

The Mayors 100 Million Dollar Homeless Plan



Homeless camp downtown Sacramento next to Steinberg sign.

(Photo: Katy Grimes for California Globe)

Almost two years ago Sacramento, California Mayor Darrell Steinberg and the City Council approved a 22.5 Million Dollar one year plan for Sacramento's homeless. The plan was to provide housing and beds for some 750 homeless. (Search "Tweedledum & Tweedledee" on this site) At the time I calculated that the cost per proposed homeless recipient to be \$29,605 per person assisted and questioned if any of these decision makers owned a calculator.

"Mayor Steinberg also approved tiny apartments in a renovated old downtown hotel, which cost more than \$445,000 per unit for about 250 square feet of living space, as the Globe reported. This project only benefitted the union contractors." (see California Globe Aug. 6, 2021)

The homeless problem has continued to grow worse, not better.

Now Major Steinberg and the City Council has approved a 100 Million Dollar plan on a unanimous City Council vote.

This plan is targeting about 9,000 people living on the streets and byways of downtown Sacramento.

"The Council will authorize an inventory of sites with enough capacity to match the scope of the problem," the mayor's office said in a news release. "In addition to specific sites, the plan identifies strategies to tackle homelessness that include motel conversions, increased housing voucher usage and scattered site housing. The plan also includes the intent to create a larger "campus" model that could serve 350 people," according to the news release. (KCRA News)

"Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, the Sacramento City Council and City Manager gave themselves big raises in May, as crime spiked in the city, as the drug-addicted homeless multiplied, while the city was still in the red tier of the Governor's COVID lockdown, and as council members proposed cutting \$30 million from the police department budget."

"Now Steinberg wants to open homeless shelters, tiny homes and tent encampments in 20 residential neighborhoods and locations around the city, [SacBee.com](https://www.sacbee.com) reported. Because eradicating the drug-addicted homeless from areas where families live, children play, youth athletes play, and neighbors walk, run, exercise and recreate is not on the table – and never has been."

"This isn't the Mayor's and City Council's first attempt to spread the homeless love around the city." In December, the Globe reported, "Rather than finding ways to get Sacramento's large homeless population the emergency medical and mental health services they need, Mayor Darrell Steinberg is threatening city residents with tent cities in their neighborhoods. Calling Sacramento residents 'NIMBYs,' Steinberg wants the city council to adopt a 'master plan' – essentially a map marking potential properties across the city."(California Globe - Aug. 6, 2021)

Excuse me, I seem to be missing the part of the plan that works on the root causes of homelessness. The mayors plan sounds more like a 100 Million Dollar "rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic". You know, get them out of downtown and move them to the residential suburbs.

Let's see. The city spent 22.5 Million Dollars on a one year plan to help 750 homeless people and the problem in two years has grown, by the mayor and city councils calculation to a 9,000 homeless people population which they will spend 100 Million Dollars on a one year plan to "solve".

Can't help wondering how many politically connected contractors and friends of the Mayor and City Council members pockets will be padded with shares from this 100 Million Dollar "windfall"? Or am I just a hopeless cynic?

What could possibly go wrong?

Bob Bandy - August 2021

"Momma Tried"