

City county agree to purchase H Street duplex

By **Anne Ternus-Bellamy**



Last week, both the city and county dedicated resources to a pilot project aimed at ensuring those living homeless in Davis have a place to go during the day to escape the elements, shower, do laundry and access services.

Work is already underway preparing the city's corporation yard to serve as a daytime respite center.

But that wasn't the only action the City Council and Yolo County Board of Supervisors took in the effort against homelessness last week. Both entities also committed funds to purchase a duplex on H Street in Davis that will serve as a permanent location for a variety of programs, including transitional housing, affordable housing and homeless services.

The \$658,000 duplex, on the corner of 11th and H streets — facing the railroad tracks — is home to two units, each with two bedrooms and a bathroom.

Immediately north of the location sits the Davis Community Meals and Housing homeless shelter, which has long provided shelter and services to the city's unhoused population.

However, with 75 to 100 people passing through that too-small, aging building every day — leaving lines of people waiting for the one shower and two washers and dryers — and the 12 shelter beds usually occupied, an alternative has been

put forward in the form of Paul's Place, which would replace the shelter with a first-of-its-kind "vertical tiny-home village" that would also provide day services, health and human services resources, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing to people currently living homeless in Davis.

The \$5 million project, funded by large grants from Sutter Health and Partnership Healthplan of California as well as many private individuals, must still be approved by the City Council but assuming it will be, the county had planned to rent portables to temporarily provide shelter and office space during construction.

When the adjacent duplex came on the market recently, however, the county changed course.

Under an agreement by the city and county, the city will purchase and own the property with combined city/county funds and record a covenant that restricts use of the property to homeless services, affordable housing and similar programs in perpetuity.

During construction of Paul's Place, the newly acquired duplex can be used as an interim shelter and office space for Davis Community Meals and Housing and longterm be used to provide permanent family, transitional or supportive housing.

On Tuesday morning, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to provide \$375,000 of the \$658,000 purchase price for the duplex and the Davis City Council followed suit later that evening, committing \$283,000, plus \$10,000 in escrow-related costs for the purchase.

Meanwhile, the Paul's Place proposal is expected to come forward for city review next year. The plan calls for demolishing the existing building at 1111 H St. and replacing it with a new four-story building that would include 18 units of permanent supportive micro-housing; 10 units of transitional housing; four emergency shelter beds; and enhanced day services including expanded shower, restroom and laundry facilities.

Learn more about Paul's Place at <https://paulsplacedavis.org>.