



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

The City of Chico's decision puts Safe Space Winter Shelter at risk of closure

Chico, CA – 01/03/23

Safe Space Winter Shelter is disappointed to receive a letter from Chico City Manager Mark Sorenson denying our appeal for temporary emergency use of 101 Main St. in downtown Chico. Despite our disagreement with the interpretation of city ordinances presented in this and previous communications, we remain committed to collaborating with the city to explore alternative solutions that allow us to continue providing shelter to members of our community.

We understand that the City is working to identify alternative locations for our intake center, however we have not received any suggestions or potential properties from them yet. We remain hopeful for continuing to maintain a constructive partnership with the city as we explore alternative solutions.

Safe Space Winter Shelter is currently providing shelter for 60 people each night who would otherwise be sleeping outside in the downtown area. Without a functioning intake center, Safe Space cannot operate our winter shelter. Finding a building to use as the Intake Center is more problematic than finding the shelters themselves. Several churches donate use of their buildings for one or two weeks each year as part of the rotating shelter program but giving up their fellowship halls or similar spaces for a three-month period is difficult for most organizations.

While we pursue every option to keep our shelter open, the City's decision may result in ending shelter services, adding to risk of additional people dying on the street.

About Safe Space Chico

Safe Space Chico is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing shelter, support, and resources to individuals experiencing homelessness in the Chico community.

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