

Date: September 29, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services Department 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Update on Atlantic Bridge Housing Community**

At its February 5, 2019 meeting, the City Council approved the acquisition of 6841-6845 North Atlantic Avenue, a site of approximately 1.4 acres, to operate and establish a permanent year-round bridge housing community for people experiencing homelessness. In the future, the plan for the site is a state-of-the-art village style campus for housing and services, including a variety of supportive housing types, focused on the specific needs of this vulnerable population. The City designated \$8 million of its \$12.3 million in Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding for the acquisition of the property and secured \$3.4 million in Los Angeles County (County) funding for capital improvements designated for bridge housing. The site has been named the Atlantic Bridge Housing Community (ABC) site.

The ABC is a low-barrier facility, designed to allow people access whenever they are ready for shelter. The site will be open 24 hours per day/7 days per week (24/7), a model used in the County and other surrounding counties, and will accommodate 125 adults (100 during the COVID pandemic to reduce exposure risk) providing the following amenities: intake and assessment space, dormitories for men, women and couples, a family respite room, shower and laundry facilities, storage space, pet-friendly spaces, and a communal dining area. Connections and referrals to outside services include permanent housing, rapid rehousing, health services, mental health and substance use treatment, employment training, benefits advocacy, and education services. Families who access the facility after hours will have private accommodations for the night and linked to the family system of care in the morning. The bridge housing model is designed to match people to housing options as they become available. Supportive services will be in place to help people move into housing as quickly as possible.

The ABC site will be fully staffed with trained security personnel that will be onsite 24/7 and will provide a full range of security services. The site will be fenced with one point of entry to enhance security. No one will be allowed to walk up to the shelter after 5:00 p.m. However, people will have access after 5:00 p.m. when accompanied on site by a first responder, case manager, or police officer. Residents who have after-hours schedules due to work or school will be accommodated.

Volunteers of America, Los Angeles (VOALA) was selected by the Homeless Services Division, through a competitive request for proposals (RFP) process to operate the site. The site is expected to open before September 30, 2020, in preparation to transition clients from Project

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Roomkey and the Winter Shelter locations to the ABC. It is anticipated that the ABC site will be at full capacity by the end of 2020. VOALA and the City will be implementing all COVID-19 safety precautions in accordance with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's requirements and recommendations.

A recorded virtual grand opening will be shared with the public via City social media channels on Wednesday, September 30. Due to physical distancing and privacy, recording is being limited to the direct participants. For private, physically-distanced tours for City Council offices, please contact Deputy City Manager Teresa Chandler at (562) 570-5116.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-4016.

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