

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 9 OF THE RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 9.56 REPORTING OF TRANSPORT OF PERSONS WHO LACK A FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE.

WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be one of the most pressing social challenges facing our local community; and

WHEREAS, on any given night in 2024, over 187,000 people experienced homelessness in California; and

WHEREAS, data from the State’s Homeless Data Integration System shows over 308,000 people experiencing homelessness in California accessing services over the course of one year. Despite more than 300,000 people cycling through homelessness statewide, data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Housing Inventory Count showed that in 2024, California had only 76,000 sheltered beds and 79,000 units of permanent supportive housing; and

WHEREAS, Welfare and Institutions Code § 17000 provides: “Every county and every city and county shall relieve and support all incompetent, poor, indigent persons, and those incapacitated by age, disease, or accident, *lawfully resident therein*, when such person are not supported and relieved by their relatives or friends, by their own means, or by state hospitals or other state of private institutions”; and

WHEREAS, Government Code § 65580 requires all local governments “...to facilitate the improvement and development of housing to make adequate provision for the housing needs of all economic segments of the community.” Government Code § 65583(7) also requires public entities to conduct an analysis of special housing needs including housing for those who are in need of emergency shelter; and-

WHEREAS, homelessness is a regional issue because the geographic distribution of homelessness reveals stark disparities, with a significant portion concentrated in populous communities that have homeless shelters and provide supportive services. In order to fairly address these issues, public agencies need to partner and work together collaboratively to focus on creating

1 long-term solutions instead of disproportionately burdening the cities that provide more robust  
2 homeless services than their neighboring public agencies. As set forth above, every public agency is  
3 legally responsible to support their own indigent population; and

4 WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to protecting the life, health, and safety of its  
5 residents. As a result, the City of Riverside adopted a Homelessness Action Plan, which focuses on  
6 reducing homelessness by expanding affordable housing, increasing access to supportive services, and  
7 implementing a whole-person care approach to homelessness; and

8 WHEREAS, the City of Riverside has experienced significant increases in homelessness in  
9 recent years. The City of Riverside is home to the Robert Presley Detention Center, Path of Life  
10 Ministries Homeless Shelter, County mental health and substance abuse programming facilities, and  
11 several regional hospitals which contribute to an influx of unhoused individuals who originate from  
12 neighboring public agencies and come to the City of Riverside; and

13 WHEREAS, the 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count administered by the County of Riverside  
14 Continuum of Care reported 614 people were experiencing unsheltered homelessness within the City;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, when other public agencies and other organizations drop unhoused individuals  
17 from other jurisdictions into the City of Riverside, it ends up creating a nuisance for the City of  
18 Riverside because some unhoused individuals from other jurisdictions end up refusing services, going  
19 back onto the streets, and committing crimes. Often the City of Riverside has to expend public funds  
20 to abate homeless encampments. Because dropping unhoused individuals in the City of Riverside  
21 causes more unhoused individuals from other places of origin to remain in the City of Riverside, it  
22 places a huge financial burden on the City of Riverside to address the issues the drop-offs create; and.

23 WHEREAS, there are recuperative care service providers in the City of Riverside that accept  
24 unhoused patients from other jurisdictions when they are discharged from hospitals to provide them  
25 with additional wound care/medication distribution etc. up to 6 months post-discharge from a hospital.  
26 When unhoused individuals reach their maximum length of stay or voluntarily decide to vacate, the  
27 recuperative care service provider is supposed to come up with an exit plan to connect them with other  
28 services, but often they do not and the unhoused individuals end up on the streets of Riverside. For

1 example, in 2022, Helping Hearts Recuperative Care served 134 patients. ~~76~~ Seventy-six of those  
2 patients were non-Riverside residents. ~~41~~ Forty-one of those non-Riverside resident patients (over  
3 half) exited the program and remained in the City of Riverside after their recuperative care treatment.  
4 In 2024, those numbers grew: Helping Hearts Recuperative Care served 173 patients. ~~72~~ Seventy-two  
5 of those patients were non-Riverside residents. ~~51~~ Fifty-one of those non-Riverside resident patients  
6 exited the program and remained in the City of Riverside after their recuperative care treatment; ~~and-~~

