

The City of Alameda will use a state grant to build a 47-unit interim housing development.

City Awarded \$12.3 Million to Construct Dignity Village Shelter

Ekene Ikeme

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced on Thursday, March 10, the state is awarding the City of Alameda \$12.3 million in Project Homekey Round 2 grant funding.

The city will use the funds to build Dignity Village, a 47-unit interim transitional housing development that, along with providing shelter, will provide mental and educational support services to its residents. "I'm thrilled that the State of California has recognized the significance of this project," said Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft in a statement on the city's website. "As the city works to end homelessness in Alameda, Dignity Village will provide life-changing, and lifesaving, opportunities for its residents."

The plan calls for 38 units to be allocated for chronically unhoused people, four units for general or recently unhoused people and five units for transitional age youth who are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused ("City Submits Grant Application to Build Development for Unhoused Residents," Feb. 15). Eight units will be adapted for individuals with mobility, hearing or vision disabilities.

Each unit will include a private bathroom, desk and individually controlled climate control. The development will include common areas and other amenities including a community garden and pet area.

According to the city, construction will begin this spring and is expected to take approximately eight months to complete. The development will be located at the "bottle parcel" at 2350 Fifth St., next to the College of Alameda. Currently, the property is owned by the Alameda's Successor Agency to the Community Improvement Commission.

The city also announced it has secured \$2.35 million from Alameda County to cover five years of operating expenses. Per Homekey rules, applicants must guarantee that operational costs for prospective projects are secured for at least five years. City Manager Eric Levitt told the City Council in November 2021 that Project Homekey funding will not pay all operational costs through



Dignity Village will be located next to the College of Alameda tennis courts.

the first five years. In response, the council approved a plan to use \$4.64 million from the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 and \$1.2 million from the city's General Fund, for a total of \$5.84 million, on operational costs through fiscal year 2027-28. The city did not disclose whether the county funds will add to the \$5.84 million allocated for operational costs or the city will use less from the General Fund and the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 fund.

The city is partnering with two other agencies to complete and operate Dignity Village. DignityMoves will be the project developer. They specialize in interim supportive housing developments. They have built similar projects in San Francisco and Santa Barbara.

The other partner is the non-profit Five Keys. Five Keys will handle operational services. Five Keys "provides traditionally underserved communities the opportunity to improve their lives through a focus on the Five Keys: Education, Employment, Recovery, Family, Community." They offer free adult education to California residents wishing to obtain their GED, HiSET, or High School Diploma. Five Keys will also provide residents case management and support in obtaining permanent housing; addition, mental health and medical care; public benefits; and referrals to employment services.

Project Homekey's goal is to provide funding to local public agencies to develop a range of

housing types for permanent or interim housing for unhoused residents.

"We're treating homelessness with the sense of urgency that the moment demands, because every Californian deserves a place to call home," said Newsom in a press release. "Nearly every week, we're approving additional Homekey projects up and down our state — continuing our progress to house Californians at an unprecedented rate."

Along with the City of Alameda, Newsom announced the cities of Woodland and Petaluma would receive Project Homekey Round 2 grants. The City of Woodland will receive \$15.8 million to build 60 units of permanent modular housing on a city-owned lot. The City of Petaluma will receive more than \$15.7 million to convert non-residential structures into 60 units of permanent housing for the chronically homeless. So far, the state has distributed \$514 million in Round 2 grants, according to California's Department of Housing & Community Development.

The Homekey program was created as a continuation to Project Roomkey, which was established in March 2020 as part of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the project wound down, Newsom announced the state would allocate more than \$800 million for Project Homekey. On Sept. 16, 2021, Newsom announced an extension of the program.



Richard Bangert

Navy contractor employees inserting a steel pipe in the ground with a specialized rig. The pipe is used to inject a cleaning solution into the ground from a nearby tank. This process was repeated 133 times. The Pottery Barn Outlet on West Oriskany Avenue is in the background.

Jet Fuel Cleanup Relies on Laundry Detergent Booster

Richard Bangert

Draining jet fuel from Navy planes, known as defueling, was a routine step before doing maintenance work on the planes. This defueling process at Alameda Point inadvertently contaminated groundwater at one location across the street from the Pottery Barn Outlet on West Oriskany Avenue. In February, the Navy's cleanup contractor conducted a form of industrial-scale in-ground chemotherapy known as oxidation.

