



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 27, 2020

**DATE:** October 7, 2020

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager  
328-2008, [kathomas@washoecounty.us](mailto:kathomas@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Eric Brown, County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Resolution in support of the acquisition of the Governor's Bowl Park site for an emergency homeless shelter site. Manager's Office. (Commission District 3.)

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### **SUMMARY**

On September 14, 2020, the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) voted unanimously to support the acquisition of the Governor's Bowl Park for an emergency homeless shelter location. As part of the motion, each respective entity (Reno/Sparks/Washoe County) was to bring a resolution forward for adoption by their governing body. Reno City Council approved a resolution of support at a special City Council meeting on September 22, 2020.

*Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities*

### **BACKGROUND**

The COVID-19 pandemic and safety requirements for social distancing has reduced the capacity of the Community Assistance Center on Record Street. Early in the Pandemic, the City of Reno utilized the Downtown Events Center to shelter individuals experiencing homelessness. Washoe County transitioned the female and family populations to Our Place in August 2020.

To continue social distancing regulations and address existing shelter capacity issues, an emergency interim shelter was erected on East Fourth Street following the removal of the Downtown Events Center as an option for shelter however, that facility is not sustainable, and the number of unsheltered individuals is increasing.

Washoe County continues to experience an affordable housing crisis and an unprecedented rise in unsheltered individuals. The 2020 Point in Time (PIT) data revealed a substantial increase in the unsheltered population. The region needs to move quickly to secure an alternative location for a new emergency homeless shelter site. Local agency staff have identified the Governor's Bowl Park as the preferred location. This site is ideally located, offers the space to accommodate adequate shelter capacity, and is

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properly zoned. Developing a regional shelter site at the location will benefit the entire region.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

If a location is secured in a timely manner funding is available through Washoe County's CARES Act allocation and will be shared with the City of Reno and City of Sparks based on a formula consistent with the regional allocation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board approve the resolution to support the Governor's Bowl Park site at 1498 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno for a regional emergency homeless shelter location.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:  
"Move to approve the resolution to support the Governor's Bowl Park site at 1498 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno for a regional emergency homeless shelter location."