7 WHEREAS, in December 2025, two unhoused individuals were involved in an altercation near  
8 the bus stop on University Avenue. One of them was an unhoused individual who was not from the  
9 City of Riverside who was unfortunately fatally stabbed. The victim was later confirmed to have  
10 originated from another jurisdiction and had recently been released from Riverside County Jail; ~~and-~~

11 WHEREAS, an influx of homeless individuals from neighboring public agencies and other  
12 organizations takes allocated resources away from those unhoused individuals who the City of  
13 Riverside is legally responsible to serve. Individuals transported to and dropped in the City of  
14 Riverside without a safe or stable housing plan increases the City of Riverside's need for shelter,  
15 street-based services and further contributes to the City's housing instability; ~~and~~

16 WHEREAS, in order to mitigate the financial burden and negative impacts to the City of  
17 Riverside of homeless individuals being dropped within its jurisdiction, it is necessary to establish  
18 coordination with service providers and increase access to housing navigation, case management, and  
19 behavioral health support, which can significantly reduce the likelihood of individuals suffering  
20 chronic homelessness from returning the streets; ~~and~~

Activity	Cost
Emergency Shelter (90 day stay)	\$ 9,900.00
Housing RA (12 months)	\$24,076.00
Housing Locator & Inspector	\$ 2,211.00
Housing Case Management (12 months)	\$13,575.74
PSET Outreach Services	\$13,613.45
<b>Total Burdon Cost to House a Homeless Person</b>	<b>\$63,376.19</b>

1 WHEREAS, the estimated fully burdened cost to the City of Riverside to provide services  
2 when one (1) unhoused person is dropped into our community without any coordination and ends up  
3 on the streets is approximately \$63,376.19 based on the table below; ~~and~~:

4 WHEREAS, the California Constitution grants charter cities the power to make and enforce  
5 all ordinances and regulations with respect to municipal affairs. Article XI, Section 7 of the California  
6 Constitution provides a city may make and enforce within its limits all police, sanitary and other  
7 ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws. The City of Riverside, as a charter city,  
8 by and through its City Council has and may exercise all powers necessary to ensure the general  
9 welfare of its inhabitants; ~~and~~

10 WHEREAS, the minimal reporting requirements of this Ordinance will provide information  
11 necessary for the City: 1) to coordinate the City’s limited resources available to address the needs of  
12 those facing housing instability; 2) to mitigate the health and safety impacts associated with housing  
13 instability; 3) to identify the place of origin for unhoused persons being transported into the City to  
14 facilitate dialogue between jurisdictions to address the underlying conditions causing the inflow and  
15 to request the allocation of funding necessary to not overburden the City of Riverside; and

16 WHEREAS, this Ordinance does not prohibit any person or organization from directly  
17 providing support services to a person who is homeless or from assisting a person who is homeless  
18 with acts related to basic survival as outlined in Government Code Section 53069.44, including  
19 providing food/water/blankets/pillows/items to protect from the elements and items for immediate  
20 personal health and hygiene.

21 The City Council of the City of Riverside does ordain as follows:

22 Section 1: The Table of Contents for Title 9, Peace, Safety and Morals, is amended to add  
23 Chapter 9.56:

24 “Title 9 – Peace, Safety and Morals

25 Chapter 9.04 – OFFENSES

26 ...

27 Chapter 9.56 – REPORTING OF TRANSPORT OF PERSONS WHO LACK A FIXED,  
28 REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE

1 ...”

2 Section 2: Chapter 9.56 of the Riverside Municipal Code, entitled “Reporting of Transport  
3 of Persons who Lack a Fixed, Regular, and Adequate Nighttime Residence,” is added as follows:

4 “Chapter 9.56 – REPORTING OF TRANSPORT OF PERSONS WHO LACK A FIXED,  
5 REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE

6 Sections:

7 9.56.010 Purpose.

8 9.56.020 Duty to Report Transfer of Persons Who Lack a Fixed, Regular, and  
9 Adequate Nighttime Residence.