The injected chemical compound breaks apart the fuel molecules, turning them into harmless carbon dioxide, water, and oxygen. The main ingredient in this oxidation process is sodium percarbonate, the same active ingredient in OxyClean™ laundry whitener and stain remover, albeit with a different objective.

Various formulas for chemical oxidation of petroleum products in groundwater have been in use for decades. Coincidentally, one of those formulas relied upon another chemical found in household laundry cleaning products — hydrogen peroxide, which is the main ingredient in chlorine-free bleach.

There is yet another chemis-

try connection between laundry cleaning and jet fuel cleanup. If sodium percarbonate, the active ingredient being used by the Navy for jet-fuel cleanup, is dissolved in water, it turns into sodium carbonate, the main ingredient in Arm & Hammer's washing soda, and hydrogen peroxide.

The product being used by the Navy today, called RegenOx™, eliminates many of the shortcomings of other chemical oxidation technologies that can leave behind residual chemicals that interfere with natural bacterial activity that breaks down petroleum.

"When developing the product, a main objective was to employ an oxidant within the formulation that would not negatively interfere with bioremediation processes that would occur after the oxidation was complete," states the manufacturer Regenesis. "Between the use of simple sodium percarbonate and the design of the Regenesis two-part catalyzed activator complex technology, we have achieved this objective."

Aircraft defueling stations were located next to Building 530 at the corner of West Oriskany Avenue and Skyhawk Street. They were connected via underground

CLEAN UP: Page 10

Councilmember Knox White Will Not Seek City Council Reelection

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda City Councilmember John Knox White has announced he will not pursue another term on the council.

Knox White made the announcement in an op-ed released on his social media feeds on Saturday, March 12. He said the time commitments of his professional and council careers were beginning to weigh on him.

"I have realized that working 40+ hours a week and trying to be the kind of city councilmember I want to be (responsive, engaged, effective) takes its toll over time," wrote Knox White.

Knox White wanted to ensure Alameda residents that he would use his last year on the council to finalize several projects including Active Transportation Plan, certifying the city's new housing element and city plans for a new aquatic center.

Knox White joined the council after the November 2018 election. He served as vice mayor from 2019 to 2021. Before joining the council, Knox White was a member of



Councilmember John Knox White

the Alameda Planning Board and served as board president for a period of time. He also served as vice-chair of Alameda's Sunshine Task Force.

"I can't say thank you enough to you and to our community for this opportunity to serve," wrote Knox White. "I can only hope that I have done so honorably and effectively."

Along with Knox White, Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Councilmember Tony Daysog's terms will also be up this year. Read Knox White's full op-ed on Page 4.

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Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:18	19:17
March 18	7:16	19:18
March 19	7:15	19:19
March 20	7:13	19:20
March 21	7:12	19:21
March 22	7:10	19:22
March 23	7:09	19:23

Alameda Police Stop Attempted ATM Theft

Sun Staff Reports

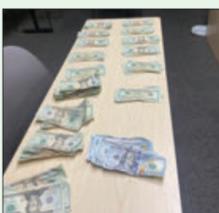
Alameda police officers prevented an ATM theft on Mosley Avenue Sunday, March 13.

The Alameda Police Department (APD) received several calls regarding a possible ATM theft in-progress involving multiple vehicles. Before APD officers arrived, the suspects attempted to forcefully remove the ATM using a vehicle. Their attempt caused substantial damage to the business that held the ATM.

Officers were able to arrest one of the suspects before they left the scene. The suspect is described as an adult male. APD did not disclose any other information on the suspect. Video surveillance and witness testimony confirmed the adult male's involvement. The subject was found in possession of a large quantity of cash and suspected methamphetamine.

Three additional subjects remain outstanding, according to APD reports. Evidence, including the recovered ATM, is being processed to aid in the identification of the involved parties.

No other details have been released as of Monday, March 14.



Alameda Police Department



Alameda Police Department

Alameda police officers confiscated dozens of dollar bills that were removed from the ATM during the attempted theft.

The suspects' ATM theft attempt left significant damage to the building on Mosley Avenue.

