June 7, 2018

RE: Support for Homelessness Funding

The Honorable Senate and Assembly Conferees of the Budget Conference Committee:

The City of Albany strongly encourages you to prioritize and support, in the final FY 2018-19 State Budget, significant new funding to assist cities’ efforts to address the homelessness crisis that is affecting nearly every region of the state.

After steady declines in homelessness between 2007-2014, California has seen an unfortunate spike in homelessness, with a significant increase in the number of unsheltered people in our communities. Domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, employment opportunities and the cost of health care have also pushed individuals into homelessness.

It is clear that homelessness is a statewide problem that eludes a one-size-fits-all solution. This is why cities are at the forefront of responding to this crisis. However, cities cannot adequately address the homelessness crisis alone. State resources are desperately needed to bolster local services and programs targeting homelessness. Cities in particular need a direct allocation of flexible funding that can be used for emergency responses to homelessness that include shelters, navigation centers, bridge housing, and motel vouchers.

State funding for local homelessness programs is extremely important to ensure quality of life and economic viability for all Californians. The City of Albany strongly encourages you to maximize homelessness program funding while also providing a direct allocation of flexible funding that can
be used immediately by cities for emergency responses to homelessness. We look forward to
continuing to work with you and stakeholders on the final budget proposal.

Sincerely,

Peggy McQuaid
Mayor
City of Albany, CA

cc: The Honorable Edmond G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California; FAX: (916) 558-3177
The Honorable Toni G. Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate; FAX: (916) 651-4939
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