



Date January 14, 2022

Council Discussion on Cold Weather Events and Direction to Staff to Prepare Policies Related Thereto.

Motion by Mandelbaum to adopt the following to address cold weather conditions:

1. Direct city staff to continue working with shelters and Polk County to implement weather amnesty during cold weather events. Due to Covid-19 pandemic and the Omicron surge, the City Manager may make funds available for supplemental hotel rooms if:
 - the shelter beds are full and additional persons in the shelter are unable to effectively and safely social distance or there is a Covid outbreak in a shelter.
 - the HMIS is used for individuals placed with supplemental hotel funds.
 - supplemental hotel funds are used for those individuals previously in the community (either in HMIS or known to the shelters/street outreach workers)

2. Direct staff to implement an operational policy for weather amnesty for encroachment clean-ups 48 hours prior to the wind chill reaching 10° F – consistent with the current Polk County Comprehensive Emergency Plan.

3. Request that the Homeless Coordinating Council in collaboration with city staff, Polk County Emergency Management and partners review this winter’s cold weather events and develop recommendations for changes, if any, to the approach for cold weather. City staff shall present findings from the review and recommendations to the Council in a work session no later than October 2022. The review should include the following:
 - A report on weather amnesty events over the 2021-2022 winter season, the number of individuals served during those events including in supplemental hotel rooms, and any capacity concerns from this season or anticipated in the future.
 - If updates to weather amnesty are needed to be consistent with best practices in other Midwest communities and/or address the changing climate and events such as more frequent polar vortexes and winter derechos.
 - Barriers to providing shelter during cold weather events and recommendations for how to address those barriers (i.e. – service animals, concerns about abandoning/storing possession, etc.); and
 - Plans for street outreach in advance of and during weather amnesty events.



Roll Call Number

22-0075

Agenda Item Number

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Date January 14, 2022

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE	✓			
BOESEN	✓			
GATTO				
MANDELBAUM	✓			
SHEUMAKER	✓			
VOSS	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
TOTAL	6			

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

J. W. Franklin Cownie Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

P. Kay Cmelik

City Clerk