10 9.56.030 Enforcement and Severability.

11 Section 9.56.010 – Purpose.

12 This chapter shall be known as the Reporting of Transport of Persons Who Lack a Fixed,  
13 Regular and Adequate Nighttime Residence Ordinance. The purpose of this chapter is to: (1)  
14 identify the place of origin for persons who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence  
15 in the City of Riverside to; (2) identify any County, City, other governmental entity, or other  
16 organization that transports persons who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence  
17 in the City of Riverside; (3) require government agencies and other organizations to aid such  
18 persons by providing shelter, care, outreach, and other homelessness-related resources in their own  
19 jurisdictions rather than simply just transporting these individuals to the City of Riverside, (4)  
20 manage and prioritize the City of Riverside’s limited homelessness-related resources (including  
21 shelter and outreach) for the benefit of individuals who reside in or originate from the City of  
22 Riverside; and (5) prevent government agencies and other organizations from engaging in cruel  
23 and inhumane treatment of unhoused individuals by merely dumping them in the City of Riverside  
24 without any coordinated plan for services.

25 Section 9.56.020 - Duty to Report Transfer of Persons Who Lack a Fixed, Regular, and  
26 Adequate Nighttime Residence.

27 A. Pre-scheduled drop-offs can only occur during normal business hours 8:00 am to  
28 5:00 p.m. Sunday through Saturday.

1           B. Before any employee or agent acting on behalf of any governmental entity or other  
2 organization can transport and drop off an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate  
3 nighttime residence on public property or private property that is accessible to the public in the  
4 City of Riverside, the employee/agent acting on behalf of any governmental entity or other  
5 organization shall notify in writing via email the City Manager and the Director of Housing and  
6 Human Services for City of Riverside of the transport and drop-off 24 hours in advance of the  
7 occurrence to ensure proper coordination so that the individual goes into supportive services and  
8 does not end up living on the streets in the City of Riverside. When a public entity or other  
9 organization notifies the City of Riverside of an upcoming drop-off, they must provide the  
10 following written information to the City of Riverside to ensure continuity of services: 1) the  
11 name, address, phone number, and email address of the government entity or other organization  
12 providing the notice; 2) the date and time of the notification; 3) the staff person submitting the  
13 notification; 4) the full name (first name, last name, and middle initial), date of birth, phone  
14 number of the individual being transported and/or dropped off; 5) the location where the person  
15 named is being transported from; 6) the reason for transport (Shelter placement, Family  
16 Reunification, Medical/Behavioral Health, Other: \_\_\_\_\_); 7) the name, address, phone number  
17 and email of the organization to whom the person being transported is being delivered; 8)  
18 Whether the organization receiving the person being transported has confirmed the acceptance of  
19 the person prior to being transported; 9) a list of any conditions that the organization receiving  
20 the person being transported requires prior to their acceptance of that person; 10) the name and  
21 title of the staff person who has agreed to receive the person being transported; 11) the expected  
22 date, time, and mode of transportation by which the person is being transported; 12) the names  
23 and titles of staff members accompanying the person being transported; 13) whether the person  
24 being transported requires any assistance to maintain Activities of Daily Living (Y/N); 14) the  
25 criminal justice status of the person being transported (i.e. Probation/Parole (County: \_\_\_\_\_); 15)  
26 whether person being transported is required to be listed on Sex Offender Registry as per PC 290  
27 (Y/N); 16) whether the person being transported has any Arson Related Restrictions (Y/N);  
28

