

Sub 2 , 2015 RES-229

DESIGNATING SPACE IN THE DOWNTOWN COUNTY PARKING RAMP FOR PERSONAL STORAGE LOCKERS FOR THE HOMELESS

In August, 2012, Res. 87, 12-13 was introduced to address unmet basic needs of homeless persons in the downtown area, particularly the need for restrooms, personal storage space, and showers. When the final substitute amendment of the resolution was adopted, it authorized the county to rent space at 827 E. Washington for a day shelter for the homeless that was to meet these basic needs. Although showers never materialized at the day shelter, during shelter hours, homeless persons could access restrooms and storage lockers. Additionally, a portable toilet was placed in the County Parking Ramp on Henry St. shortly after passage of Res. 87. Later, an additional handicapped accessible portable toilet was placed outside the City- County Building near the corner of Doty St. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Personal storage space was accessible at 827 E. Washington until the day shelter closed March 31, 2013. Since the closure of the temporary day shelter, Dane County has worked with the City of Madison to address unmet needs, including, but not limited to showers and personal storage space. The City of Madison has funded a storage program located at the Social Justice Center at 1202 Williamson St. Space at the Social Justice Center site is limited, however, and over one (1) mile from downtown locations where homeless persons utilize public spaces and access services and shelters. More recently, the City of Madison created a fenced in area outside the Madison Municipal building to store belongings of persons sleeping around the City County Building, but it has since closed due to a number of problems associated with it. Due to the lack of a comprehensive daytime resource center downtown offering personal storage space for homeless persons, additional space is needed to ensure homeless persons have the ability to safely store their personal belongings, including, but not limited to gear for sleeping on the streets. Homeless persons should not have to carry all of their belongings on their backs when they are going to work, applying for jobs, going to a doctor's appointment, or accessing other services. Since disabled persons are overrepresented among the homeless population, persons with disabilities are even more burdened by having to carry all their belongings on their person.

Friends of the State Street Family (FSSF) is an award-winning volunteer - powered organization that works with other County funded agencies to fill gaps in our homeless services system. They provide regular street outreach and survival items to unsheltered persons. FSSF has earned the trust of many unsheltered persons who are not connected to other service providers. Their "Keys to Dignity" program seeks to expand access to personal storage, transportation, and supportive services to expedite a person's transition from homelessness to housing. Their program seeks space for smaller groups of lockers scattered throughout Dane County at places accessible to homeless persons. They have partnered with paid outreach workers to oversee administration of the groups.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County designate space and place at least 20 personal storage lockers inside or outside its downtown parking ramp or other County owned downtown property which can be utilized 24 hours per day and seven (7) days per week by homeless persons to securely store their personal belongings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the storage lockers shall be large enough to store sleeping gear and a backpack and meet the specifications set forth by the Friends of the State Street Family's "Keys to Dignity" program, as designed in partnership with Sector 67 for outdoor use, urban camouflage, sufficient space, and other features specifically designed to meet the storage needs of the homeless population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the necessary costs to purchase the lockers will come from borrowing proceeds and that a new 2016 Capital Budget Account (CPPUBPR NEW) "24/7 Storage Lockers" be created with an appropriation of \$25,000 and that the appropriation in Capital Budget Account CPPUBPR 84974 "Borrowing Proceeds" be increased by \$25,000;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any amount in the above expenditure line that is unexpended in 2016 shall be carried forward to 2017, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County requests the City of Madison work with its parking utility or other appropriate entities to designate space for an additional 80 lockers in the City of Madison downtown parking ramps or lots and/or other identified safe and reasonable locations;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that these lockers shall remain in place until such time as a comprehensive day resource center an alternative location offers equivalent 24/7 access to equivalent personal storage space for homeless persons in the downtown area. The County reserves the right to disband and remove the lockers if here should be an irreconcilable threat to health or safety or after a 12 month review deems the project has not met the goals of this resolution as reviewed by the County and approved by Health and Human Needs and the Public Works and Transportation Committees.