



Adopted by Central Committee on Monday, January 25

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ORANGE COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES UTILIZING FUNDING PROVIDED BY PROJECT ROOMKEY TO HOUSE AND PROTECT HOMELESS RESIDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has deemed seniors and people with enumerated medical conditions to be at the highest risk of serious illness or death if they contract COVID-19. The CDC and the State of California recognize homeless individuals are unable to follow medical advice to stay at home, wear a mask, and wash hands frequently due to poverty. Experts recommend that to reduce community health risk, people experiencing homelessness should "shelter in place" in their encampments unless individual rooms are available such as hotel and motel rooms; and Orange County is currently experiencing a surge and is in the highest tier of danger for the spread of COVID-19, seeing outbreaks at all congregate settings including nursing homes, shelters, and jails; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has partnered with the State of California to enact Project Roomkey in each county, including Orange County. Project Roomkey funds non-congregate rooms in hotels and motels to allow high-risk individuals and people who have been exposed to, or tested positive for, COVID-19 to shelter in place consistent with state and federal guidance. The State of California initiated project Roomkey to rent sites for immediate & potentially long-term solutions in counties, including Orange County. Currently, Orange County has closed all but two project Roomkey sites, the two remaining in Stanton; and

WHEREAS, FEMA continues to approve extensions of the Non-Congregate Reimbursement program to Cities based on need each month. The Reimbursement program to cities is currently funded through January 31, 2020, though it may be extended in the future. Despite the availability of Reimbursement funds and the dire need to house unsheltered individuals and those most at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County, recognizing the imminent danger to unsheltered Orange County residents and those exposed to COVID-19 during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the need to save lives, encourages all city governments and elected officials to encourage homeless outreach providers and municipalities

to use this source of funding to place all qualified individuals into hotels and motels within the cities in which these qualified individuals reside.

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