1 C. Within 24 hours of submitting notice, as per section B above, and/or after any  
2 employee or agent acting on behalf of any governmental entity or other organization transports  
3 and/or drops off an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence on  
4 public property or private property that is accessible to the public in the City of Riverside, the  
5 employee/agent acting on behalf of any governmental entity or other organization shall notify in  
6 writing via email the City Manager and the Director of Housing and Human Services for City of  
7 Riverside of the status of the transport/drop-off to ensure proper coordination so that the  
8 individual goes into supportive services and does not end up living on the streets in the City of  
9 Riverside. The notice shall include: 1) the name of the individual that was transported and/or the  
10 name of the person for whom the notice, as per Section A above, was submitted; 2) the exact  
11 drop-off location of the person that was transported; 3) the Date and time of the drop-off; 4)  
12 whether the person being dropped off was successfully placed into services; 5) the name and title  
13 of the staff member that accepted the person being dropped-off into their services; 6) if person  
14 was not transported and/or successfully placed into services, an explanation of why the person  
15 was not transported and/or successfully placed, including a description of what happened to the  
16 person and whether any follow-up contact has been scheduled.

17 D. A person “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” within the  
18 meaning of subsection (A) when a person:

19 1. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for  
20 habitation; or

21 2. Lives in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary  
22 living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels  
23 paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, and local government programs); or

24 3. Is exiting an institution where he/she has resided for ninety days or less and  
25 who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before  
26 entering that institution; or

27 4. Is exiting a detention center in the City of Riverside without having a primary  
28 nighttime residence in the City of Riverside to go to after being released.

1 E. "Place of origin" for purposes of this section shall mean the city/state/jurisdiction  
2 in which the individual stayed for the majority of the six months immediately preceeding the pre-  
3 scheduled drop-off as evidenced by a driver's license, identification card, or utility bill and  
4 excludes temporary stays at homeless shelters, sobering/recovery centers, medical facilities, or  
5 detention centers in the City of Riverside.

6 F. Subsection (A) shall not be interpreted to prohibit the following activities:

7 1. Transporting a person to be booked into a county jail or admitted to a county-  
8 designated custody alternative facility (e.g., a county-designated sobering center); or

9 2. Transporting a person to be treated at a licensed hospital or medical facility;

10 4. Transporting a person to attend a verified appointment with a governmental  
11 or nonprofit social service provider;

12 5. Transporting a person to attend a verified hearing at the Riverside County  
13 Superior Court;

14 6. Any transportation or drop-off activities undertaken by the City of Riverside  
15 within the City of Riverside; or

16 7. The operations of a governmental provider of public transportation, such as  
17 the Riverside Transit Agency.

18 Section 9.56.030 – Enforcement and Severability.

19 A. Unless otherwise specified herein, all administrative citations issued for violations of  
20 this chapter shall be subject to the provisions set forth in Chapter 1.17 of this Code, including, but not  
21 limited to, the administrative hearing and appeal process and the City's authority to use any civil  
22 remedy available to collect any unpaid administrative fines.

23 B. If any part or provision of this Chapter, or the application thereof to any person or  
24 circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the Chapter, including the application of that part or  
25 provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full  
26 force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this chapter are severable."

27 Section 3: The City Council has reviewed the matter and, based upon the facts and  
28 information contained in the staff reports, administrative record, and written and oral testimony,

1 hereby finds that this ordinance is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the CEQA  
2 (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical  
3 change in the environment, directly or indirectly. In the event that this Ordinance is found to be project  
4 under CEQA, it is subject to the CEQA exemption contained in CEQA Guideline section 15061(b)(3)  
5 because it can be seen with certainty to have no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

6 Section 4: The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this ordinance and cause  
7 publication once in a newspaper of general circulation in accordance with Section 414 of the Charter  
8 of the City of Riverside. This ordinance shall become effective on the 30th day after the date of its  
9 adoption.

10 ADOPTED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

11  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON  
14 Mayor of the City of Riverside

14 Attest:

15  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 DONESIA GAUSE  
18 City Clerk of the City of Riverside

1 I, Donesia Gause, City Clerk of the City of Riverside, California, hereby certify that the  
2 foregoing ordinance was duly and regularly introduced at a meeting of the City Council on the  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, and that thereafter the said ordinance was duly and regularly  
4 adopted at a meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, by the  
5 following vote, to wit:

6 Ayes:

7 Noes:

8 Absent:

9 Abstain:

10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the  
11 City of Riverside, California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
DONESIA GAUSE  
City Clerk of the City of Riverside

312726 SBM 4.2.2026