

**Resolution No. 20-058**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE GOVERNOR'S BOWL PARK FOR AN EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER SITE**

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- On a single night in 2019, an estimated 567,715 people – about 17 of every 10,000 people – were experiencing homelessness across the United States;
- An estimated 37 percent of individuals accounted for were reported in unsheltered locations;
- Homelessness increased by 3 percent in the United States between 2018 and 2019, driven primarily by increases in western states;
- The State of Nevada is among the five states with the highest percentages of individuals experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered at a reported 53 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual Point in Time (PIT) count collects data on individuals who are unsheltered, in emergency shelters, and transitional housing; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Nevada Continuum of Care conducted its PIT data collection on January 30, 2020 and reported that 1,231 individuals experience a degree of homelessness in Washoe County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 PIT reported a significant rise among the unsheltered population at 459 individuals, accounting for a 76% increase in a one-year period, the highest growth in recent years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the reported 459 individuals generally recreate during the day and stay overnight in parks, open spaces, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, and other locations, and are at higher risk of injury and possible exposure to and propagation of negative public health illnesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, compounded with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the region finds itself in an unprecedented shelter crisis and is seeking to meet the essential shelter needs of this vulnerable population and compliance with current public health regulations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the number of unsheltered individuals in the region exceeds the number of beds available and an improved, adequately sized, centralized shelter location is needed to for population to sensibly mitigate elements related to a pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks are pursuing the acquisition of the Governor's Bowl Park, located at 1498 East 7th Street, Reno, Nevada, as an emergency regional shelter site; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Bowl Park is an ideal site due to its vicinity to essential social services, meal providers, accessibility to homeless individuals, and compatibility with zoning requirements; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Bowl Park presents opportunities for an on-site collaborative system of care with local providers to arrange access to healthcare, nutrition, transitional housing opportunities, and promote the general well-being and security of this population;

**RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**, as follows:

1. that the utilization of the Governor's Bowl Park provides ample space to increase bed capacity and vital social service outreach, while complying with federal, state and local COVID-19 social distancing regulations.
2. that Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks are collaborating to assist this vulnerable population and support Governor's Bowl Park as the preferred location.

ADOPTED this 27th day of October 2020.

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION

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ATTEST:

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Washoe County Clerk