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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Announces Closure of Emergency Shelter at Santa Cruz Civic

January 6, 2023 (Santa Cruz) - The City of Santa Cruz, with support from Santa Cruz County mobilized a temporary emergency shelter at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium on January 4, 2023, to provide additional space for anyone seeking shelter from the bomb cyclone storm event that hit Wednesday evening. Due to lack of necessary resources to manage the temporary emergency facility, the City and County will demobilize the shelter following the end of the recent storm system that hit Santa Cruz County January 4th - 6th. The emergency shelter will close on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 9 am.

Various Santa Cruz County resource representatives are onsite today at the Civic to provide unhoused individuals with needed supplies, benefits, and general case management in anticipation of further weather activity anticipated in the coming days.

Ahead of the December 31st and January 4th storms, City Police, Fire, and the Homelessness Response team conducted extensive outreach in low-lying areas around the San Lorenzo River and Downtown Santa Cruz. Assistance was provided to many unhoused individuals, moving them to the Armory and connecting them with other community housing resources. Santa Cruz City Manager Matt Huffaker said, "Opening this temporary emergency shelter at the Civic in coordination with Santa Cruz County was essential to provide a centralized location for anyone needing safe shelter from this historic storm event. We saw that this emergency shelter also connected unhoused individuals with other community health and housing resources. We plan to continue to work closely with the County to collaborate on future efforts that address the needs of our community."



Other sheltering opportunities are being provided in our community, including:

- The Association of Faith Communities (AFC) which operates seven nights per week at 10 different Host Sites in Santa Cruz County. Those wanting to participate in this shelter must call 831-515-6964. More information can be found at www.afcsantacruz.org.
- Housing Matters also offers case management resources to connect people with housing resources. They can be visited directly at 115 Coral St. In Santa Cruz.
- Additional resources can be found at
 - www.cityofsantacruz.com/community/homelessness
 - <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/ClinicServices/HomelessPersonsHealthProject.aspx>
 - www.santacruzfreeguide.org

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