

# CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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May 8, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Desert Hot Springs, I am writing to lend our full support of the budget request submitted by Assemblymembers Chad Mayes and Eduardo Garcia to address homelessness in the Coachella Valley. The proposal is a compilation of allocations that will specifically address gaps in homelessness funding in our region.

The Coachella Valley bears an overwhelming percentage of homelessness in Riverside County and the City of Desert Hot Springs is working with our local stakeholders to expand homelessness programs and services. Our region is uniquely positioned to utilize these proposed resources in a data-driven and results-oriented fashion. For the past two years, we have worked in a regional capacity through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to implement a housing first strategy as well as support our current shelters and service providers. Additionally, after months of analysis of our landscape with the assistance of a nationally-renowned expert hired by the Desert Healthcare District, we are establishing a groundbreaking collective impact collaborative that will maximize our ability to work together to end homelessness in Coachella Valley.

We want to thank you for putting California's homelessness crisis at the top of your agenda. The request submitted by Assemblymembers Mayes and Garcia directly aligns with many of the proposals you have highlighted. An investment in our historically under-served region would provide the necessary resources to implement programs that would serve as a model for other regions in California.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to having the proposed line items included in the budget. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Doria Wilms, Assistant to the City Manager, at (760) 329-6411 or at [dwilms@cityofdhs.org](mailto:dwilms@cityofdhs.org).

Sincerely,

Scott Matas, Mayor  
City of Desert Hot Springs