

RESOLUTION NAMING DECEMBER 21, 2025 NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

In recognition of the lives lost and the ongoing crisis of homelessness, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors seeks to honor the memory of those who died without housing and to recommit to lasting solutions that affirm dignity, health, and housing for all.

WHEREAS, December 21, 2025 marks the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, symbolizing the hardships faced by individuals living without shelter;

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council have designated December 21, 2025 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day;

WHEREAS, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020, underscoring systemic housing challenges¹;

WHEREAS, homelessness increases risk of illness, injury, and premature death, with non-elderly homeless individuals facing a mortality rate 3.5 times higher than their housed peers—comparable to housed individuals two decades older in age²; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Contra Costa Coroner reported 76 people experiencing homelessness who died during calendar year 2024, a 33% decrease from 2023³;

WHEREAS, drug and alcohol-related accidental deaths represented the highest cause of mortality in this group, followed by natural causes and other accidents⁴;

WHEREAS, cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately impact people experiencing homelessness, making it more difficult to access the broad range of care needed to maintain their health, engage in employment, and achieve housing⁵; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County calls on government agencies, faith communities, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and residents to recognize the urgent need to address homelessness through sustained collaboration, compassion, and advocacy;

WHEREAS, the Council on Homelessness, serving as both an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and the planning body for the Continuum of Care, coordinates the

¹ Ibid, p. x

² *Life and Death at the Margins of Society: The Mortality of the U.S. Homeless Population*, Meyer, Wyse, Logani (2023)

³ 2024 Contra Costa Continuum of Care Annual Report, p. xx

⁴ Ibid, p. x

⁵ Rabell, L. (2025, April). *Homelessness and Medicaid: What's the connection?* National Health Care for the Homeless Council. https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Homelessness-and-Medicaid-Whats-the-Connection_.pdf

county's strategy toward ending homelessness and encourages active community participation;

WHEREAS, the Health, Housing, and Homeless Services Division of Contra Costa Health is committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring through an integrated system of housing and support;

WHEREAS, a Homeless Persons' Memorial event will be held on DATE/TIME/LOCATION coordinated by the XX, and the Council on Homelessness, offering space to honor lives lost (Registration: Google Form link);

WHEREAS, by gathering in remembrance and solidarity, the community can affirm its commitment to meaningful change and honor the humanity of every neighbor lost to homelessness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors hereby declares December 21, 2025 as **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day** in Contra Costa County—to honor those who have died without shelter, to encourage collective reflection and engagement, and to strengthen our commitment to housing solutions rooted in dignity, equity, and hope.