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TULARE FINALIZES PLAN WITH LIGHTHOUSE RESCUE TO RUN CITY'S FIRST 24/7 HOMELESS SHELTER



June 29, 2025 – Tulare, California

The Tulare City Council has officially approved a partnership with Lighthouse Rescue Mission to operate the city's first full-time homeless shelter and navigation center, a project years in the making.

During its June 17 meeting, the Council unanimously approved a non-binding term sheet outlining roles, responsibilities, and budget projections for the shelter's first operational year. The shelter, now under construction, is expected to serve up to 180 individuals around the clock when it opens.

Shelter Will Operate 24/7 with Support Services

Unlike the city's temporary encampment site, the new facility will be staffed continuously and offer a range of wraparound services aimed at helping individuals transition off the streets. Services will include:

- Case management and housing navigation
- Substance abuse and mental [health](#) referrals



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- Pet-friendly accommodations
- Voluntary roles to build personal responsibility

"This is a big [step forward](#) for Tulare," said Mayor Isherwood during the meeting. "We've worked closely with Lighthouse to ensure the shelter runs with compassion, efficiency, and accountability."

Budget and Oversight Model

According to the term sheet, Lighthouse Rescue Mission will oversee daily operations, while the [City of Tulare](#) will retain financial oversight and compliance responsibilities. The first-year operational budget is projected at over \$2 million, with funding sourced from state grants and previously allocated ARPA funds.

[City Manager](#) Marc Mondell noted that while Lighthouse is experienced in running overnight shelters, this project represents a significant scale-up.

"To make this work, we're operating in a partnership model," Mondell said. "We'll be closely involved on the administrative side, while Lighthouse manages the human services piece."

Community Feedback and Future Adjustments

While the term sheet was approved, Councilmember Jose Sigala voiced concerns about ensuring there would always be qualified staff on-site, especially during nights and weekends. Staff [confirmed](#) that adjustments would be made as needed to ensure safe and continuous supervision.

"Homelessness is a [crisis](#) that touches all parts of our city," said Councilmember Segala. "We must make sure this investment actually works for the people who need it."

Final operator agreements and detailed policy procedures are expected to return to the



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[Council later this year for formal approval.](#)