and
2. The State of California and the City of Victorville continue to follow safety measures in response to COVID-19 as ordered or recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (DPH), and/or County of San Bernardino, as applicable, including facial coverings when required and social distancing; and
3. The Homelessness Solutions Task Force hereby declares that, pursuant to these findings, City staff are authorized to utilize teleconferencing accessibility to conduct public meetings pursuant to AB 361 (Stats. 2021, ch. 165) and Government Code § 54953, as amended thereby.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Background:**

The State of California and the City of Victorville proclaimed the existence of a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, on March 4, 2020 and March 17, 2020, respectively.

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 at public meetings, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order N-29-20 which suspended and modified specified provisions of the Brown Act [Government Code Section § 54950 *et seq.*] and

authorized local legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and address the local legislative body. On June 11, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21 which extended the teleconference provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 for public meetings through September 30, 2021. The City implemented teleconference procedures and accessibility for conducting its public meetings while the Governor's "Stay-At-Home" order was in effect in early 2020.

On May 4, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-60-20 which established a framework for a gradual, risk-based reopening of the economy; and on June 11, 2021, issued Executive Order N-07-21, which formally rescinded the "Stay-At-Home" order imposed by Executive Order N-33-20, issued on March 19, 2020.

Following the established state framework for reopening the economy, the City has resumed limited in-person public meetings while also offering teleconference accessibility to members of the public, City Council, members of City boards, commissions, and committees, City staff and consultants.

AB 361 was signed into law by the Governor on September 16, 2021, which went into effect immediately as urgency legislation (codified under Government Code § 54953), and waived certain provisions of the Brown Act in order to allow local agencies to continue to meet remotely. Specifically, the bill allows remote teleconference flexibility, but only when there is a state of emergency that makes it unsafe to meet in person.

**Discussion:**

AB 361 adds new procedures and clarifies the requirements for conducting remote meetings, including the following:

- Public Comment Opportunities in Real Time – A legislative body that meets remotely pursuant to AB 361 must allow members of the public to access the meeting via a call-in option or an internet-based service option, and the agenda for the remote meeting must provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the body in real time. A legislative body cannot require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting.
- No Action During Disruptions – In the event of a disruption that prevents the local agency from broadcasting the remote meeting, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, AB 361 prohibits the legislative body from taking any further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access is restored.
- Periodic Findings – Government Code § 54953(e)(B) requires the legislative body to hold a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health or safety of attendees.

The City has already implemented and is in full compliance with the requirements listed above when conducting public meetings via teleconference, which are now codified in Government Code § 54953(e)(2)(B-G).

Recently, the City re-established capacity limits on all conference and meeting rooms at City Hall due to COVID-19 case rates to ensure adequate social distancing can be maintained for in-person meetings. While most of the City's legislative bodies will be able to continue holding limited in-person public meetings while also offering teleconference accessibility for staff and members of the public, the Homeless Solutions Task Force is unique in that it has a larger membership which includes representatives from multiple departments across more than one government agency. Available City facilities are not currently sufficient to conduct in-person meetings that would adequately accommodate Homeless Solutions Task Force members, City staff, and members of the public while also adhering to established capacity limits, maintaining social distancing and providing the technology needed to effectively provide teleconference accommodations for anyone wishing to participate remotely.

Based on these circumstances, City staff recommends that the Homelessness Solutions Task Force take action to approve the recommended findings to allow public meetings to continue under the teleconference format pursuant to AB 361.

The Homelessness Solutions Task Force will need to reevaluate circumstances and consider these findings every 30 days.