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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OPENS SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER IN BEAVERTON

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The City of Beaverton will open a severe weather shelter in January at the Beaverton Community Center, 12350 SW Fifth St. The facility will provide free temporary shelter for adults (age 18 and older) experiencing homelessness during extreme temperatures. It is the only severe weather shelter within city limits.

“The City Council and I are extremely grateful to see this shelter open its doors,” said Mayor Denny Doyle. “We want people to have a safe place to go when weather conditions get serious. This facility is a necessary resource for our community.”

The shelter will be open Thursday nights from Jan. 12 to March 30, as well as any day when temperatures are expected to stay at or below 32 degrees F for more than 48 hours. On open days, shelter hours are from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Space for 30 adults will be available on a first come, first served basis.

The public can find out when the shelter will be open by visiting www.BeavertonOregon.gov/Shelter. Open hours will also be posted at the Beaverton City Library.

Dinner and breakfast will be provided to individuals staying at the shelter by Meals on Wheels.

Establishing a severe weather shelter was identified as a priority in 2016 by Mayor Denny Doyle and the Beaverton City Council and is listed as an action item in the Beaverton Community Vision. It also fits in with broader city goals to support homelessness, affordable housing and poverty solutions. According to countywide Community Connect data, there were 774 individuals or families who were homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness between mid-2015 and mid-2016.

The new shelter is part of the Washington County Coordinated Response Plan. Additional shelter information including resources for families and unaccompanied youth is available at http://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/shelter_resources.cfm.

The shelter will be operated by the nonprofit organization Just Compassion of East Washington County. A coordinator and volunteer staff will assist with operations including meals and overnight monitoring. A volunteer training will be held on Thursday, Jan. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Beaverton Community Center. Volunteers must be 18 or older and pass a background check.

For more information or to volunteer at the shelter, contact Megan Cohen at 503-526-2584 or mcohen@BeavertonOregon.gov.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov. Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton, or Twitter at www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton.

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